

# UFO

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STANDARD-EXAMINER, Ogden, UT - July 5, 1996

## Southern Idaho a hub for UFO traffic?

□ Group investigates reports of bright lights and hovering objects

By JOHN RUPRECHT

The Times News

TWIN FALLS - In 1958, 10-year-old Douglas Brown sat spellbound as he watched a silver and orange cigar-shaped object hover in the sky south of his Jerome-residence.

"I watched it for five to 10 minutes," Brown said. "It stuck with me. There was something unexplainable about it."

Brown's interest in the unexplainable, fueled by that incident almost 40 years ago, led him to form a local section of the Mutual UFO Network in January.

The group already has about 10 to 15 dues-paying members, and more show up to the group's monthly meetings.

Brown, owner of Java Blue, says the network is an "international organization made up of professionals, scientists and people that are curious about UFOs."

"It's a very serious, very credible organization that's trying to do research and trying to find out what's going on," he said.

The network deals more with "after the fact" investigation than in sky watching, said Brown.

"There's 95 to 99 percent that are explainable. There's that 1 or 2 percent that's not explainable," said Brown. He doesn't know what those unexplainable sightings actually are, but said, "If we had answers, we wouldn't need this organization."

There is plenty of UFO activity in southern Idaho, possibly because of the small population and the mineral content of the area. "There was one recently, which we feel was a true, unexplained sighting," he said. "It was an object that hovered over Hailey for quite a while."

Brown said motorists between Gooding and Fairfield have experienced extremely bright lights shining behind them on the road. But when they pull over to let the vehicle pass, they find nothing there. "This has happened numerous times," he said.

One local story sticks out above all others in Brown's mind. Several years ago, a shepherd northeast of the Devil's Corral area in Jerome County was carefully monitoring his sheep after recent livestock mutilations, when he said he encountered a "ferocious looking entity" about five feet tall with glowing eyes, Brown said. The shepherd shot the entity, but it was not fazed.

Two other people supposedly

spotted the creature a few days later, telling Brown that when it moved, it moved 50 feet almost instantaneously. Reports of distinctly similar creatures mutilating livestock in Puerto Rico, Mexico and some southern U.S. states are what makes the event so compelling, Brown said. This creature has been dubbed the "chuba cabra" in Puerto Rico, which means "goat sucker."

"It's a big, big deal in Mexico," Brown said of the mysterious mutilations which began in December of 1994. The "chuba cabra" incidents, although big news in Mexico, are not nearly as famous as an incident that happened near the Roswell Army Field in New Mexico in 1947. A strange object, which the U.S. government called a weather balloon, crashed in New Mexico after a strong storm.

Rumors that the bodies of several aliens were recovered from the strange craft remain strong today.

"Something happened there for real. It's been so tightly covered up it has to be important," Brown said. "I believe that was a true, alien spacecraft that landed there and that the government did really hide the bodies."

There are several theories on what aliens actually are, Brown said, including beliefs that they

are beings from other planets, that they are interdimensional travelers, time travelers or demons. "I don't disbelieve any of those explanations to it," he said.

Descriptions of UFOs vary from sighting to sighting, but there are several characteristics that seem universal, Brown said.

They include the lack of sound, movement unlike any normal aircraft - such as the ability to move instantaneously from point to point - and bright, white lights.

Most UFO sightings that Brown researches have logical explanations. Some of the most common objects are experimental aircraft, weather balloons, bright planets, satellites, oddly shaped clouds and mirages. "One couple had been filming and watching this object for over a month. It turned out to be the planet Venus," Brown said.

Brown knows there are many people who doubt the existence of UFOs. "The debunkers say it's very explainable things seen by very gullible people," he said.

Brown thinks otherwise. "I think that we're foolish to believe that in the whole universe, we're it," he said. "You have to be a lot more open-minded about what reality is."

REVIEW, Hayward, CA  
July 12, 1996

## Mysterious red beams blindsided detectives

By Glenn Chapman  
STAFF WRITER

As sheriff's detectives hid in the early-morning darkness Thursday near a train trestle over Altamont Pass to look for whoever has been zapping motorists with laser beams, an intense red light reportedly flashed above the rural countryside several miles away.

A Patterson Pass Road resident told the Alameda County Sheriff's Department he was in the back yard about 1:30 that morning when he noticed a narrow red beam cut through the sky.

Miles down the grade from Patterson Pass, detectives had staked out the terrain around the Union Pacific Railroad trestle that crosses Altamont Pass Road near Carrol Road. But they couldn't find the source of laser beams fired in past weeks.

Almost exactly 24 hours earlier, sheriff's Deputy Richard Frish was driving on Altamont when he noticed a red beam and felt his left cheek warm up. When he turned to look, the light temporarily blinded him.

Moments earlier, a trucker told Frish his truck had been hit by such a beam as he was hauling a load of trash to the Altamont Landfill.

Other truckers en route to the landfill have related similar experiences, according to sheriff's Lt. Dave Hoig.

Frish, described by colleagues as taciturn upon his return to the overnight shift, discussed details of the incident with Detectives Stephen Roderick and Casey Nice, who headed a team of investigators perched out of sight along Altamont until near dawn Thursday.

Investigators suspect the beam that hit Frish came from the trestle or a nearby hill. Frish was about 100 yards from the trestle when hit by the beam.

Laser devices are used by construction crews in the Altamont, as well as by workers who maintain railroad tracks and the nearby windmills, according to investigators.

At Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories, laser research is focused on creating commercially feasible fusion power.

"I think most people in the Bay Area don't know they are at the center of the laser universe when it comes to research and developing technologies," said Craig Savoye, a lab spokesman. "It is like living in Pennsylvania in the 1800s, when the first pool of oil was discovered."

Sheriff's investigators have ruled out the chance that laser flashes in the Altamont came from the lab, however.

TIMES, New York, NY - July 14, 1996  
JERSEY/JOE SHARKEY

## War of the Worlds, Part II

THE other night, David Letterman offered a thumbnail plot summary of "Independence Day," this summer's big hit movie: "Martians come down and eat the planet."

Suddenly, after two decades of popular culture during which extraterrestrial visitors have usually been depicted with touchingly, E.T.-phone-home, New Age sensitivity, belligerent monsters from outer space are back in style. And many of the New Jersey U.F.O. faithful, clusters of whom inhabit the rural northwest corner of the state, far from urban light pollution, where you can still gaze with awe and wonder at a night sky full of stars, say they are agnostic at the cultural implications of it all.

"I'm very unhappy about the return of these 1950's-era space creatures who are going to eat your face," said Jim Carten, author of "Pilgrims and Strangers on the Earth," a book that interprets Scripture to argue that humans are descended from, and regularly visited by, space colonists who are struggling, against all odds, to teach mankind to live in peace.

Mr. Carten's celestial missionaries are a far cry from the surly hellhounds with writhing 25-foot tentacles in "Independence Day," invading in flotillas of 15-mile-wide saucers to kill us all and strip-mine our planet. Mr. Carten, who lives in a log cabin that he built beside a dirt road in the hills of northern Hunterdon County, suggested that the movie was part of a "disinformation" campaign to thwart the good intentions of the benevolent extraterrestrials among us.

Howard Menger, one of New Jersey's best-known U.F.O. gurus, says he agrees. Among Mr. Menger's books is "The High Bridge Incident," in which he describes an encounter with a beautiful alien woman who disembarked from a spaceship in a field near his family's old farm in High Bridge,

Hunterdon County. She merely urged him to work for world peace, he said.

In a phone interview from Florida, where he and his wife, Connie, are now semiretired, he said he was dismayed by the cultural resurrection of space aliens blasting death rays from flying saucers the size of Newark.

"The saucer that I saw land in High Bridge was only about about 40 feet across," he said. "It made no noise, had no exhaust fumes. The E.P.A. would have loved this craft," he added with a dry chuckle.

The Mengers, who still occasionally lecture on the national U.F.O. circuit, say friends in their New Jersey U.F.O. network tell them sightings are up sharply as the millennium approaches. Recently, he recalled, he and his wife came back north for a visit after an absence of several years, and went to the site of his encounter near the farm. They were astonished by the rapid development that has accompanied a different invasion - that of Interstate 78, streaking across the once isolated northwest corner of the state.

"Connie and I went up to where the land-



Nancy Doniger

ing was, to take some pictures, but people had built a big house there," Mr. Menger said. "They chased us out for trespassing!"

The Mengers and others among the U.F.O. faithful say they are dumbfounded by the stunning success of a retrograde movie like "Independence Day."

But anyone wishing to follow the U.F.O. mass culture to its start can find it in the tiny hamlet of Grovers Mill, in West Windsor Township, near Princeton. On Oct. 30, 1938, this was the place chosen by Orson Welles as the setting for his national radio hoax, "The War of the Worlds." Using a mock news-broadcast format at a time when Americans were just growing accustomed to getting news from the radio, the program presented a realistic description of Martians landing at Grovers Mill Pond, killing everybody in sight with their ray guns. The broadcast, which caused a panic, launched Welles's career in Hollywood.

In a park beside the little pond is a tall bronze marker depicting a gleeful Orson Welles at his microphone, with a flying saucer overhead and a terrified family below, cowering beside the living room radio. The inscription describes the site as an important cultural landmark, a place to contemplate such matters as "media responsibility" and "social psychology."

The other day, Douglas Forrester, a former mayor who helped organize the town's 50th-anniversary commemoration of the broadcast in 1988, remembered a dinner he and his wife had that year with Howard Koch, who wrote the Martian radio script for Welles. According to Mr. Forrester, Mr. Koch confessed that he had actually wanted to depict the Martians as coming in peace, offering mankind hope, not annihilation.

"Welles just stared at him," Mr. Forrester recalled, "and said: 'Howard, come on! No one will ever believe that!'"



# Independence Day

## UFO movie has believers looking up

By Frank C. Girardot  
STAFF WRITER

Wednesday's opening of the megamovie "Independence Day," about an invasion by extraterrestrials, drew many who believe UFOs can be seen without help from Hollywood.

As he left a showing of the movie at the El Monte Edwards 8 Cinemas, Joe Martinez,

### HOLIDAY'S BIGGEST FILM

27, of Baldwin Park shaded his eyes with his hand and scanned the cloudy sky.

"They're probably up there right now," he said.

Although not everyone at the showings said they believed in UFOs or had seen one locally, the turnout proves the whole UFO phenomenon certainly hasn't faded. "Independence Day" took in \$11.1 million during

two preview showings Tuesday night at 2,426 locations nationwide.

Movie-goer Martha Yee, 18, of El Monte was a believer even before she saw the movie.

"I've never seen one, but I believe there are UFOs and the government knows about it and they're hiding the truth," she said. "We can't be the only intelligent creatures in the universe."

In February, three Glendora police officers, including a supervisor, were working the 3 a.m. shift when they spotted something they thought was a UFO, said Tim Staab, a spokesman for the Glendora Police Department.

"It rocked their boat pretty hard," Staab said.

The department later that found the officers had only seen a rocket being launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Ann Druffel of Pasadena has investigated UFO sightings for 39 years and has been party to two sightings.

Druffel had her first sighting in 1945 when she was a child living in Long Beach. She was with her mother when "I saw an object or a greasy blob of golden light in the clear blue light. Even as a schoolgirl, I had an interest in astronomy, so I knew it wasn't an astronomical phenomenon. Little tiny bits came out of (the craft), but didn't fall to earth. It frightened me."

Years later, she found through her research two similar accounts of the phenomenon she and her mother had witnessed. And since it was about the same time as the bombing of Hiroshima, she attributed the craft's presence to its desire to conduct surveillance of the Earth as it entered the Atomic Age.

Druffel, who wrote "Tujunga Canyon Contacts" about alleged alien abductions, said she has interviewed about 1,000 witnesses to sightings and published at least 500 in-depth articles of their accounts.

Although no one keeps count, police officials say there are always sightings.

"But usually they come from people who dress in cellophane," said Los Angeles County sheriff's Lt. Jerry Kerrigan. "We usually tell them to wrap up in tinfoil and face the full moon."

The most recent UFO sighting locally occurred about two months ago, said Don Waldrop, director of the Los Angeles chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, which tracks sightings.

"We had two sightings within hours of each other of a triangle-type craft running up San Gabriel Boulevard," Waldrop said. "There have been numerous such sightings throughout the years in the area."

Dewayne Highfill, astronomy professor at Rio Hondo College in Whittier, says extraterrestrial life and UFOs may exist. The school is one of the few colleges that offers a class in bioastronomy — or life beyond Earth.

"I have had several students who claim to have experienced things they couldn't explain," Highfill said. "I simply tell them I have no idea what it is."

A great place for running into aliens may be the Angeles National Forest, according to one forest ranger who also noted that professionals tend to lose credibility once they talk about spotting a UFO. For that reason, the ranger spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Almost every forest lookout has spotted unusual flying craft in the middle of the night," he said. "But you have to remember, we are in flying range of the Nevada Test Site," he said. "A lot of people who work out in the forestry reported seeing a lot of things that were explained later."

— Staff writers Jennifer Burry, Hector Gonzalez, Melanie Reyes, Janette Williams, Jack Chang and Linda Stark contributed to this story.

POST, Denver, CO - July 4, 1996 CR: M. Quire

## New film stirs up interest in UFOs

### Extraterrestrials' malevolence hit

By Peter G. Chronis  
Denver Post Staff Writer

As the science-fiction thriller "Independence Day" debuted in U.S. theaters yesterday, the Air Force sighed, "Oh no, not again," while UFO believers bemoaned another "malevolent" portrayal of extraterrestrials.

The highly publicized film is about an invasion by vicious space aliens.

In the UFO-rich environment of the San Luis Valley of Colorado, where, it is said, visitors not of this planet have been dissecting livestock for decades, those in the know said the movie will increase awareness of the phenomenon. And the same goes for Roswell, N.M., where a space disc allegedly crashed on July 4, 1947.

#### 'That bothers me'

"My biggest problem with movies like this," said Chandra Chandler, national director of the Colorado Springs-based UFO Institute, "is they see an alien presence as the enemy, something to be defeated. That bothers me. If they wanted to take over, they would have done it 500 years ago, before we were full of preservatives and junk food — if they wanted to eat us." (The aliens in "Independence Day" destroy the world's most important cities.)

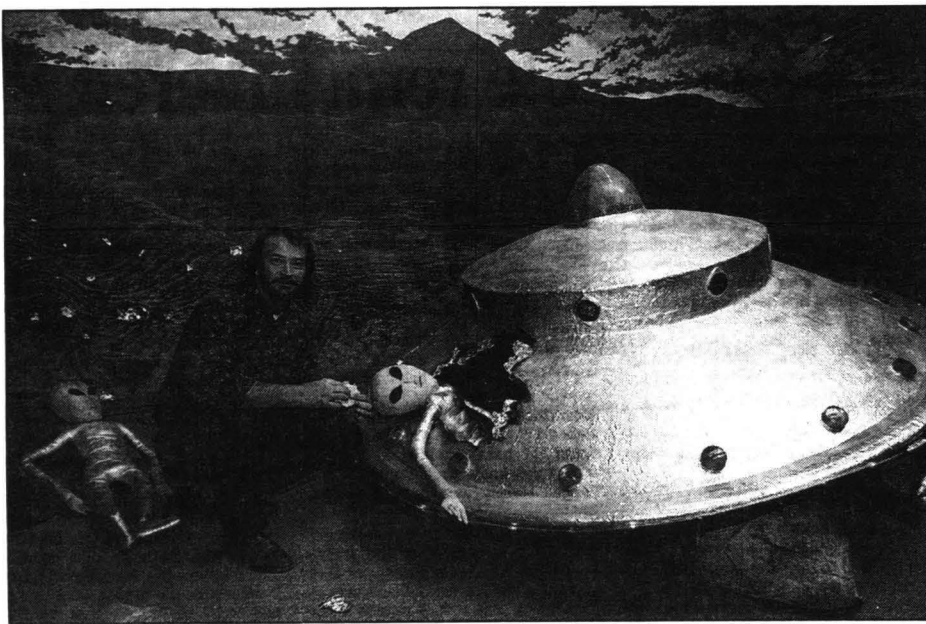
But if aliens are responsible for animal mutilations, doesn't that imply malevolence? Chandler noted that humans kill and eat animals, and the aliens "are not doing it to us."

#### Film gets people to look up

But, at least a film like "Independence Day" gets people to look up at the sky and "raises awareness of UFOs and the alien presence," Chandler said. But raising awareness will not necessarily convert skeptics.

One entrenched doubter is Larry Sarner, Loveland mathematician, computer programmer and member of the Front Range Skeptics.

"There's plenty of scientific rea-



John Price poses with a UFO museum display in Roswell, N.M. Some believe a disc crashed there in 1947.

sons why it's less than likely (that space aliens exist)," Sarner said, adding, "I hesitate to use the word 'impossible.'"

The closest star, he said, is four light years away, and the closest planet (outside the solar system), 13 light years away. To travel here, aliens not only would have to suspend the laws of physics, he said, they would "have to violate what is absolute in our universe" — that (nothing) can go faster than the speed of light.

"We may have some long-lived aliens out there, but would you travel all that time and all that distance and then hide?" Sarner asked.

Meanwhile, at NORAD, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, deep inside Cheyenne Mountain near Colorado Springs, spokesman Scott Johnson dismissed the subject.

"We don't do UFOs," he said.

#### Media might be to blame

At the Pentagon, Air Force Lt. Col. Mac McLaurin said new science-fiction movies often spark an increase in reported UFO sightings. The media might be to blame, too, he hinted: "You're the fourth or fifth newspaper that's called."

"I'd say every time people watch 'Sightings' or 'The X Files,' some of their shows have a tendency to bring in phone calls," McLaurin said.

The Air Force hasn't investigated

UFOs since 1969 when Project Bluebook ended, McLaurin said.

UFO incidents often involved sightings of then-new, super-secret planes, such as the SR-71, the B-2 and the F-117 Stealth craft, the Air Force's McLaurin said.

The Air Force's release of the 1994 Roswell Report, which said the 1947 "flying disc" actually was a huge balloon on a classified mission, inspired a flurry of UFO sighting reports, McLaurin said.

In the New Mexico city's International UFO Museum, the Air Force's answer isn't good enough and was a "concerted disinformation campaign," according to museum volunteer Norm Melvin. "Something happened" in 1947, he said, and it wasn't a balloon.

#### 'Close Encounters' film

Crestone author and UFO expert Christopher O'Brien, who has chronicled UFO phenomena in the San Luis Valley, said there's no correlation between sightings and movies. Sightings were down in 1979-80, when "Close Encounters" was released, for example.

Science-fiction flicks appear to have shifted from the warm, friendly portrayals of "Close Encounters" and "E.T." to "viewing the potential off-planet intelligence as being extremely hostile and aggressive," O'Brien said.

O'Brien, who claims to be a skeptic, said his book — "The Mysterious Valley," to be released in two weeks by St. Martin's Press — takes a neutral approach and is intended to appeal to both true believers and debunkers.

The strange goings-on in the San Luis Valley aren't new. "I have a feeling that the things people have been seeing have always been here, ... going back thousands of years," O'Brien said.

UFO sightings are "as common as you can get," said Rio Grande County Undersheriff Brian Norton. "We go out there and see the lights, ... but there's no way you can identify them," he said, "and you can't shoot them out of the sky." There also have been some cattle mutilations, Norton said.

In Saguache County, Sheriff Al King said there has been no increase in UFO reports — in fact, there have been no UFO reports at all. "I haven't seen anything myself," he said.

#### 'Very precise cuts'

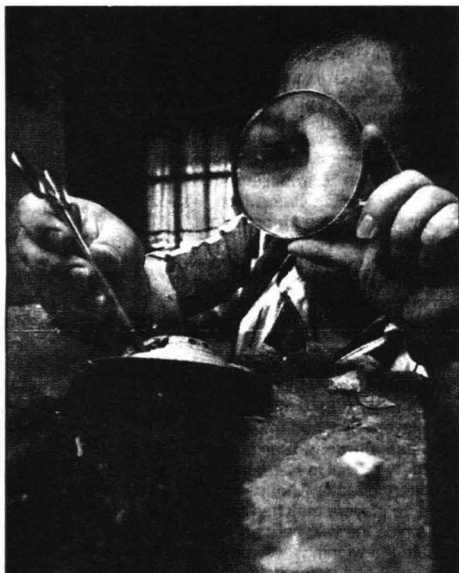
In Costilla County, Undersheriff Roger Benton said there haven't been any cattle mutilations for "at least a year. Locals tend to blame them on military experimentation rather than aliens, he said. "The ones I've seen have been very precise cuts," he said. "There doesn't seem to be any bleeding or anything like that."





**THE MOTHER SHIP?** — No, but Randy Hosler believes it could happen. Here the Millville UFO researcher stands by one of his model spaceships that a friend made for him. By the way, it's not landing, it's hanging on the clothesline in his yard.

## He knows we're not alone



■ **AT LEFT** — Rodney Hosler of Millville looks through a magnifying glass at his model of an alleged UFO crash in New Mexico. He has been working on it for two years and plans to donate it to a museum.

■ **ABOVE** — Hosler holds a model of an alien creature at his Millville home recently. Hosler says he's interested in finding other people in the area who are interested in UFOs. **Another photo, page 8.**

Photos by **DAVID J. MAIALETTI**

## UFOs aren't alien to Millville man

By **HUGH LESSIG**  
Press Enterprise Writer

**MILLVILLE** — Rodney Hosler believes.

He believes an unidentified flying object crashed near Roswell, N.M., in 1947, and that it contained evidence of extraterrestrial life.

He believes the government isn't telling the entire story behind the many UFO sightings.

Asked if he believes people have been abducted by aliens, he pauses and answers quietly, "Yeah, I do."

He not only believes the truth is out there, he believes it's in Millville.

Hosler said he saw a UFO two summers ago in the skies above Greenwood Township, a cigar-shaped object that held a horizontal line across the sky and disappeared behind the clouds.

And he knows people who have seen other UFOs locally.

Hosler, 33, works for a temporary employment service, but his real passion is UFO research. He is among thousands of people who think we are not alone in this universe.

The Central Columbia graduate and U.S. Navy veteran said he's been into UFOs for 15 years. In the process, he's accumulated an interesting collection of stuff, and made a few impressive things on his own.

He has a model of an alien head, and a life-size flying saucer replica that he purchased from the set of a television

### HAVE UFO INFO?

**MILLVILLE** — UFO researcher Rodney Hosler is interested in hearing from anyone who is familiar with the crash of a suspected UFO in Carbondale in the mid-1970s.

You may write to Hosler at P.O. Box 474, Millville, Pa. 17846.

docudrama show. He hasn't yet transported that back to Pennsylvania.

His pride and joy is a diorama that depicts the crash of a saucer-shaped object in the desert near Roswell in 1947. The diorama, which took months to construct, will be donated to a museum in Roswell that specializes in the UFO phenomenon. He's already contacted museum officials, and plans on mailing it soon.

The Roswell crash is perhaps the most famous incident in the annals of UFO sightings.

One thing is sure: Something crashed on the Foster ranch in New Mexico on July 2 of that year. First reported as a flying saucer, the government later said the downed object was a weather balloon.

Witnesses, however, insist the metal that came from the wreckage was unlike anything they had ever seen, and some say the government recovered alien bodies from the crash. The Roswell crash has been the subject of many documentaries and movies.

Hosler keeps in contact with other UFO researchers via mail and newsletters, and they share news and information on sightings.

Besides Roswell, Hosler's other area of UFO interest is closer to home. Back in 1974, there was a widely reported incident in Carbondale, in northeast Lackawanna County.

In November of that year, something crashed in a wooded area near town and fell into a pond, attracting hundreds of people. Stories about it appeared in Scranton and Carbondale newspapers, Hosler said.

Police eventually cordoned off the area, but not before they asked for a Geiger Counter to gauge radiation. At the time, people speculated that a UFO had gone down.

After media flocked to the scene, authorities imposed a news blackout, and the whole thing was later written off as a hoax.

Hosler hopes that by going public with his interest in UFOs others will be encouraged to come forward and contact him about the Carbondale sighting — or any other local sighting for that matter.

But how can a UFO researcher tell the legitimate stories from the other kind? At least two factors, Hosler said.

"Consistency," he said. "You'll always find a consistency to the story."

In cases where more than one person witnessed a strange flying object, their

stories will sound the same, even if given separate interviews.

Second, people who have really seen something out of this world will say things like, "I wouldn't believe it if I didn't see it," Hosler said.

So what about all these stories that have President Clinton and Newt Gingrich meeting with aliens?

There's a reason for those stories, Hosler said, and it's to spread disinformation. He said there are people out there who want to discredit serious UFO researchers, and they do it by circulating wild tales.

As a case in point, he cited a recent mission of the shuttle Discovery. He said it was widely reported through the UFO community that Discovery astronauts had seen something that they couldn't immediately identify, and switched to a private channel to discuss it with NASA.

Before UFO researchers could get at the real truth, one of the supermarket tabloids published a story that said the shuttle astronauts not only saw aliens, but the aliens came aboard the shuttle and flew it around for a while. Sheesh.

Putting up with that is part of the business of being a UFO researcher. But Hosler's faith remains unshaken.

"Everybody has to have something to believe in," he said. "This is what I believe in. Honest to God. They must be out there."

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA - July 4, 1996

## VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

**UFOs ANYONE?** — Reading some old newspapers the other day at Penrose Memorial Library, I came across reference to the third sighting in two weeks of a flying saucer in the Walla Walla Valley.

I never found the first news item but the item in the July 24, 1950, issue of the Union-Bulletin told of "several" witnesses of a strange object "not a helicopter or a cloud formation" over the Ed Copeland wheatlands at 7:30 p.m.

Then, there was this item in the July 27, 1950 issue:

"The third report of a flying saucer in the past two weeks was reported Wednesday by two persons on Lincoln Street.

"The object, going eastward, was said to be traveling at a high rate of speed and shaped like a silver disk.

"Mrs. Betty Plaquet, 351 Lincoln, and her nephew, Bob Miller, 538 Lincoln, said they observed the object at about 6:15 p."

At least two other UFO sightings are recalled by the writer. The late Dick Bradford and wife, Leatus, told me in recent years of their seeing a saucer briefly land in the field across the road from their Wallula Road home.

There is also the recollection of a news story about prison tower guards having seen a saucer from their posts at the prison.

I'd guess, that like Bigfoots, some other saucer sightings by local people have gone unreported.



# Daniel Boone's New Age pioneers

## ALIEN ARRIVAL

UFO dynasty camps on Landers' Giant Rock, waiting for word from Venus.

By JON YATES  
The Desert Sun

It's the kind of story that's best told over beers, and at 10 a.m., with the nearest bank clock already flashing 99 degrees, Matthew Boone cracks open his first 12-ounce can.

There's a small patch of shade under a group of young trees in his yard, and as the day progresses the foldout chairs move with the shadows.

Giant Rock, the seven-story boulder where Boone's tale begins, is about three miles from his doorstep. The Integratron, where it ends, is just yards away.

In the bright desert sun, the domed white building looks more like a mirage than a fountain of youth and for now, Boone admits, it is. After 25 years of sweat and toil, his grandfather, George Van Tassle, was never able to finish the project. But his family has yet to give up hope.

Soon, the Integratron will have new owners — a group interested in refurbishing the aging building — and if all goes well, the aliens who first inspired its construction will return.

"There are still a lot of people today who think we're friggin' out of our minds," says Boone, his beer can sweating in the oppressive heat. "Me and dad kind of made a pact: We'll tell the truth, and if people want to believe us, it's up to them."

Daniel Boone, 67, is in the folding chair next to his son. He was there, he says, when the flying saucer came down in 1953, and he helped oversee much of the Integratron's construction.

"After all these years, I don't even concern myself with what other people think," he says. "Some of the early (believers) went through hell."

### A giant rock and dynamite

The story actually begins in the early 1930s with prospector Frank Critzer — years before Van Tassle, a former test pilot for Howard Hughes and Lockheed, moved to Giant Rock.

Critzer, then working for a fishing fleet in Santa Monica, left the coast for health reasons in 1929 and stumbled into Giant Rock soon after. Convinced there was gold in the nearby hills, Critzer decided to move to the area, but had no money.

He met Van Tassle by chance. They both lived in Santa Monica at the time, and when Critzer's car broke down, Van Tassle offered to help. Talk soon turned to gold mining and Giant Rock — topics that fascinated the 20-year-old aviation buff. Van Tassle agreed to "grub-stake" Critzer — providing him with food and money for a cut of the action — but never expected to hear from him again.

Critzer moved to the desert and built a home under Giant Rock, digging deep under the boulder, then reinforcing his underground dwelling with iron rods.

A year later, he sent Van Tassle a postcard showing how to get to the big boulder. Van Tassle made the trip and fell in love with the area.

It's here that accounts tend to vary. The Boones, who have passed the story through three generations, swear theirs is accurate. But even they admit what happened to Critzer is somewhat hazy.

One thing is clear: By the early 1940s, rumors about Critzer took on a life of their own. With World War II raging in Europe, many thought Critzer, an American of German descent, was a German spy. On July 25, 1942, three deputies from the

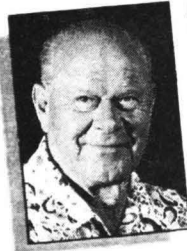


BLUEPRINT FROM ABOVE: 67-year-old Daniel Boone (right) and his son Matthew are keeping the legend of the Integratron alive. The idea for the structure came to Daniel's father-in-law, George Van Tassle, after an extraterrestrial experience near Landers in 1953.



FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH: When fully operational, radiating energy from the Integratron's coils would rejuvenate living cell tissue, thus prolonging the lifespan of those who visit, according to family legend.

Visitors already flock to the rural site for retreats, where they try to draw on the energy supposedly channeled downward from the dome. Now, new ownership could further boost interest in the haven envisioned by George Van Tassle (left).



Desert Sun photos by MAX ORTIZ

Riverside County Sheriff's Department arrived on Critzer's doorstep and questioned him about gasoline and dynamite that had been stolen from nearby towns.

Critzer did have dynamite under the rock, and when he went back inside his home, it exploded.

"He either blew himself up or deputies lobbed tear gas in there and ignited the dynamite. We don't really know," Matthew Boone says.

Either way, the granite behemoth remained intact, and the gutted rooms beneath it became vacant. In 1947, Van Tassle moved his family

to the area. He leased the four square miles of desert from the government, a plot that included Giant Rock.

He kept the three underground rooms as storage but, unlike Critzer, Van Tassle never actually lived under the rock. At night, his family

slept outside; during the day they tended a small cafe they had set up several feet from the outcropping. A makeshift runway allowed planes to land. Van Tassle called it Giant Rock Airport.

(continued on page 5)



It was a barren stretch of land. The nearest town — Joshua Tree — was almost 20 miles to the south. There Van Tassle met a woman who held séances. After just one meeting, he said he began "channeling" other beings, serving as a conduit for extra-terrestrial and extra-dimensional messages.

His first actual "encounter" with aliens, he said, was Aug. 24, 1953, at Giant Rock. According to Matthew Boone, it lasted only about 30 minutes — but it was enough to change his family's history forever.

**A visit from the Venutians**

Daniel Boone, Van Tassle's son-in-law, was there that night, but he prefers to let his son tell the bulk of the tale. Like storytellers of old, the elder Boone has handed the saga down to his son and, sitting next to him outside their double-wide mobile home, he takes special care to let his son go, interrupting only occasionally to change minor details.

Matthew Boone is now drinking something that looks more like a milky tea, the ice cubes sparkling in his glass. He has three earrings in his left ear — a loop, a gold dot and a sparkling stud. He looks older than his 30 years, but his short, blond hair is still thick.

His father, Daniel, has the weathered look of an old-time desert rat. His thick gray beard flows to his chest, and he prefers to sit outside without a shirt, his brown skin leathery and wrinkled from the sun.

Each forearm bears a small green, indiscernible tattoo on each forearm — one for each love of his life. He sits back and listens as his son talks, sipping his own beer.

It was about 10 minutes before 2 a.m. when the saucer landed, now more than four decades ago. The Boones can still point to where it hovered, about four feet off the ground. The spot doesn't look like much now — there are no burn rings or charred rocks — but they swear it was there.

Van Tassle was sleeping when it landed. According to his own accounts, written in an autobiography, he awoke to find an alien at the

foot of his bed, the bell-shaped, silver spaceship glowing in the distance.

The alien identified himself as Solgonda. He was from Venus. He invited Van Tassle onto the ship, a structure he later estimated to be 36 feet in diameter and 19 feet high. It was manned by four Venutians.

Daniel Boone, then 23, was sleeping just over a ridge that night. He said he saw the pulsating red lights and heard the hum, but didn't actually see the spaceship. He tried to get up, but was paralyzed.

"I wasn't supposed to be there," he says now. "They made it so I couldn't move."

On board the craft, Solgonda and Van Tassle talked about the "destructiveness of man." The alien then offered Van Tassle a "Venutian gift to mankind" — the formula for the Integratron.

**An alien Fountain of Youth**

The idea was to create a machine that would rejuvenate living cell tissue. When completed, the building would add 50-80 years to the average life span — enough time, the alien said, for humans to accumulate knowledge and then put it to good use.

The plans were infused in Van Tassle's brain. He hired an architect from Pasadena to draw up blueprints for the general structure, but he wrote little else down.

According to legend, the Integratron was built on the crossing of two vortexes — cosmic power lines that hold special healing powers. Van Tassle and his son-in-law began building the structure in 1954, drawing on research by Georges Lakhovsky, Nikola Tesla and other renowned scientists.

The family held UFO conventions at Giant Rock to raise money for the structure and asked supporters for donations. Thousands of believers passed through. Over the years, the Boones estimate Van Tassle spent \$250,000 on the Integratron.

"It was a nickel-and-dime operation," Daniel Boone says, his shaggy white beard dangling in the breeze. "If we had the financing, we could have gotten it done in three years."

As it was, they worked on it when they could and endured criticisms from their neighbors. Van Tassle's three daughters went to school in Twentynine Palms, where children teased them about their father.

"George went through a lot of hell — his daughters did, too, because their daddy was a 'nut,'" Daniel Boone says. "Everyone associated with the Van Tassle family and the Integratron was nuts."

Critics remain today. "Giant Rock is a bunch of hooey," said Don Berliner of the Fund for UFO Research, a non-profit research organization in Washington, D.C. "It's nonsense. The old man was a con artist. He bilked a lot of people out of money with his inventions."

Family members steadfastly deny they made any money off the Integratron and say they have no plans to do so in the future. And, for all the critics, there were just as many believers — some of them scientists.

Tesla, a reknowned energy researcher, demonstrated one of his coils there, but it is not part of the structure. Others also showed up from time to time, but the bulk of the information for the building, the younger Boone insists, came from Venus. Now, he holds out hope that Venutian travelers will return to Earth to tell him how to complete it.

"Nobody on this planet knows how to finish it. It's just that simple," he says. "Even George didn't know how to finish it. They hadn't told him yet."

Van Tassle died in 1978 at the age of 68. At the time, he estimated the Integratron to be 82 percent complete. His wife sold the building shortly after his death for \$10,000, later reclaimed the structure, then sold it again for \$25,000. Little work has been done on it since, but the Integratron remains an imposing structure.

**Humans, heal thyself**

Built entirely with wood, the 38-foot-high dome is split into two floors. On the top floor, the Integratron is an acoustic wonder. From the

center of the floor, small whippers are amplified like a rock concert.

A coil in the ceiling is designed to have healing powers. Similar coils are placed in the hollow column that runs through the middle of the building and in the floor. Curved ribs of lumber scale the walls in beautiful symmetry.

Outside, metal poles jut like spokes from the structure's midriff. In the 1970s, when it was still partially operational, pressurized air pushed a wooden rim, causing the poles to spin around the building clockwise. Fiberglass bearings helped create static electricity, which was channeled inside. The rods haven't moved since 1978.

When — and if — it is ever completed, it's the ground floor that Matthew Boone says will hold the bulk of the power. Van Tassle once dreamed that 10,000 visitors a day would walk through the building, passing around the column on the ground floor and leaving fully rejuvenated, their life span extended for dozens of years.

Now, three fences surround the Integratron to keep vandals out. Matthew Boone still gives tours of the dome when people knock on his door, and business is picking up.

On a given week, 10-20 people stop here, but there are no formal hours.

"It just sounds so fascinating," said Linda Muller, librarian at the Twentynine Palms public library, about 40 miles away. There, she keeps a small manila envelope full of press clippings about Giant Rock and the Integratron.

"It's always out," she said. "People want to believe."

Generally, though, it's people from outside the area who show the most interest.

"I get calls from everywhere," said Mary Sunderlage, who runs the Landers Chamber of Commerce out of her home. "We get maybe four or five a week, which is amazing, I think. We didn't get that many when we had the biggest earthquake in the world in 1992."

**ET, phone Landers**

In fact, other than the 7.3 quake that shook the area four years ago, this unincorporated community of about 8,000 is mostly just a blip on the map — a former homesteading site and popular getaway for Hollywood stars in the 1950s.

In years past, the Integratron's owners, including current proprietor Emile Canning, have tried to market it as a tourist spot, but with little success. Now, with new owners moving in and the popularity of UFOs on the rise, Sunderlage is hoping the building will become a bigger draw.

Although she won't disclose who is buying the building because it is currently in escrow, Sunderlage said the new owners are rumored to be willing to spruce up the place and re-open it to tourists.

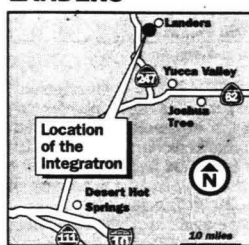
Standing inside, Matthew Boone tells stories of people coming into the building with cancer and leaving completely healed. Like others in Landers, he's optimistic about the new owners, who he said will fix up the building and see it through to completion.

If he had his druthers, the Integratron would continue attracting new visitors, but he doesn't want it to become commercialized.

"I think it's great for the project," he said, his voice bouncing off the dome's ceiling and booming back at him. "This building, it's one of a kind. There's a lot of history here."

"I think, if nothing else, we can make this a place for people to wonder about for the rest of their lives."

**LANDERS**



For more information  
Landers Chamber of Commerce,  
364-3924.

**UFO Sightings**

**Triangular shaped craft hovers over witness**

By Carole Baker

On the night of June 17th, 1996 at approximately 10:30 p.m. a young Pensacola resident was returning home from work. He was travelling east on Kingsfield Road in north Pensacola, driving his pick up and playing the radio. He noticed lights in the sky ahead of him. He thought at first that it was an airplane coming directly toward him down the road. Driving ahead of him was a truck pulling a boat trailer and boat. As he drove, he continued to see the object coming toward him. He could see that it was a large triangular shaped craft resembling an equilateral triangle. "It was dark black" the witness told me. "There were white lights, one on each corner. The lights were perfectly round and were shining down toward the ground. There was a red blinking light in the center of the triangle."

As he watched this craft come over his truck, he pulled off the side of the road. So did the truck towing the boat in front of him. The witness found himself directly beneath the large craft which was now hovering over the north side of Kingsfield Road. "When it was over me, I could not see the lights on it that I saw when it was coming towards me, just the ones on the corner and the red one in the middle," the witness stated. It hovered there above him for approximately twenty seconds

before moving slowly off to the east and then gaining speed until it was out of sight.

The witness left the area immediately and drove to a friend's house to tell them what he had seen. With his friends, he continued to look at the sky to see if they could all get a glimpse of this enigmatic object. Approximately fifteen minutes later, they did see "another object moving through the sky" and then a jet aircraft in the same vicinity.

We discussed the possibility of what the witness had seen being a conventional aircraft and he told me that he felt that it was not, since it had hovered stationary for a period of time. We discussed the Harrier jet, and the witness volunteered, "if that had been a harrier, my whole truck would have been shaking!" So, what was it that this young man saw hovering over his truck that Monday night? If anyone else saw this, especially the other person who was driving down Kingsfield Road in front of the witness and also pulled off the road, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline.

To report a sighting or experience or for information on monthly meetings and skywatches, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

**Sightings: Where to report**

By Vanessa Blackburn  
The Times-Standard

MCKINLEYVILLE — Keep watching the skies.

According to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, North Coast residents have been seeing some strange things in the air. During the last year and a half, Humboldt and Del Norte County residents have reported multiple UFO sightings to the center, and some of those reports are from more than 50 people at a time.

The UFO reporting center has a 24-hour hot line that receives calls from all over the country. It fields calls or referrals from law enforcement agencies, the Federal Aviation Administration, the National Weather Service, military facilities, NASA and many 9-1-1 emergency dispatch centers across the United States and parts of Canada.

According to the center, local UFO sightings have been reported in an area stretching from Garberville to Fort Dick, north of Crescent City.

One particularly detailed sighting took place during the wet and stormy winter of 1995. A McKinleyville man reported to the center that at about 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 15, 1995, he was awakened by barking dogs in his neighborhood, and he went outdoors to smoke a cigarette.

As he smoked, he looked up into the storm clouds overhead and saw a cluster of perhaps

twelve cobalt-blue objects in a loose grouping, which appeared to be flitting between the tops of two adjacent storm formations, according to a center report.

After several minutes, one of the objects appeared to climb to a higher altitude, hover briefly, and was joined from all directions by a cluster of considerably smaller, green objects that seemed to streak in from all directions. The green objects suddenly "locked" in formation with the blue object and then drifted west out to sea.

The observer reported that he watched this process of assembly take place perhaps a dozen times over the course of 45 minutes, at which point he became tired of the spectacle and went back to bed.

Other reports filed to the center by Humboldt and Del Norte county residents include:

■ Feb. 12, 1995 — a McKinleyville man sees two delta-shaped "aircraft" with lights blinking in sequence within 400 yards of him.

■ Aug. 15, 1995 — a Crescent City woman and her daughter are walking from their garage to their house when they see a streak pass overhead.

■ Aug. 25, 1995 — 50 to 60 witnesses, including a sheriff's deputy, see several peculiar objects to the west maneuvering over the water off the coast of Crescent City.

■ Sept. 19, 1995 — a U.S. Navy chief petty officer reports

seeing a "red orb under Jupiter" that moved right, then left, then zipped off at a very fast rate.

■ Oct. 2, 1995 — a Garberville man sees a bright light moving faster than a satellite, from north to south. He watches it for two to three minutes, then with a bright flash, the object disappears.

■ Oct. 13, 1995 — a Crescent City woman reports going outside to get her paper and seeing white lights that turn red and begin to zigzag.

■ Oct. 17, 1995 — a Crescent City man witnesses a strange white, oval-shaped light, being pursued by two fast aircraft. They were very high and fast, but the object outpaced the aircraft.

■ Feb. 9, 1996 — a Eureka woman and her neighbor witness a bizarre formation of up to 10 objects overhead with white flashing lights.

■ July 19, 1996 — a young Eureka boy reported to the Times-Standard seeing a round, white object during the day shoot through the sky, turn then disappear. It left no trail, was large and moved faster than an airplane.

Calls regarding recent sightings are welcomed by the National UFO Reporting Center Hotline, agency officials said. The group's 24-hour Seattle number is (206) 722-3000.

# CROP CIRCLE FOUND IN PAULDING COUNTY WHEAT FIELD

PROGRESS, Paulding, OH - July 10, 1996 CR: J. Hamer

By DENISE GEBERS  
Correspondent

People traveling the byways of Paulding County last week probably noticed emerging bean crops, fields of knee-high corn and ripening wheat. Nothing unusual, all peaceful and serene. But...

Those traveling the skyways may have noticed something VERY unusual. Something that caught the attention of four Oakwood area residents on an early evening flight July 4...an apparent crop circle, 93 feet in diameter.

Crop circle? In Paulding County? It appears to be true!

Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere spotted the strange occurrence while taking Sandy's brother and sister-in-law for a ride near their Charloe area home. In a telephone interview, Sandy said Mike made a wider bank than usual to accommodate a passenger uncomfortable in turns. She said they may have missed it otherwise, because they went farther west than normal.

Sandy said she didn't sleep well that night and by morning had determined to get pictures. She, her husband, and their son's friend, Jason Burt, went up July 5 to take the shots. Using a platbook, they concluded the field must be farmed by Arend Bros. Inc. of rural Paulding.

With Jason's aid, Sandy tried to find the landowner at each of the neighboring houses, to no avail. The two decided to take a dirt lane they thought would lead them to the correct field. When they came to the end of the trail, there was still no sign of the circle. But a quick trip between the wheat and adjacent bean fields proved fruitful.

About 72 feet into the field sat the huge compression, barely visible from the field's edge. Carefully making their way through nearly ripened waist high grain, Sandy and Jason took more photos, from ground level.

After having her film processed at a one-hour film developer in Defiance, Sandy was anxious to make contact with one of the Arend brothers - Dan, Dave or Don. Her efforts were hampered by the families' holiday weekend plans and for a long time could reach no one.

Finally, Sandy said she reached one of Dave's daughters and around 8 p.m. got a hold of Don's wife, Sue.

"I told her, 'You're going to think I'm crazy, but you have a crop circle in one of your fields!'", Sandy said. "Sue wanted to see it right away. I met her and the girls there. Doug (Arend) and Don came later," she added.

Sandy said they didn't enter the field until Don and Doug arrived. The group walked to the edge of the phenomenon. Wheat stalks inside the circle were bent to the ground in a counter-clockwise direction. Plants at the edges were unaffected for a sharp precise rim. There were no signs of burning and hairs on the bearded wheat were still intact.

"It was dark by then," said Sandy. "We went back in the morning where Sheriff Dave Harrow met us and most of the Arend family." She said the occurrence is "kinda neat."

Sheriff Harrow said he and Chief Deputy Keith Baird inspected the site about 10:30 a.m., July 6. They walked the perimeter of the circle looking for tracks indicating the flattened grain was the work of pranksters.

"There was no evidence of any," said Harrow. He noticed deer droppings at the south edge, but said the area didn't appear to be a resting area for such animals.

"I thought it was a hoax," said the sheriff. "Now that I've seen it, I don't know...It's a very interesting situation. I'm unaware of any like it in the past 20 years."

None of the neighbors were interviewed by the department to see

if they had heard or seen anything out of the ordinary July 1-4, but it

did provide barricade tape to help preserve the site until experts arrive Wednesday.

"We're not conducting a criminal investigation," Harrow said, "unless people trample the wheat fields."

Dan's wife, Natalie, had once lived in Lima and remembered hearing about the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) office there. Dan called John Timmerman, public relations vice president and treasurer of the group, on Saturday morning. By 11 a.m., he joined the Arend families and Dobbelaere's in the 58 acre field south of CR 126 in Section 23, Jackson Township on land owned by heirs of James Walley. He spent nearly three hours investigating.

Timmerman photographed the area and the compressed wheat. With the help of Dan, he took measurements plus grain and soil samples. The circle's visual center was established by locating the middle of the ring of bent stems. By shifting the measuring tape 10 inches south, the actual center of a nearly perfect circle was established.

While taking more aerial photographs, it was noted that the circle lay in the exact center of two surface ditches in the field as well. Through later conversations, it was determined the circle wasn't visible on July 1, so it was found within three days of formation - at the most.

Timmerman, who does not claim to be a specialist on crop circles, received his Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Cornell University in 1950, after three years service in WWII. He has been involved with UFO sightings and related investigations since his days at Cornell. He has a close association with the leading crop circle expert and has field experience investigating them.

In a telephone interview, he said the crop circle phenomena grabbed high visibility in the early 1980s when hundreds surfaced in England. He said they are not commonly documented in the United States (he knows of one in Minnesota), although there have been many in Canada. (See related story)

"My feeling when I saw this circle was that if it was hoaxers, they must be pretty savvy guys or gals," Timmerman said. He detected no signs of human activity inside the circle, or out.

Timmerman said it can't be determined if the phenomenon appeared during the day or night unless a witness should come forward. Such a person would undergo tests to verify their testimony. He said in a few cases, people have said a UFO made the circles. "I'm willing to listen to those who claim crop circle or UFO phenomena," he said.

"I have had a lot of stories told and pictures taken. I don't think this was created by wind, aircraft or kids with sticks. It's too precise," said Timmerman. "I concluded something came down and went up."

He said the conditions forming the circle would be difficult to replicate. "Winds don't come straight down and go back up. They tend to wander," he added.

The Lima man has called experts in to research the site. Personnel from the CUFOS headquarters in Chicago plus Dr. James Beurlein, OSU agronomist and wheat specialist will converge on the site today (Wednesday, July 10). More grain and soil samples will be taken inside and outside of the circle. Sophisticated testing, such as one for radiation, may follow.

"Cellular changes have been reported in some cases," said Timmerman, adding few instances of



From 400 feet, four quadrants could be observed in the 93-foot diameter crop circle discovered in the evening hours on July 4. The phenomenon is located in Jackson Township, Paulding County.

radiation have been determined. He felt this instance that possibility is a long shot. Copies of Timmerman's photos of the circle are being circulated nationwide.

How has all this attention affected the Arends? What are they feeling?

Don Arend said the situation is weird. "I was skeptical at first, but this is more than a hoax. Everybody's wondering. We see where deer have bedded in wheat all the time. And this is not that."

"I don't know what to think of it," said Dave Arend. "I've never seen anything like it. I'm trying to be open-minded."

Dave's son, Scott, said, "It's different. I don't think it's man-made." His cousins, Ken and Eric Kohart, agreed that they're not sure what to think.

"The whole thing is becoming overwhelming," said Dan Tuesday morning. "The crop circle is a fascinating phenomenon. It's fascinating to think of what it could be."

He did a live interview for a Cincinnati radio talk show early Tuesday morning.

After news of the crop circle aired on Channel 21 out of Fort Wayne Saturday night, the family prepared for lots of curious visitors. To protect the integrity of the circle it has been cordoned off about two or three feet from the edges. Several members of the family (and some friends) have

been on the site much of the time since Saturday.

An estimated 2,000 people have made a trip to the wheat field by press time Tuesday. The majority showed up Monday evening. Family members said visitors arrived early in the morning, and in spite of dark and bad weather have had to be asked to leave at 10 p.m.

Visitors have started to come from farther distances, (such as Indiana, Michigan, and counties of Logan, Fulton, Williams and Henry) as has interest of the media. TV crews from channels 15 (Fort Wayne) and 44 (Lima) with CNN have come to the site after Channel 21's initial transmission Saturday. Calls for radio interviews have come from Fort Wayne, Delphos, Cincinnati and even Philadelphia, Pa.!

WOWO radio personality Ron Gregory told the family the University of Michigan is conducting a crop circle study. So far the Arend's attempts to contact the school have been unsuccessful.

Now that the holiday weekend is over and real life tugs the family back to farming, (the wheat crop is ripe - they have 1,400 acres!), outside jobs, ball tournaments and just daily chores. Dividing their time is becoming harder, but as Sue Arend's said, "We're spending more (extended) family time together. We're bonding!"



Here Mike Dobbelaere (left) and Dan Arend try to explain the strange occurrence of a crop circle in one of the wheat fields farmed by Dan. The circle was sighted Thursday evening when Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere were taking Sandy's brother and sister-in-law for an airplane ride near their Charloe area home.

(continued on page 7)



# Crop circles remain an unexplained phenomena

By DENISE GEBERS  
Correspondent

*Editor's note: In response to the appearance of an apparent crop circle in a wheat field farmed by Arend Brothers Inc. in rural Paulding, Randy Robinett, an Arend employee, pulled information off the Internet on the subject. The following story is compiled from those articles plus information supplied by John Timmerman of the Center for UFO Studies, Lima.*

Although crop circles have gained wide attention the past 15 years, the first circle in recent years was found in 1966 at Tully, England. It is said in Hertfordshire, evidence of the circles appeared as early as 1678.

Corn is the crop in which the

circles most commonly appear with wheat a close second. They show up in other grains as well, even flowers, trees and snow! Each continent has had its share, with only mainland China and South Africa not reporting any sightings.

Over the years, certain common denominators have been observed in the phenomena. Many appear mid-field (like the one in Jackson Township) with no evidence of disturbance to surrounding crops. Usually grain inside the circle appears dehydrated and grows 40 percent faster than that taken from outside the area within the same field.

Swirling of grain stalks can be clockwise or counter-clockwise, and on occasions

one is layered over the top of the other. Sometimes stalks are even woven like loose cloth. Once in a while selective swirling of stalks outside the circle occurs all around the perimeter. A few times formations develop new characteristics as grain grows in the field.

These formations are not exclusive to isolated fields. They've shown up near major highways and inside secure military installations. Often, aerial

pictures show the formations aligned with surface features, such as the drainage ditches in Arend's field.

Research has divulged crop circles are formed over chalkbeds and underground water supplies. Apparently these conduct the earth's electromagnetic currents. How the two are related is being studied further. **Certain geometric ratios, such as the phi and diatonic ratios, are always present inside the formations.**

Some people who visit crop formations have reported unusual reactions by their bodies or equipment. Physical effects have ranged from the positive giddiness to negative — pain, headache, nausea and dizziness, to the peculiar — being knocked off their feet. (Such reactions have not been noted locally.) Electronic and magnetic equipment sometimes go berserk. Researchers have discovered fresh crop circles may emit sound energy at 5 khz.

Scientists have developed three major theories to explain crop circles. After two Englishmen admitted in 1991 to making over 250 formations, the "all circles are hoaxes" theory got major support. Another hypothesis is called the "Plasma Vortex Theory," claiming electrified air (plasma) becomes mini-tornadoes and runs right into the ground creating circles and lights. Because UFO sightings are reported in the areas of some formations, extraterrestrial creation is a very controversial theory.

John P. Timmerman, a Lima man who works with the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), said the number of circles have increased with more intricate patterns appearing, beginning in the 1980s. He discounts the wind and wild animal theories due to the complicated nature of the circle floors. he said, "One would need a deep knowledge of math and physics to do some of these...It could be people. It could be some exotic life form."

Only one other crop circle has been documented in the United States, according to Timmerman. He said one appeared in Minnesota, while Canada has had a rash of them. He added, however, northwest Ohio has had two reports of strange occurrences. Both were documented in *The Farmland News* of Archbold.

In April 1974, an eight foot imprint was found in northwest Putnam County. It was 12 inches deep with seven four-foot-long grooves radiating from it. The ground between the grooves was heaved up almost 12 inches. At the depression's center were two 12 inch holes, 12 inches apart. Its cause was not discovered.

Nearly 10 years later, in 1983, a foot-deep crater was discovered west of Wauseon. A star-shaped design had six 19-foot-long and four 9.5-foot-long points equi-distant from the center. Inside this pattern was an eight-inch deep depression eight feet in diameter. At the center of this circle was a two-inch wide hole running six-feet deep, with no evidence of compaction at the site. This incident, too, went unexplained.

Timmerman said people interested in learning more about crop circles may want to read *Circular Evidence* by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews (published by Phanes) and *The Crop Circle Enigma* edited by Ralph Noyes (published by Gateway Books).

Anyone with information on the Jackson Township circle or any other unexplained phenomena over the years should write Timmerman at P.O. Box 1621, Lima, OH, 45802.

Center for UFO Studies is a not-for-profit Illinois corporation started by astronomer J. Allen Hynek. Hynek acted as consultant to the U.S. Air Force on their Project Blue Book for a number of years. Timmerman was his assistant secretary for a number of years and has served on the CUFOS Board of Directors since 1989. He is available for speaking engagements.

NEWS HERALD, Willoughby, OH - July 10, 1996

## Many 'sightings' in Ohio

Associated Press

MIDDLETOWN — UFO trackers have had a busy week.

Sightings in southwest Ohio rocketed like Fourth of July fireworks, coinciding with the premiere of the alien-attack movie "Independence Day."

A glowing red object was seen by people in the Middletown and Carlisle areas Thursday and Friday nights, a citizens' group that tracks UFO sightings said Tuesday.

Tri-State Advocates for Scientific Knowledge, based in the Cincinnati suburb of Norwood, said it had numerous reports of sightings. Police in

Middletown confirmed that several people reported seeing unexplained lights in the sky.

Bode Gibbs said he was summoned from his home by a neighbor about 10 p.m. Friday to look at the object, which he described as round, glowing red with red lights. About 30 people from the neighborhood gathered to watch, and Gibbs said it dumped a "burning liquid."

But Gibbs said he was reluctant to report the sighting because of his position as a leader of a Star Trek fan club.

"It went upward and to the right, then straight up and to the left, then back to the right," she said. "We watched it for about an hour."

## Outside, looking in...

By DENISE GEBERS  
Correspondent

The Arend family estimates conservatively 2,000 people have viewed the crop circle formation in their wheat field since Saturday. Here are responses from a handful of Monday morning visitors when asked for their first impression.

"A lot of times deer will come out and knock down a spot, but nothing like this," said Jackson Township trustee Dave Stouffer, adding, "It's weird!"

"I think it was a helicopter," said Paul Perry, Defiance.

Darrell Noffsinger, Oak-

wood farmer and Brown Township trustee said, "I've never seen anything like it."

His son, Dale Noffsinger of Cecil, gave a wary, "I don't know..."

Additionally Fr. Cleo Schmenk of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Paulding, came to the site Saturday and gave a blessing for the area and family members.

A representative from Gov. George Voinovich's office slipped in and out of the formation almost undetected Monday morning and couldn't be reached for comment.

BEACHCOMBER, Vashon, WA - July 17, 1996 CR: R. Halbritter

# San Diego man seeks Maury UFO info

## Did a UFO get a jump start on Maury?

By GERRIT KOEPPING  
Staff reporter

Was Maury Island the site of an intergalactic jump start almost 50 years ago?

One San Diego man thinks so and is looking for eye witnesses who can confirm his belief in what has become known to some as the Maury Island Mystery.

While self-described ufologist Ron Halbritter said there are few witnesses left alive, he did have one name to augment his case.

Retired Baptist minister Bob Le Roy of Whidbey Island said his late brother, Bernard Ramey Le Roy, was fishing off Maury Island on June 21, 1947.

"He saw this big spacecraft and it kept dropping altitude like it was going to drop into the bay," Le Roy said. "But

before it did another one (swooped down) and touched it."

The falling saucer stopped its rapid descent but began to spew a silver-colored ash all over the area, observers said then. After a few moments it flew away with the other craft.

The next day Le Roy said he saw what appeared to be volcanic ash on the east coast of Maury Island.

Le Roy said his brother was very reliable.

"He became a minister a couple years after that," Le Roy said.

Le Roy's brother has since died.

His brother's account is very similar to a sighting described in "Phenomenon-Forty Years of Flying Saucers," a weathered copy of which can be

found at Vashon High School Library.

It describes the account of Tacoma man Harold Dahl who allegedly saw a falling spacecraft get a helping nudge from a fellow doughnut-shaped craft.

Immediately after being "jump-started," part of the ailing spacecraft exploded, showering the area with metal fragments.

Those fragments allegedly fell on Dahl's boat, breaking his son's arm and killing his dog.

Most people who allegedly saw the ailing saucer are now dead, said Halbritter, with more than a trace of suspicion in his voice.

Soon after news of the sighting became public, a mysterious plane crash destroyed most of the ash that witnesses

## How to contact him

Next year a group of ufologists will gather in Tacoma to mark the 50th anniversary of the sighting. Ron Halbritter said he would love to hear from any Islanders who might remember anything. His address is P.O. Box 3541, 340 Oxford, Chula Vista, Calif.

had gathered as well as killed two military intelligence officers who were investigating the sighting, said Halbritter.

Halbritter believes the crash was part of a larger government conspiracy to hide the existence of UFOs.

But evidently the government hasn't done a very good job.

Halbritter has compiled a two-page list of about 40 magazine articles and books that have discussed the Maury Island sighting.

The first was an article in the Spring 1948 edition of *Fate* magazine while the most

recent a 1996 piece in "Alternate Perceptions."

Halbritter recently wrote an article in "Steam Shovel Press" positing that the ailing Maury Island craft was the same one that crashed in Roswell on July 4, 1947.

Out of all the flying saucers in the world, Halbritter wrote, doesn't it make sense that the one that crashed in Roswell was the same one that had mechanical problems a few weeks earlier at Maury Island. His article piqued some interest in the UFO community, which considers Roswell the Rosetta Stone of ufology.

ENTERPRISE NEWS, Luck, WI - April 18, 1996

## Sighting reported in Luck

Pat and Tony Foster of Luck reported a UFO sighting to the National Reporting of UFO's in Seattle, Washington. They spoke to a person named Peter Davenport who suggested they contact the local paper to find out if anyone else saw the lights in the sky. Davenport also confirmed a sighting at Wyoming, Minn. on the same night and at about the same time with the lights moving in a northeast direction. Wyoming is just north of Highway 8 and Minnesota 35 about 40 miles from Luck.

CR: R. Heiden

## Fallen wheat in circle likely to be removed

BY BLADE STAFF WRITER

PAULDING, O. — Time is running out for people who want to analyze the crop circle seen by a local pilot in a wheat field on Paulding County Road 126, about three miles east of U.S. 127.

Randy Robinett, an assistant to the three brothers who farm the field where the circle appeared last week, said the fallen wheat probably would be removed tomorrow. Dan, Don, and Dave Arend also plan to clip about a foot off the

surrounding three-foot stalks.

"The rain is coming, and we don't want people trodding mud (through the field)," Mr. Robinett said.

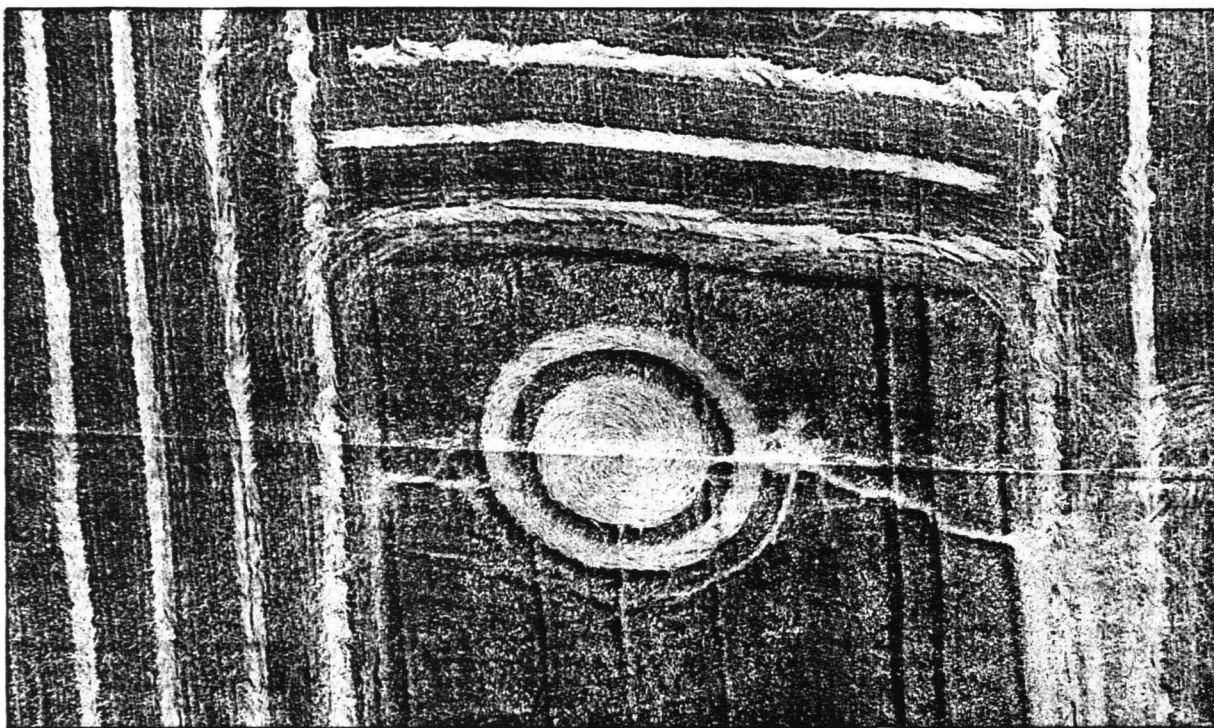
The brothers' mother said she had mixed feelings about tampering with the circle, which measures 93 feet in diameter, because she didn't believe it was man-made.

"I have no explanation for it," said Eloise Arend.

Mr. Robinett said the brothers probably would harvest and plow the entire field in the next few weeks.

BLADE, Toledo, OH  
July 13, 1996 CR: J. Hamm

# THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE



RANDY HAMPTON/Lincoln Journal Star

▲ Butte residents are baffled by a mysterious crop circle in a barley field southwest of town. This aerial photo was shot at an altitude of about 1,000 feet. The crop circle has a diameter of about 35 feet. Tracks leading to the crop circle were made by hundreds of visitors who have come to the site since Monday. Witnesses say that when it was first discovered there were no tracks.

## Crop circle still a mystery

Those who have seen it don't think it's man-made

BY AL J. LAUKAITIS  
Lincoln Journal Star

**BUTTE** — Hundreds of people are coming out to see Nebraska's version of the "X Files" — a crop circle that appeared mysteriously in a barley field southwest of this Boyd County village over the weekend.

Ever since Kelly Reiser discovered it early Monday on his farm and asked Butte County Sheriff Duane Pavel to investigate, folks from in town and out of town, including two researchers, have come out to get a firsthand look at the big, weird circle.

"Anybody who comes out there and walks out there — they come back shaking their heads saying it

### Crop circles or prank circles?

was unbelievable," Pavel said.

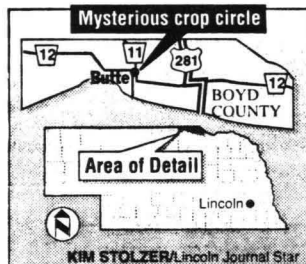
Lifelong resident Bill Hansen, 68, was one of the sightseers. He said he's never seen anything like it and doesn't have a clue about who or what made the three concentric circles.

"I don't have any idea. I know that it is not man-made. It's just so smooth. Everything is in place. It goes around in a circle and every blade of barley is laid down neatly — just like you were drawing a picture," Hansen said.

The crop circle does have an air of mystery to it.

There was no evidence of tracks or scorch marks when Pavel looked at it Monday morning. The barley in the innermost circle lies on the ground in a counterclockwise direction as if a big weight had pressed the barley to the ground, while, in the next ring, the barley is standing tall. The outer ring is also made up of flattened barley. Witnesses say none of the barley plants appears broken.

Not since this area was picked as the home for Nebraska's nuclear waste storage site has so much attention been paid to this tier county along the South Dakota border. Some people even say it could somehow be related to the



KIM STOLZERA/Lincoln Journal Star

yet-to-be-built US Ecology facility, but that's only a wild rumor. And there are plenty of those making the rounds of the community.

"I'll be honest with you. I've heard talk about UFOs. Some machine had to come down and put it (the barley) down because of its perfection," said Pavel. "Nobody is ruling out UFOs — not around this area they're not."

## Experts split on origins of strange crop circles

BY JOE DUGGAN  
Lincoln Journal Star

**Impromptu alien landing pads.**

Yeah, right.

Supernatural graffiti.

C'mon.

Ion plasma vortices.

Well... maybe.

Sight unseen, a national paranormal researcher in Buffalo, N.Y., cried "hoax" when told about the crop circle that appeared on a Boyd County barley field Monday morning. Crop circles? More like prank circles, suggested Joe Nickell, senior researcher for the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.

"All the evidence suggests that approximately 100 percent of crop circles have been made by human beings," Nickell said. "There is no evidence, no scientific evidence, that a crop circle has been made by any other means."

In response to Nickell, W.C. Levensgood of Grass Lake, Mich., did not say "hogwash," but he

meant "hogwash." Although the independent biophysicist declined to champion UFO explanations for crop circles, he said he has reams of documentation to prove that crop circles are the product of natural phenomena called ion plasma vortices.

"The majority of them are not a hoax, they're not trivial," Levensgood said. "The majority of them are created by a very high energy. I don't give a damn what the skeptics say."

So what's a farmer to think when he wakes up to find what looks like designer harvesting in his field?

Think pranksters, Nickell said. The author and staff writer for "The Skeptical Inquirer" worked with a forensic analyst on a 1992 study of crop circles. By feeding data about individual circles into a computer, Nickell and his partner identified several patterns that convinced them the circles were hoaxes.

Although a few burned circles appeared in the United States at about the height of the UFO craze of the early 1970s, crop

circles popped up with regularity in southern England around 1978. The number of crop circles climbed in the wake of saturation news coverage. They began appearing with regularity in the United States following an "Unsolved Mysteries" episode about the circles.

As crop circles grew in number, they also grew in complexity.

The clincher for the skeptics occurred in 1991 when Doug Bower and Dave Chorley — described as two jovial con men in their 60s — confessed to many of the England crop circles. The two gladly demonstrated their technique to the media, which involved a sighting device on their baseball caps and a plank they used to flatten plant stalks.

Nickell called Levensgood "a partisan crop circle believer," Nickell said. "He is a person who has started with the answer."

Levensgood started investigating crop circles six years ago, and he has tested between 180 and 200 sites. He struck back at Nickell for not doing his own scientific tests on individual crop circle sites.

Randy Schmidt, owner of Bill's Market in Butte, said his customers have been talking a lot about it. He said some have speculated that it could have been created by a UFO landing or by pranksters.

"It's really interesting. You don't see how kids could have done it," Schmidt said. "I guess I'm keeping an open mind until somebody tells me what caused it."

There may be some credence to the UFO rumor. Two women told the sheriff they heard weird noises and then later saw strange lights in the sky Sunday night as they drove home from the Butte Golf Course, which is not far from Reiser's barley field.

Pavel declined to identify the women to keep them away from the media, but he did say one of the women told him she heard loud "model airplane" like noises about 9:35 p.m. A short time later she saw two large, white, bright lights and two smaller white lights in the sky.

"Her impression of it was it looked like a semi (truck) rolling over a small car," Pavel said.

The other woman told Pavel that she left the Butte Golf Course about 10 minutes later and saw identical lights in the northwest sky. "She thought it was a combine farther out in the field and then they (the lights) all blacked out," Pavel said.

Both women contacted the sheriff Tuesday after news of the crop circle spread. Word got out as Pavel began seeking help to find out what may have caused it. He not only called Offutt Air Force Base near Bellevue and the Nebraska State Patrol, but also the FBI, Secret Service, Smithsonian Institution and NASA.

Pavel said some of the people he talked to appeared interested, while others gave him names and phone numbers of others to call. Some simply stonewalled him or sent him position statements on the federal government's view of UFOs. As of Wednesday, no federal government official had come out to the site. But two Omaha researchers did.

Jack Kasher, a physics professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and a colleague, Omaha high school teacher Harry Jordan, drove up to Boyd County Wednesday morning.

Pavel said they took a lot of photographs and made a videotape. They also took a magnetic reading of the crop circle and found it to be higher than average. However, they also found other crop fields in the area to be in the same range. They also interviewed one of the women who claimed to have seen the bright lights in the sky.

So, did they reach any conclusions on who or what made the mysterious crop circle?

"They said it was just a beautiful example of sculptured circles and it could in no way have been man-made," Pavel said.

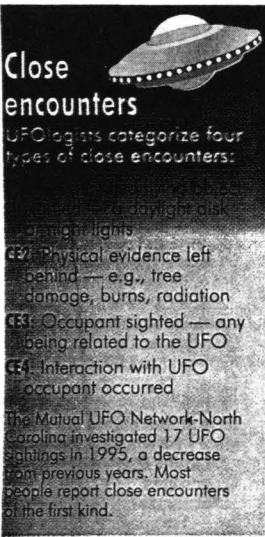
Although there are now tracks leading up to the circle, when Kelly Reiser discovered it there was no evidence of tracks, said his brother, Kevin.

"We don't know how it was made, but we think it had to be some kind of aircraft," said Kevin Reiser, who lives on the same farm.

Kevin said they were both home Sunday night and didn't hear anything or see anything unusual. He said his brother was last near the field on Saturday and didn't get out there again until about 6:30 a.m. Monday.

The Reisers are allowing people to come out to see the circle.





**Close encounters**  
UFO experts categorize four types of close encounters:  
1. Daylight disk  
2. Night lights  
3. Physical evidence left behind — e.g., tree damage, burns, radiation  
4. Occupant sighted — any being related to the UFO  
5. Interaction with UFO occupant occurred  
The Mutual UFO Network-North Carolina investigated 17 UFO sightings in 1995, a decrease from previous years. Most people report close encounters of the first kind.

# True believers in UFOs find they're not alone

## Convention has speculation, humor and a few skeptics

By TERESA B. JONES  
STAFF WRITER

**GREENSBORO** — When she was 3 years old, Mary Beth Wrenn says, she saw her first UFO. Stubby, silver-shaded and wingless, it glided noiselessly overhead. Twenty-two years later, she says, another craft visited her in Mount Laurel, N.J. Three sets of amber lights pulsed above her car, outlining a faint, skyborne object. In an instant, the craft banked steeply to the right, flash-

ing red, blue and yellow before it disappeared. George Fawcett, of Lincolnton, N.C., reports his close encounter came during college. Against the blue morning sky in Lynchburg, Va., he says, he saw a brilliant orange disk. It bobbed, yo-yo-like, a few hundred feet above the earth before launching into oblivion at 45 degrees. Fawcett was alone at the time. Most of the 600 to 700 people who gathered in Greensboro for a UFO convention this weekend do not recount such vivid extraterrestrial experiences. But they don't discount them, either. They have come to the 27th International Symposium of the Mutual



UFO Network to learn all they can about UFOs and to meet up with other network friends. On Saturday, they meandered among vendors' displays, flipping through books like Timothy Goods' "Above Top Secret" and "Abducted! The Story of the Intruders Continues" by Debbie Jordan and Kathy Mitchell. A few people picked through T-shirts and bumper stickers with slogans like "I crashed in Roswell, NM" and "E.T. — Call NASA." No story is too outrageous to be spoken here. The Texas-based group has more than 5,000 members worldwide that seek to find a scientific explanation for UFOs, says Nick

Summers, organizer of the area chapter. To that end, the volunteer organization sponsors annual conferences, circulates a monthly UFO Journal and operates UFO hot lines. The conference this year — "Ufo-logy: A Scientific Enigma" — boasts 14 speakers, including John E. Mack from Harvard Medical School. A 1977 Pulitzer Prize winner for his biography of T.E. Lawrence, the psychiatry professor has spent the past six years researching through hypnosis his patients' experiences with "alien abductions." UFO supporters welcome the scientific credibility — Mack is their

## STAR, Indianapolis, IN - Aug. 3, 1996 CR: D. Worley Incident at Indianapolis: What did Doppler detect?

By STEVE FARR  
Associated Press Writer

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Steve Haines thinks he knows what he saw on his radar screen. Circles, about five miles in diameter, rising in southern Indiana, clearly depicted on the Doppler radar at the Indianapolis station of the National Weather Service, where Haines is a meteorologist. For 90 minutes Friday morning, the brightly colored doughnuts swelled until nearly 45 miles across. Then they burst, leaving scattered dots in their wake. "Bird explosion," Haines declared matter-of-factly. "At least, we're pretty sure they're birds," he said. "I know Louisville's still in existence, so I know it wasn't an atomic bomb." Haines believes the rings he saw on his screen were huge flocks of birds taking off together, then dispersing at about 20 mph in different directions. Other experts aren't so sure. Indiana University biology professor Donald Whitehead was skeptical about Haines's theory. He knows of nothing that would create such a phenomenon. His guess: an air disturbance caused by heat coming from the ground.

Then again, it may have been Canada geese or some other migrating waterfowl, said Rich Block, vice president for scientific and program development at the Indianapolis Zoo. "They do really neat stuff," Block said. "They go up in a unified pattern and then disperse. ... I can't think of too many other explanations." The five circles popped up on Haines' monitor just as he arrived at work, hovering over rivers near Cincinnati, Louisville and in the woods just south of Terre Haute. "I walked in here this morning at eight o'clock and I saw them right away, they showed up so good," he said. Even though the circles were about 90 miles from Indianapolis, they were well within the Doppler's range. It can track a single duck or goose at 125 miles. Haines said. Out west, Doppler antennae are sometimes rendered useless by clouds of insects and bats, Haines said. "They really almost obliterate the radar when millions of bats come out of these caves." If the circles were birds, they pulled a pretty neat trick. Though separated by dozens of miles, the "flocks" rose almost simultaneously.

most reputable member. What matter most, for this community of alien enthusiasts, are sightings and the quest for scientific legitimacy. So it is no wonder that within the J.S. Koury Convention Center meeting rooms, there is a feeling of camaraderie and respite from the relentless disbelief they face. "There is a kookiness that the general public applies to UFOs," says George Lund, the network's N.C. assistant director, "but people can come here and nobody's going to laugh at them." There is no ban on laughter, though. Jokes about "missing time" abound, and when speaker Kevin Randle banters good-naturedly with longtime skeptic Philip Klass about recent developments in a purported 1947 Roswell UFO crash, he adds, "I can prove everything I say!" The controversial crash near a New Mexico Air Force base has become a permanent symbol for UFO believers, who say the government recovered alien bodies from the site and has been covering up ever since. Unlike most attendees at the conference, Klass has spent his life writing about space and technology. With 44 years of experience at Aviation Week & Space Technology

magazine, Klass counts himself as one of the few skeptics that attend network conferences. He shakes his head and smiles. "After nearly a half century of reported sightings, there is not a single piece of scientifically credible evidence," he says. "If there were, the world's top scientists would be at Greensboro." And it's not that he doesn't want to believe. "It would be the most exciting story I've ever written," he says. "I would expect to win a Pulitzer Prize. I would expect NASA to thank me, and [the Department of Defense] to say 'Bless you, Phil, Congress wants to give us more money.'" Conference speakers insist Klass' big break is coming. Dr. Roger K. Leir, a foot surgeon in Simi Valley, Calif., says he has removed unexplained objects — "implants" — from patients' feet and assisted with removals from other body parts. A longtime UFO researcher, Leir says that the objects displayed no "port of entry" and had caused no inflammation — both very unusual conditions. Leir promises to "go public" once his research is complete and a scientific journal agrees to publish it. The problem with UFOs is that they face some pretty impressive

scientific obstacles. "The distances between the stars are so great that we are never going to visit other stars from this planet and we're not being visited by anybody else, either," says Charles Schweighauser, a professor at the University of Illinois in Springfield. Schweighauser had no interest in attending the conference to make his point. He doesn't see a point. The closest star system, Alpha Centauri, lies about 4.3 light-years away. By current space technology, a journey to our neighbor would take a few thousand years. But the greatest challenge faced by "Ufologists" comes not from physics or astronomy but from the nature of science itself. "Science deals only with the measurable," says Schweighauser. To prove or disprove a hypothesis, a researcher must be able to do experiments more than once and produce the same results. With the possible exception of alien remains alleged to be stored at a top-secret government area in Nevada, no measurable items are available for scientific study. But Schweighauser does not close the door completely. "I can't prove that flying saucers do not exist," he says.

CHIEFTAIN, Pueblo, CO - July 19, 1996

## Sen. Duke seeks FBI help in unraveling mysteries

**COLORADO SPRINGS (AP)** — A state senator says he'll ask the FBI to help investigate claims by a constituent that the government is testing biological and laser weapons on some isolated property near here. State Sen. Charles Duke responded to the request for help from Steve Lee, who lives in the Black Forest area near Colorado Springs. Lee's property has been the scene of goings-on that have been the subject of three segments on the television show "Sightings." But Lee said the activities don't come from any hauntings; it's the government. "There are certainly some anomalies that don't belong there," Duke said following a visit to Lee's home. "I don't as yet know what they are." "This ain't no poltergeist," said Lee, 38, a former truck driver. "This is government. How can someone do this and continue to get away with it?" Lee has reported hearing ringing, smelling strange odors that burn his throat and eyes and hav-

ing visions of men wearing fatigues and carrying assault rifles outside his front door. Lee said he believes the military is conducting biological and laser testing on his isolated Swan Road property because it would easily go unnoticed. Lee said he has tried for about five years to get local and federal agencies to help stop the incidents, but to no avail. A few weeks ago, Duke, a Monument Republican, got a call from Lee asking for help, and Duke arranged a visit. Duke took his own camera so he wouldn't have to rely on Lee's photos, and snapped several shots inside Lee's home of nothing in particular. But when he had them developed, something in particular was on the prints: "A light beam that is not there on the naked eye, images in the pictures," Duke said. "There's certainly something unusual, there's no doubt about it," Duke said. "It begs more questions. Where could this be coming from? And for what purpose?" "I'm going to cautiously talk about it with the FBI," Duke said. Duke has made some acquaintances within the bureau after working with them in May to try help end the Freemen standoff in Montana. CR: D. Perkins

CRESCENT NEWS, Defiance, OH - July 9, 1996

## Hoosiers noticed a UFO

By JIM LANGHAM  
Staff Writer

**BERNE, Ind.** — When Dawn Sprunger left the home of a close friend in Bluffton, Ind., early on Saturday morning, the last thing on her mind was the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects. She hadn't heard anything about a crop circle in Paulding County. But at 4:10 a.m. (5:10 a.m. EST), all of that changed. Approximately five miles west of this Adams County hamlet, Sprunger noticed what appeared to be red and blue lights blinking to her left. At first she thought the lights were coming from towers located in the area. However, when the lights continued after she passed the towers, she became concerned. "I finally tried to get a good look at it and what I saw scared me," noted Sprunger. "It looked like a vertical jet, triangular in shape. At certain times you could see red and blue lights in it." "When I came to a stop light in Berne it was in front of me. As I drove toward our house it was to

my left," said the 19-year-old. Sprunger said that she entered the house and went to bed, hoping that the sighting would just go away. But when she peered out the window a short time later, it was still hovering in the area. She awakened her parents, who also saw the object, and they telephoned law enforcement officials. According to a report by news editor Tony Mellencamp in Monday's *Berne Triweekly News*, local police chief Merlin Bixler headed east out of town where he spotted the object. Even though Bixler and three other officers were observing the object first hand, controllers at Fort Wayne International Airport indicated there was no sign of an object in the area on radar. In the meantime, Berne Mayor Blaine Fulton, who had been alerted of the situation, was able to capture the possible UFO for several minutes on his camcorder before it finally drifted toward the east close to sunrise. Officers then returned to the home of Sprunger to inform her that they had also seen the object. Was there any connection between the Berne sighting and the discovery of a crop circle east of Paulding two days earlier on July 4? John Timmerman, vice president of public relations for Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, said Monday that he wouldn't rule out that possibility. In fact, the closeness of the two appearances in timing, as well as

geographically, more than captured Timmerman's interest. "There had to be something that caused all of the wheat to fall in the same direction," said Timmerman. "That only happens when you have something in motion." While Timmerman refused to identify either incident as official UFO activity, he noted that it's not unusual to have UFO sightings close to the appearance of crop circles. He also noted that the fact that none of the stalks of wheat were broken would seem to heighten the credibility of the situation. Berne is located eight miles from the Ohio line, approximately 40 miles southwest of Paulding, in Adams County, which borders Mercer and Van Wert counties in Ohio. The crop circle, located on Paulding County Road 126, just off of Ohio 637, is located about 15 miles north of Van Wert. What does Sprunger think about the whole thing? "I keep wanting to say, 'Dawn, you're crazy,'" she said, "but it helps to know that the officers also saw it. I used to think that there was no such thing as a UFO, but not anymore. I believe there is life up there that could be interested in seeing what's going on down here." Sprunger said that she plans to visit the crop circle later in the week.

# Frequent Fliers?

By Zack Van Eyck

Deseret News Staff Writer

For species that supposedly don't exist, aliens sure do get around. Extraterrestrial beings and the aircraft they purportedly fly have become an indelible part of American and world culture. You can't watch TV for long anymore without seeing some reference to aliens. It's as if they've hired a slick public relations firm to maximize their exposure.

Even Hollywood has a new fixation with ETs. The much awaited "Independence Day," expected to be this summer's blockbuster, is unleashing an alien invasion of earth at a theater near you this week.

Of course, everyone knows that humans are the only intelligent life in the universe. UFOs don't exist, all crop circles are faked by two English blokes, cattle mutilations are carried out by laser-wielding coyotes and Bigfoot will have a sizable bill to pay if he ever returns that rental costume.

Well, not everyone.

"My personal opinion, not speaking for Hansen Planetarium or Salt Lake County, is that the universe is teeming with life," said Patrick Wiggins, a spokesman for the planetarium.

"There are more stars in the sky than there are grains of sand on planet Earth. The notion that anybody would say that out of that incredible number of stars there is only one planet that has life on it, that's ludicrous. That's egocentric to the max."

Terry and Gwen Sherman wish some of that teeming intergalactic life would find somewhere



In a nearby pasture, other strange soil impressions have been found — circles about 3 feet wide and a foot or two deep with the dirt in the center perfectly flattened.

One of the flying lights followed Gwen's car on her way home from work one night. And while out in one of the fields with the family dogs, Terry heard male voices speaking an unfamiliar language. The voices seemed to be about 25 feet above him, but Terry couldn't see a thing. The dogs were frantic. They barked and growled before running off to the ranch house, Terry said.

The Shermans have linked the sightings with the death or disappearance of seven of their cows. Four have disappeared without a trace. Three others have been found dead and partially mutilated.

"We've seen (the UFOs) enough and we know pretty much what the craft look like, and I think it's definitely associated with the cattle mutilations — when we see the crafts and then the cattle, we have problems," Sherman said.

"You talk to a lot of people around here that at one time or another have seen something they can't explain. There's been a lot of cattle mutilations, and a lot of them weren't reported. Several (ranchers) told me that when they had a (mutilation), they called the authorities and the authorities couldn't do anything, so it was just a waste of time and effort."

Indeed, the records clerk for the

Uintah County Sheriff's Department said her department has not received reports of UFOs or cattle mutilations in recent memory. Sheriff Ralph Stansfield in nearby Duchesne County said he is unaware of any UFOs or mutilations being reported in the past 18 months.

Although the Shermans haven't told officials about the cattle mutilations or UFO activity, they have confided in Joseph "Junior" Hicks, a retired junior high school teacher from Roosevelt who has investigated more than 400 UFO sightings in the Uintah Basin since the early 1950s.

Reports of UFOs during that time have numbered in the thousands, according to Hicks, and some have been associated with cattle mutilations. Over the years, Hicks said, at least a half-dozen eyewitnesses have told him they saw living beings in the windows or portholes of UFOs.

To Hicks, the Shermans' sightings are extraordinary for their number, duration and quality. But what they've witnessed is hardly unusual for the Uintah Basin, he said.

"I'd estimate over 10 percent of the population of the Uintah Basin has seen something," Hicks said. "I

think what's happening is we are being visited from beings from another world or some other place. I think primarily it's research and exploration."

## Sightings abound

Utah's UFO activity isn't limited to the Uintah Basin.

Controversial film footage of flying discs was taken by a Navy warrant officer near Tremonton in 1952. A "fireball" that raced above Salt Lake City's skies and drew considerable attention in the Nephi area in 1962 is considered suspicious by some UFO investigators.

Pat Roach, a Lehi woman working for Geneva Steel at the time, attracted national attention when she went public with her account of an alien abduction she said occurred in 1973.

Bill Lyons, a Mutual UFO Network investigator in Iron County, is intrigued by a February 1993 incident in which a man and woman saw a dozen UFOs near Hurricane, including an egg-shaped craft with telephone pole-size landing gear and a large hot dog-shaped craft. After the sightings, the couple surveyed the ground nearby and found a trail of small three-toed footprints in the snow. Other markings indicated a tail might

have been dragging behind whatever made the prints.

"The thing that struck me about this sighting was its depth and the copious amounts of information," Lyons said. "There was just so much detail to it."

The woman, who lives in Kanab, confirmed the sighting in an interview with the Deseret News but did not want her name published.

Ryan Layton, a Davis County resident, has interviewed more than two dozen Utahns who claim to have seen UFOs. He knows of an Emery County couple whose 16-year-old daughter believes she has been abducted repeatedly by an alien with red glowing eyes.

"I know they're out there," Layton said.

Businessman Paul Pedersen agreed to speak publicly for the first time about an event he says occurred in 1964. As Pedersen was leaving a neighbor's Emigration Canyon home early one morning, he noticed a huge oval-shaped craft in the sky above him.

"It drifted over and down and then hovered above the driveway," Pedersen said. "As it stood still, people inside came to the portholes and looked out at me. That kind of unnerved me because it was so dark I knew I couldn't be seen by human eyes. . . . They looked just like people. They were silhouetted against this green light in the background."

Pedersen then received a telepathic message from the beings. They asked if he'd like to come with them.

"It was one individual's voice," he said. "I didn't say anything but answered by thinking. My thought was that I can't leave, I have a wife and two children who depend on me. Their response was, 'That's OK,' and the craft just hovered up above the trees and went over the mountain behind me."

Ray Kelsey of West Valley City says he was working in a Wyoming oil field in the 1970s when he and 250 others saw a UFO above an oil rig. The rig later exploded. Kelsey said superiors told the workers not to report the incident.

"They were taking something out of the ground, oil or something black, but it wasn't a solid stream. It was particles — like a beam," Kelsey said. "The ship itself had different colored lights and was transparent."

Local filmmaker Trent Harris, who is sponsoring a UFO film festival late next month in Bicknell, heard similar stories recently while filming in Zion National Park.

"You can't throw a rock in southern Utah without hitting somebody who's been abducted," Harris said.

## No hard evidence

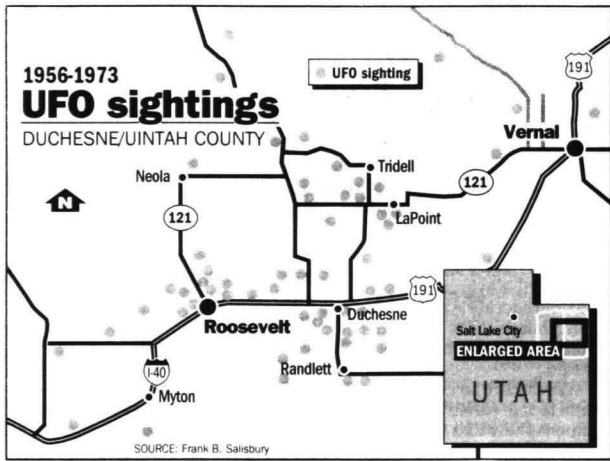
Hard evidence to support such claims is sorely lacking, however, and eyewitness accounts just can't be trusted, according to Barry Karr. He is the executive director of the New York-based Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, which publishes "Skeptical Inquirer" magazine.

"There is no good, physical evidence that we are being visited by beings from other planets," Karr said in a telephone interview. "There's no question that people see things in the sky that they can't identify, but that just means at the moment those things are unidentified."

Karr said many CSICOP members are open to the idea that intelligent life may exist elsewhere. They just don't believe that life is now visiting Earth.

"We don't know exactly what they saw," Karr said when told about what the Shermans say they've seen. "You can't take eyewitness testimony for it. I have people who have told me elaborate stories about what they've seen and you do some research and it turns out to be a blimp. I think it's very unlikely that what they're seeing is from another planet."





**UFO paradise**

The Shermans' ranch would be paradise if they were UFO researchers, but strange lights in the sky weren't what the couple was looking for when they bought the ranch two years ago. They wanted a quiet place where they could get away from it all. Gwen, a Uintah Basin native, and Terry, who moved here from Arizona when he was 17, had no idea what they were in for.

The ranch sat idle for seven years after the previous owners passed away, and it took awhile for the Shermans to remodel the old house and move in. Before they took up residence, Terry noticed one of the strange circular depressions in the pasture west of the house. He assumed someone had removed a tree.

In April of 1995, the family got a taste of what was to come. Terry stepped out of the house to check on a cow that was calving in the field south of the house when he noticed lights in the field. He assumed they belonged to recreation vehicles, maybe kids from a neighboring farm riding four-wheelers.

That didn't make a lot of sense, though. The ranch is isolated, three miles from the main road, and access is cut off by a creek and a huge rock ridge.

"It went clear down here and just above where this cow's mutilated," Sherman said, pointing to where that first UFO was seen. "It went over some poplar trees there that are probably 40 to 50 feet tall.

That's the first time we realized it wasn't an RV."

Gwen didn't see the object that time but had a sighting of her own later.

"It looked like headlights, but they were a little ways away from the craft and there was a red glowing thing, about an 18-inch circle," she said. "It just lit the whole side of the mountain up like broad daylight."

In the months to follow, the Shermans saw myriad lights and flying objects, including more than a dozen on one evening. Sightings generally occur during a new moon and often when the sky is overcast or stormy. Their most recent encounter took place in May during a thunderstorm.

Terry and his son believe they may have communicated with one of the craft. As they traveled west on the ranch road one evening, they saw a lighted object duck behind the rock ridge as if to avoid them. Moments later they managed to sneak up on the object. Before it could hide again, they stood and waved their arms at it. The light flashed on and off three times, as if signaling them, and then disappeared.

**Cattle mutilations**

Soon after sightings began, the Shermans found one of their cows dead in a field. It had a peculiar hole in the center of its left eyeball but was otherwise untouched with no trace of blood. There was no evidence of predators, footprints or tire tracks. A strange, chemical-



Rancher Terry Sherman stands on his ranch near one of the soil impressions, which has faded with time.

like odor was present.

Later, another dead cow was found with a similar hole in its left eye and a 6-inch hole, only about an inch deep, carved out of its rectum. The same chemical smell was noticeable.

Cattle mutilations have been reported across the United States since the 1960s, particularly in Western states. In "classic" mutilation cases, the anus is cored out and the cow's udders and genitalia are removed, all with laser-like precision and no visible sign of blood. The Shermans, who keep close watch on their cattle, believe they may have interrupted the mutilators before they were able to finish.

Then cows began disappearing altogether.

"We about rode the saddle horses to death looking for cattle until we realized" they were vanishing, Terry said.

One appeared to be lifted from the snow where it stood. The Shermans saw the cow's hoofprints lead into the field, but the prints stopped at the edge of the field near some trees. The area where the cow apparently took its last steps was surrounded by a circle of broken twigs and branches. Above, Terry noticed the tops of the trees appeared to have been cut off.

"If it's snow, it's hard for a

1,200- or 1,400-pound animal to just walk off without leaving tracks or to stop and walk backwards completely and never miss their tracks," Terry said. "It was just gone. It was very bizarre."

The last of the three dead cows was found in January in a clump of trees at the edge of the same field. The cow, which had been seen alive by the Shermans' son just five minutes earlier, had a 6-inch wide, 18-inch deep hole cored out of its rectum and extending into the body cavity. There was no blood on the cow or the snow, and the same chemical odor was apparent. There was a circle of twigs around the fallen cow and the tops of the trees appeared severed.

Karr is skeptical. He believes the conclusions of a 1980 New Mexico study by retired FBI agent Ken Rommel Jr., who decided mutilations there were the work of toxic plants and predatory animals. Rommel's findings are rejected by many New Mexico ranchers, some of whom have lost cows to the phenomenon in the 1990s.

**Hard to deal with**

The cattle deaths and disappearances have been troubling, both psychologically and financially. Even while the Shermans wonder if they can believe what they're seeing, their bank account has

taken a hit. The mutilators didn't take just any cows, they took the best ones, Terry said.

"I've got a neighbor over here who's reluctant to talk but he told me they've had trouble since he was a small kid and he's probably 55," Terry said. "He told me, 'People will think you're crazy but you're not. If you are, then we both have the same problem.'"

Leland Mecham, who lives in nearby Neola, knows the Shermans are not insane. He had two prolonged observations of UFOs, one in the mid-1960s and another a decade later. The second craft he saw was gigantic and had rays of colored light shooting out from its underbelly. After it scanned the landscape, it elevated, streaked across the sky and was gone in an instant, Mecham said.

"There's no way it was swamp gas or balloons like everybody tries to pass it off," Mecham said. "I was probably as skeptical as any man alive, but when I saw these, in my opinion, they had to be operated by somebody. It couldn't be any other way. And I don't think there's anything we've got that could move that quick."

The Shermans may never know the cause or reason for what they've experienced, but they know one thing — they just want it to stop.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - June 12, 1996

**UFO SIGHTINGS**

Multiple red light sighting - best of year so far!

A total of thirteen red lights in two series approximately twenty minutes apart were sighted by a group of five skywatchers at Shoreline Park South on the evening of Tuesday, June 4th, 1996.

At approximately 8:30 p.m. a series of four individual red lights appeared at an elevation of between 15 and 20 degrees. The first light appeared over the Villa Sabine area on Santa Rosa Island, south, southeast of the skywatch point in Shoreline Park South. This light blinked on for four seconds and then reappeared again about an inch at arm's length to the west of the first sighting. No apparent motion was detectable while the lights were on. The pattern continued through a series of a total of four lights, with each one appearing for approximately four or five seconds and an inch or so at arm's length from the previous one. The elevation remained constant throughout and the second through fourth lights

appeared a little more intense than the first.

Sky conditions were clear on the 4th, with an unlimited ceiling and visibility at 7 miles. The wind was blowing at 5 mph from the southwest. Relative humidity was 87% and it was 73 degrees.

Fairly heavy air traffic was noted during the evening by the skywatchers. The air traffic was primarily propeller driven training

aircraft from NAS Pensacola and light civilian aircraft.

At approximately 8:55 p.m. the sightings resumed, this time with movement from west to east. The first light appeared near the location where the last light of the first series was sighted. The series of nine lights progressed, blinking on and off from west to east. The interval between the appearance of the lights seemed to be of a shorter duration than during the first sequence. The sequencing during this series also made it appear that there may have been

two separate sources since the progression from west to east was reversed after the sixth appearance, with the seventh light appearing in the same position as the fifth. The eighth light appeared in the same position as the sixth light and the ninth and final light appeared in the same position as the fifth and seventh, giving the impression of a back and forth motion with the last three sightings.

Great care was taken by those skywatching to determine if there were any aircraft in the

vicinity of the sightings that may have been associated with them, but none at all were detected. After the second series, several aircraft appeared to converge in the area of the sighting, but did not alter their flight path. No military jets were observed in the sky at all.

If anyone else witnessed these sightings on June 4th, or if you have another sighting or experience to report, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep looking up!

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - June 5, 1996

**UFO SIGHTINGS**

**Rash of Activity at Shoreline Park South**

By Carole Baker

In the last week, May 26 to June 1, there has been a lot of UFO activity in the area. Not all of it is of possible extra-terrestrial origin, however.

For two weeks now a crew from London Weekend Television from London, England has been in the area preparing a show that will air in October 1996 about the

UFO phenomenon in Gulf Breeze.

They have interviewed many people involved in the subject locally, and taken detailed reports of sightings and also for the first time filming was allowed at the local abductee support group. The crew of three, plus technical staff have been anxious to catch a glimpse of a UFO themselves.

Unfortunately they were not on location with their equipment at Shoreline Park South on the

evening of Wednesday, 29 June 1996 at about 8:30 p.m! A small group of skywatchers were rewarded with a sighting in the sky over Santa Rosa Island in the vicinity of The Dunes Hotel. Three amber-red lights appeared in a horizontal row in close configuration. The left light appeared either brighter or closer than the two on the right...With binoculars the three lights were clearly visible, although some witnesses without them could only distinguish the one brighter light. The sighting appeared about eight degrees above the horizon and only lasted

about five seconds.

This is the first reported sighting from Shoreline Park since January 4, 1996 and regular skywatchers are hoping that this may signal an increase in activity.

The British film crew will be leaving the area on Tuesday, June 4 and by that time hopefully will have been able to capture some live footage of a Gulf Breeze UFO.

If you have a sighting or experience to report, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep looking up!

CARMEN TROESSER, DESERET NEWS



# HERE!

## UFO'S VISIT THE MIDWEST

**F**rom the hit television series *X-Files* to the soon-to-be-released movie about alien invasion, *Independence Day*, UFO buffs have much to feast their eyes on. Serious believers of the still-unexplained phenomena watch the skies from coast to coast and telephone their sightings to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Wash. A review of the center's reported sightings shows ET hasn't left Ohio off of its itinerary.

The center's mission is to receive, record and, if possible, corroborate reports from witnesses. A center hotline to

receive sighting reports is staffed 24 hours a day. Callers are said to have included law enforcement officers, Federal Aviation Administration employees and others. A list of sighting reports is posted on the reporting center's website.

If you see a UFO, telephone details to the National UFO Reporting Center at

**(206) 722-3000**

Those with proof of UFO reality are invited to telephone infoPLUS at **(513) 225-7407**. Yes, we'll return your messages. We suspect the truth is out there.

### Recent Ohio sightings from the center's log book

◆ **Feb. 27, 1996**

*Cleveland*  
An FAA controller called to recount a report by a pilot of a commuter airliner near Saginaw, Mich. The pilot saw a pulsing ball of light ahead of his aircraft. On the same day, a report from Saginaw said the plane descended 12,500 feet to avoid a bizarre, bright object ahead. The object appeared to "jump."

◆ **Feb. 1, 1996**

*New Hampshire, Ohio*  
Four family members witnessed a huge object with a ring of alternating orange and blue-green lights around it.

◆ **Aug. 25, 1995**

*Cleveland*  
A man witnessed several extraordinarily bright flashes above the horizon in the eastern sky.

◆ **June 17, 1995**

*Toledo*  
A woman was concerned

by four indentations and a burn mark on her blacktop patio. UFO investigators checked out the report and decided the marks were made by deck chairs.

◆ **May 7, 1995**

*Massilon, Ohio*  
A young woman and a friend witnessed a bizarre, red disk flying north in front of their car. Their engine failed and the radio acted strangely.

◆ **March 6, 1995**

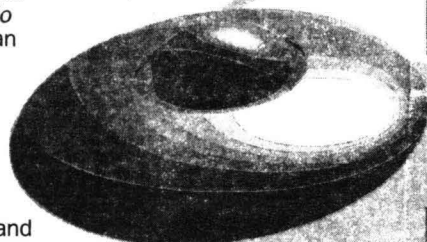
*Columbus*  
Two men in a car heard a weird "jet" sound and saw eight or nine white objects in formation, zigzagging across the sky.

◆ **March 16, 1995**

*Toledo*  
A woman and her son witnessed strange, flashing, multicolored

lights to the west of their home. They tried to take a photo, but the object streaked off.

**Other noteworthy  
Midwestern sightings**



◆ **Feb. 18, 1996**

*Cedar Springs, Mich.*  
A man and his wife witnessed three strange lights near their rural home. They exhibited red, green and white light and formed a triangle.

◆ **Feb. 29, 1996**

*Cedar Springs, Mich.*  
The couple experienced a second sighting of three lights over their rural

home. The objects flashed red, green, white and showed distinct movement.

◆ **Aug. 6, 1995**

*Kalamazoo, Mich.*  
Two women driving 15 miles southeast of the city encountered a huge disk hovering almost motionless with red, white and blue lights. They experienced pain and marks on their skin.

◆ **Aug. 19, 1995**

*Hayworth, Ill.*  
A man reported four peculiar lights in the night sky and their return on a second night.

◆ **Aug. 21, 1995**

*Dowling, Mich.*  
A woman witnessed two lights in the clear night sky. They were red, white, green and blue and moved slowly across sky.

◆ **Aug. 24, 1995**

*Battle Creek, Mich.*  
An older woman reported

witnessing "a square thing with a lot of lights" that descended out of the night sky.

◆ **Aug. 25, 1995**

*Adamsville, Pa.*  
A mother, her daughter and a friend witnessed a huge, lighted ball the size of the full moon streaking overhead. It "turned whole sky blue" as it flew north to south.

◆ **Aug. 28, 1995**

*Mass City, Mich.*  
A woman saw a "peculiar light with a strange shadow" but no sound.

◆ **June 14, 1995**

*Ann Arbor, Mich.*  
A woman and a friend witnessed a "green ball of light" streaking across the sky, descending below overcast clouds and stopping. It hovered and streaked off.

Source: National UFO Reporting Center

### Very cool Internet UFO sites

■ <http://www.nwlink.com/~ufocntr>

**National UFO Reporting Center**

• This site contains a month-by-month database listing UFO sighting reports in the United States. These reports contain the date, time, location and a brief description of the sighted object. This makes for interesting reading. This center also records sightings from universities, law enforcement agencies and other sources from around the country.

■ <http://www.ufomind.com:80/area51>

**Area 51 Research Center**

• 95 miles north of Las Vegas lies a piece of land known as "area 51." Area 51 contains a large Air Force base and is known for its rich UFO lore. This site has reports, documents, testimonials and other materials concerning this mysterious spot. Links are provided to related military base web pages for more information. Articles, documents and transcripts are available about Bob Lazar, the man who claims to have worked on alien aircraft.

■ <http://eslink.net/~ute>

**UFO Abduction Insurance**

• Need more insurance? Abduction insurance is this site's game. Sign up and you can get a certificate suitable for framing, insuring you for \$10,000,000. Pre-owned UFOs are also offered here.

■ <http://www.webcom.com/~conspire/ufofiles.html>

**Aliens and Conspiracies**

• Want a breakdown of the alien autopsy that was on television? Well, this is the site that gives detailed descriptions, commentary and great still shots of the show. This web site also has a list of the 50 greatest alien conspiracies, articles about aliens, interviews with scientists and other links.

■ <http://sloop.ee.fit.edu/users/lpinto/index.html>

**Extraterrestrial Biological page**

• The Roswell incident, Area 51 at Groom Lake, unidentified flying objects, abductions, crop circles and other resources can be found on this page. The unidentified flying objects page contains UFO trivia, a listing of alleged UFO crashes, UFO history and other interesting links. This site also has search capability on its database.

### UFO trackers experience busy week

MIDDLETOWN (AP) — A glowing red object that dozens of people said they saw in the southwest Ohio sky over three nights last week continued to puzzle UFO watchers.

A citizens' group that tracks purported UFO sightings said Tuesday the object was seen by residents of the Middletown and Carlisle areas Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Tri-State Advocates for Scientific Knowledge, based in the Cincinnati suburb of Norwood, said it had numerous reports of sightings. Police in Middletown confirmed that several people reported seeing unexplained lights in the sky.

Kenny Young, spokesman for the group, said a 10-minute videotape of Friday's sighting showed a red ball with lights circling it.

"At this time, the best explanation is that it remains unexplainable," Young said after watching the videotape Tuesday night.

He said the videotape, shot by a Middletown woman he did not identify, confirmed the information reported to police.

"What is unique about this is

not only do we have a videotape, but it collaborates with excellent documentation. That is rare," Young said.

Dale Farmer, one of about a dozen TASK members, planned to analyze the videotape using computer enhancements. Farmer said his best guess was that the unidentified flying object was a medical helicopter from a local hospital.

Young said preliminary information based on firsthand descriptions indicated the object was not a flare or hot-air balloon — two possible explanations.

Middletown police Maj. Mark Hoffman said the department received about 30 calls about the sightings, including some reports from officers.

"There were some hot air balloons in town that weekend, but probably not at 10 o'clock at night," Hoffman said.

Bode Gibbs described the object as round, glowing red with red lights. Dozens of people from the neighborhood gathered to watch, and Gibbs said the object twice appeared to dump a "ball of burning liquid."

CR: J. Hamm





[All foreign clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.]

BURNABY NOW, Burnaby, B.C., Canada - July 21, 1996 CR: 6. Conway

## UFO sighted in Cariboo Heights

Two youths witness brightly lit object hovering in the sky

By Dan Hilborn  
BURNABY NOW REPORTER

At first, they thought it was a far-off star.

Then, as the light got brighter, the two teenaged girls believed they were watching an airplane.

But as the light moved even closer and became larger without making any sound, it suddenly darted off at a 90 degree angle.

That's when Sharleen MacFie and Nicole Csurdi got scared and hid behind a clump of bushes near their Cariboo Heights home.

The thought crossed their minds - was that an Unidentified Flying Object? But when they looked back towards the dark sky and saw an airplane flying away, they chuckled.

And that's when they saw the bright light again. This time directly behind them, hovering motionless over the trees.

"I was so scared, I thought I was going to be abducted," said Nicole, 16.

"We ran into the house and told my mom there was a UFO, but by then it was gone," added Sharleen, 17.

The incident happened around 12:30 a.m. Friday, July 5, near the corner of Cariboo Road and 16th Avenue. The young women were just heading home. And they had not been drinking or doing anything else to fog their minds.

What they experienced is something UFO researchers refer to as 'nocturnal lights' - the most common form of unusual sighting.

While these types of strange lights often turn out to be airplanes, meteors or even flocks of birds, many instances are simply unexplainable.

"We get them all the time," said Michael Strainic, national director for the Mutual UFO Net-



### Strange visitor

Nicole Csurdi (left) and Sharleen MacFie point to the sky near their Cariboo Heights neighbourhood where they believe they saw a UFO.

NOW PHOTO BY LARRY WRIGHT

work, a group of volunteer UFO researchers.

And while this particular nocturnal light had no other reported witnesses, Strainic said Burnaby has been the home to several of the better documented UFO sightings over the past few years.

Probably the most sensational sighting was when dozens of people reported a large black object shaped like a bat wing hovering over Burnaby Mountain during broad daylight last July.

Someone managed to get some video and photographs of the object, and

those were shown on both the BCTV News Hour and the US television show Sightings.

But despite his group's attempts to prove the existence of UFOs, they have yet to find that last truly convincing piece of evidence.

Strainic said recent advances in photography have also made it impossible to accept any picture as evidence of a UFO.

Each year for the past two decades the group has received between 60 to 100 reports of unidentified flying objects over our province. In addition, UFO-BC

has heard of more than 200 cases of alleged alien abductions.

The greatest majority of sightings are in the 'Surrey Corridor,' a strip of land that runs parallel with the power lines between King George Highway and Scott Road.

Graham Conway, a UFO researcher who lives near the Surrey Corridor, has seen unusual objects in the sky on at least two dozen occasions, including once in Burnaby.

"I was coming up Canada Way around three years ago just before 5 o'clock. When I got near Edmonds

I saw in the sky, which was blue and quite clear, something that can best be described as a red disk - a bright red disk that was probably 1,000 feet up and six feet in diameter. But that's just a guess.

"I could see this thing through my windshield quite clearly. There was traffic on either side of me and pedestrians, but as far as I could determine no one but myself was looking at it. Traffic moved about 100 yards then it came to a halt. I could see it again.

"This red shield was moving south to northwest suddenly became like a

mirror - like if you put a mirror on top of a mountain, that's what it looked like. It was doing this with noticeable brilliance.

"Finally, the lights changed, I made a left hand turn and looked over my shoulder but I couldn't see it again."

UFO-BC will host a seminar Sept. 14, 7 p.m., at the Vancouver Planetarium on the alleged 1967 UFO crash at Shag Harbour. To register or to report a UFO call 878-6511.

WANSTEAD & WOODFORD GUARDIAN, England - March 7, 1996

## 'UFO witnesses are down-to-earth people'

A UFO expert has interviewed residents who claimed they saw a mysterious object in the sky above Woodford Green and South Woodford.

Roy Lake, 57, from a group called London UFO Studies, has been researching strange sightings since 1953 and was keen to interview the Marney family who first reported their close encounter to the Guardian. Julie and John Marney and their kids Jamie, eight, and Victoria, three, all said they saw a row of bright red lights above their garden which turned silver and sped off without a sound.

Mr Lake said this week: "They definitely did see something that wasn't an air craft and wasn't something we can explain away as a natural phenomenon."

He added that the Marneys, of Lambs Meadow, Woodford Green, were very genuine and helpful, and although they realised they could be open to ridicule they felt they had to speak out.

"They are down-to-earth ordinary people who have actually seen something," said Mr Lake who keeps in touch with UFO study groups around the world and

produces a newsletter on the subject.

"What would they have to gain from making this up? Nobody likes publicity like this."

And on the subject of the mysterious craft he added: "I estimated the object must have been about 40 to 60 feet above the garden which is quite low. And it is the first time we have had a case where something has lit the room up."

Mr Lake also spoke to Susan and Robert Jaeger of Chigwell Road, South Woodford, who reported the same sighting to the Guardian.

Though reluctant to talk about their experience at length the couple's description did back the Marneys' story, he said.

Now Mr Lake intends to talk to Tracey Haynes, of Debben Close, Woodford Green who saw the same object and to Margaret Clarke, of Peel Road, South Woodford, who claimed to see a similar craft a week after the Marneys.

However, Mrs Clarke told the Guardian the thing she saw was not silent but very noisy. "I thought it was a circling helicopter at first but it wasn't the same kind of sound.

"The noise went on for five minutes so I got out of bed. When I looked out it was high in the sky and it had red lights with a green one in the middle. The lights changed to a silvery, pale green colour and it sped off at high speed."

She added: "I'd just gone to bed and hadn't been asleep so I wasn't dreaming!"

London UFO Studies will hold a meeting at the Unity Hall, Bramley Close, Walthamstow on March 15. It will feature speakers and footage of UFO sightings. Call Roy Lake on 0181-270 9919 for more detail.

Residents living near Stansted have their own real-life UFO problem. Unidentified Flying Ordure (frozen sewage) has been dropping from airliners and hitting homes. Ongar MP Eric Pickles has now taken up the villagers' fight after a Doddinghurst family had frozen sewage crash through their roof.

He said: "We have been lucky in that no-one has been seriously injured by one of these frozen blocks."

He is asking anyone with similar experiences to write to him at the House of Commons.

VISITOR, Southport, England - March 8, 1996

## Mystery in the evening skies

UFOs hovering above Southport left witnesses stunned this week.

A number of shocked motorists have contacted the Visitor to report close encounters with the unidentified flying object.

And now the claims have been backed up by experts in extraterrestrial affairs.

One man was driving along Meols Cop Road at about 6pm last Friday when he came face to face with a craft hovering over a field.

He said: "This thing was unreal. It was sort of triangle-shaped with a white light in each corner and a square green light in the middle.

"It remained motionless for at least five minutes. By that time several cars had stopped and the drivers and passengers were standing by their cars watching in amazement.

"Suddenly, the object started going round the field for a minute or two. Then it

### Was 'Flying Triangle' an alien craft over town?

stopped and the lights gathered together. Now, it was just one big green light and, without warning, it just flew off."

A couple driving home along New Cut Lane at 8.30pm on Sunday also spotted an unidentifiable craft. Mr Dave Singleton, of Shaftesbury Road, said: "I saw a flash across the sky very high up. Then it came back a few seconds later, leaving behind a vapour trail. It was moving too fast to be a plane."

Merseyside Police say their helicopter was not in the area at the time of the sightings, and the RAF say they know nothing about it.

"We don't fly at night," said squadron leader Nigel May at

Woodvale. "I can categorically say it was not a plane from Woodvale."

The Visitor contacted UFO expert Jenny Randles. Ms Randles is editor of "Northern UFO" magazine and has been investigating sightings of this mysterious triangular object for months.

According to Ms Randles, there have been many sightings of this "craft" over Morecambe and Scarisbrick in recent weeks.

She believes it is a secret Stealth aircraft being developed by British Aerospace at Warton, near Preston, but the company denies the existence of any such plane.

# Morecambe UFO was not the first sighting

DATELINE: Friday, February 2, between 5.30pm and 6.30 pm.

A triangular-shaped object judged to be big as a football pitch is filmed hovering over an ancient burial site at Torrisholme, Morecambe.

The object apparently stayed for around 45 minutes, during which several people - including Ray Jenkinson and his mother Vera, who live at Slyne-with-Hest - witnessed the event.

"Strangely enough it was our dog Boris, a King Charles spaniel, that reacted first," said Ray. "It ran towards the window barking at this light in the sky. I got the binoculars out and went outside into the garden."

"There was a large triangular-type object with a light at the front and two other lights that kept zig-zagging across the back."

Ray - third engineer on a Merchant Navy vessel - said he had never seen anything quite like the unusual object.

"It just stood still - no noise, no hum or anything. And it was definitely not a helicopter. I have seen plenty of those in my time and the object wasn't in that category."

"While I was watching, a plane passed close-by. So I would imagine the pilot or someone on board must have seen it!"

This incident was one of many

unexplained and slightly-disturbing sightings discussed at North Lancashire UFO Investigations Group Planetary Connections conference, at Morecambe.

At the event, group member Simon Lewis said the film was currently being processed and graphically described two other similar triangular-shaped objects often spotted around the Lancashire and Cumbria areas - as well as sightings worldwide.

Simon is convinced that the objects are crafts of military origin, using advanced technology.

He claims that members of his UFO group are under surveillance and believes that their phones are being tapped. "We are not doing anything harmful, but often we have had a telephone conversation and put down the receiver then the phone rings again, and there is radio type hissing noise on the other end."

"Sometimes you can make a telephone call and if the other person has already lifted the handset you can go directly through without the phone ringing. It's really weird."

According to Simon, many witness reports revolve around the same three types of triangular shapes. And he refutes suggestions that the objects could be Stealth T3 jets, airships or any other known aircraft.

"The way the objects manoeuvre defies our concept of how it could be humanly possible to pilot the craft. We are talking about erratic movements and possible speeds exceeding 7,000mph. It could even be remote controlled."

"I believe the objects use a magnetic field or anti-matter type propulsion system. I also think there is a connection with our local sightings to Heysham Power Station."

"According to a power station technician, you can drain a transformer without the equipment registering a loss."

"We are definitely talking about something special here!"

## Lots of characters but no 'spaced-out weirdos'

I HAVE to admit that, for the first time in my experience of paranormal-related events, the people in attendance were - pardon the pun - down-to-earth types.

Nobody appeared spaced out, no (respectfully) weirdos, no pontificating, everyone was just brimming with curiosity and enthusiasm and...incredibly normal.

That's not to say there were no characters at North Lancashire UFO Investigations Group Planetary Connections conference.

There were plenty, many exchanging stories of UFO sightings, but none, and I mean none, claiming visits from little green men and generally setting themselves up for ridicule in what is now becoming in most areas of the world a very serious and mind-boggling phenomenon.

The list of speakers for the conference included several experts in their particular field: Dutchman Hein Van Beusekom, who really knows his crop circles; Lancaster hypnotherapist and ufologist Roger Hill, whom famous American Professor John Mack has personally encouraged to set-up a network for

alien abductees; and John Holam, UK co-ordinator for the first class pressure group Operation Right-to-Know.

Off-stage, but no-less important, was Catherine Calvo, one of the conference organisers and UFO investigator for more than 30 years. She admitted: "I think people with psychic tendencies have a better chance of actually witnessing UFO related events."

Windermer-based Mike Oram told the conference of his "transitional experiences" - a form of alien abduction which started when he was a child. Mike believes such experiences are a form of communicating with man's higher spiritual self.

**ADRIAN MULLEN** attended a special conference on planetary connections and found a group of enthusiasts comparing notes on unusual sightings in the skies over Cumbria and North Lancashire.

# Riddle of UFO puzzles roadmen

TWO workers with Highland Regional Council are mystified by a "silent" UFO that buzzed their early yesterday.

Simon McKenzie and Murdo Macleod were loading up their road gritter at Achiltibuie on the West Coast when the strange object zoomed over their heads just above the tops of the telephone poles, without making a sound.

The object then flew off towards the Brae of Achnahair, four miles north.

Mr Macleod, 33, said: "We were going up the road and we saw it again stationary above a point of land. It then crossed the brae to another point of land."

"We actually stopped and watched it for about 10 to 15 minutes. It was going up and down, backwards and forwards, all sorts of strange manoeuvres."

Mr McKenzie, 30, said: "I have no idea what it was: it certainly wasn't a helicopter or a jet. The only explanation is a UFO: there have been quite a few sightings around here."

Aberdeen Weather Centre said there were no unusual climatic conditions in the area. But RAF Kinloss said aircraft had been flying all through the night as part of a Nato exercise.

PRESS & JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland - Feb. 27, 1996

Continuing our series of unexplained phenomena, Staffordshire Times reporter STEVE SHARMA discovers why a Rugeley UFO sceptic has changed her mind about 'flying saucers'

# Betty's forced to think again

A SELF confessed sceptic when it comes to UFOs, the paranormal and the supernatural, Rugeley grandmother Betty Johnson is having to think again after experiencing not one, but two close encounters!

The 59-year-old claims to have seen many strange things in her time but none more strange than what appeared in the sky above her one sunny afternoon in 1986.

"It was a clear and bright Friday afternoon and I was travelling into Lichfield," she says.

"High in the sky above me I noticed a light shining brighter than anything I'd ever seen before. At first I thought it must have been star or something but as we drove closer I could see it even clearer and it wasn't a star."

"It was shaped like a ball and made no sound at all. It was just hovering in mid-air a couple of hundred feet from the ground."

"Then within the twinkle of an eye it had disappeared. I can't say for certain what it was but it was pretty



■ Eyes on the sky ... Betty Johnson has justifiable reason to believe in UFOs after seeing two of them in the skies above Staffordshire.

weird believe me."

The unusual object seen in the sky

*"High in the sky above me I noticed a light shining brighter than anything I'd ever seen before."*

that afternoon prompted Betty to pay even more attention to programmes like Tomorrow's World and Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World.

Suddenly she felt inclined to

believe their stories of UFOs, alien abductions and unexplained phenomena.

And as if she needed more proof on the possibilities of UFO existence Betty was soon to witness something else that defies a logical explanation.

This occurred in 1990 as she and her husband left the M6 motorway at the Cannock exit.

Glancing out of the window of the car she noticed a large oval shaped object "floating" in the sky above them.

"It was really mind blowing," she said.

"From what I could see it looked like a giant football stadium, hanging upside down in mid air, with lights all around it."

"It had a black line running across the middle of it and again made no sound at all. From where I was it looked as big as the moon."

As the car circled a roundabout the object in the sky moved adjacent to it and then disappeared from view.

"There was a hell of a lot of traffic about and I'm sure someone else must have seen it too."

"It certainly makes you wonder about things and I'm more of a believer now than I ever used to be."

■ If you have any strange stories to tell about UFOs, ghosts or the paranormal then ring Steve Sharma on (01827) 308014 and he'll put you in print!

# UFO sighting prompts plea

THE SEARCH is on for a distraught county lady who apparently had a close and sickening encounter with a hovering UFO on a lonely Bromyard road, last weekend.

The unknown witness phoned a local radio station to give details of her alarming sighting, but refused to give any personal information.

Now former CID policeman John Hanson of Redditch, who is writing a book on Worcestershire's flying saucers, is keen to hear from the woman, because her account has all the hallmarks of a classic and authentic UFO case.

The witness, who is believed to have been driving at night from the direction of Worcester, said she saw a dazzling light in the sky before her car engine cut out.

By GARY BILLS

She stepped out of the vehicle to see a huge craft hovering above her.

John Hanson said: "The interesting thing is that she claimed to feel sick, which could possibly indicate some form of radiation."

"Although it is easy to mistake the planet Venus for a UFO this time of year, if authentic, this sighting seems to have all

the hallmarks of a classic case."

John said he now has "no doubt at all" that UFOs exist, and he has already investigated a curious roof-skimming disc which was reported in Worcester skies in 1976.

He said: "The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and I already have some interesting stuff for my book."

"The amazing thing is, there are so few hoaxes. Most people who see a UFO do not want to talk about it."

Anyone wishing to help John Hanson with his investigations should phone 0121 447 7091 or the Worcester Journal on 01905 610171.

BERRON'S WORCESTER JOURNAL, England April 5, 1996

STAFFORDSHIRE TIMES, Lichfield, England - Feb. 22, 1996

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT, Plymouth, England - May 5, 1996

# Something fishy scares off anglers

TWO teenagers on a fishing trip dropped their tackle and ran when a strange black craft appeared in the sky above them.

Steven Wright, 17 and James Rawle, 16 from Wellington, said they were fishing near Milverton at about 8.30pm when the craft appeared making a low-pitched humming noise.

They described it as a large black triangle with a white light on each corner and another near the centre. It passed overhead at about 200 to 300 feet.

Steven said, 'It was pretty scary. We thought it was about to get us so we cut loose our fishing tackle, jumped

on our bikes and cycled away.'

Another strange sighting was reported by retired businessman Gordon Chamberlain, 64, of Bishops Hull, Taunton.

He was driving on the M5 near Bridgwater at about midnight when he noticed a brightly lit cylindrical craft apparently keeping pace with his car. It flew over Taunton and hovered above Kingston St Mary. When he got home he watched the craft through binoculars.

"I know what I saw and it was a clear night. It was not a star or a plane, it was some sort of craft," he said.



# Ottawa denies 'cover-up' in closure of UFO division

For years, federal bodies, such as the Mounties, have been sending reports from the public to the National Research Council.

JIM BRONSKILL  
Southam Newspapers

OTTAWA — Canada's X-Files have been shut down.

The National Research Council, the government agency that has collected hundreds of UFO sighting reports over the years, is no longer a beacon for accounts of alien activity.

The official story: the mysterious reports that might shed light on little green men have fallen prey to the federal tide of swelling red ink.

The NRC's Solar-Terrestrial Physics Group is being phased out, the victim of budget cuts, leaving no one to collect and catalogue the sighting reports.

But when the subject is government knowledge of UFOs, can whispers of coverup be far behind?

Quicker than you can say extrater-

restrial biological entity, the NRC's Fokke Creutzberg moves to squelch suggestions of conspiracy.

"In Canada — a coverup? A conspiracy to hide stuff? Holy smokes," says Creutzberg, a physicist who has spent almost 30 years studying the upper atmosphere.

"We don't have enough time in the world to play games like that."

What about a top-secret, deny-everything campaign at the highest levels, like on TV's *X-Files*?

"There could be," he allows. "Nothing is impossible, OK?"

It seems the NRC, however, got into the flying-saucer field almost by accident.

The council had an active meteorite research program in the 1950s and encouraged the public to make reports of celestial sightings.

Meteor research fizzled in the 1970s, but reports kept coming in, says Creutzberg. "And from then on in, basically, it became just the UFO files."

For years, various federal agencies — including the RCMP, defence and trans-

port — have been forwarding reports from the public to the NRC.

The council has transferred dozens of reports annually to the National Archives, where the public can see them, with witnesses' names deleted to protect privacy.

In March 1994, the government decided to eliminate the physics group which will disappear entirely next year.

The sighting reports include police files, letters, interview transcripts and sketches.

There's the Nova Scotia woman who encountered a diamond-shaped craft with white lights.

The Manitoba pair who saw a doughnut-like object flying toward Lake Winnipeg.

And the North Vancouver nighthawk who saw an object three times the size of a jumbo jet.

Still, Creutzberg says he hasn't seen a shred of evidence to suggest aliens are out there. "We've got to have evidence. That's how I live as a scientist."

Southam News

May 1, 1996

# Strange goings-on at the park!

THREE Cheadle people this week claimed to have made separate sightings of the same UFO.

In a scenario straight out of TV's *X-Files*, they claim to have spotted a flying saucer in the Leek Road area of the town on Saturday night.

The eagle-eyed Times & Echo readers described what they saw and one even went to the trouble of providing a drawing (reproduced below). Another submitted a picture of the sighting which is inconclusive.

In his letter, Mr 'David Anderson' says he was walking his dog in woods near the JCB factory when he saw an object he now believes to be a UFO.

"The vehicle was silvery-white in appearance with what appeared to be dark holes around the small dome top," he said.

"It made no sound and moved very quickly and smoothly, almost instantaneously. It didn't seem to be

very big at all, about five feet in diameter."

He said he was startled by the sight but not at all frightened.

Another reader, Mrs 'Gillian Carter' wrote of a shining 'disc-like' object quite high in the sky. "The sun reflected off it and dazzled me when I was driving," she said. "I pulled over and drew what I saw - it resembled the flying saucer type of objects you sometimes see in science fiction films."

A 'Resident of Cheadle' meanwhile saw 'something strange gliding/hovering above me'.

"I have sent a letter to Quest International which I believe is an agency set up to investigate flying saucer sightings," he said. "I realise I am very lucky to have seen something like this."

NOTE: Cheadle Police were unavailable for comment this week but PC Hadrian Gook of the Planet Zogg said the sightings were nothing to worry about.

COURIER & ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland - Feb. 22, 1996

# UFO visits "possible," says Dundee physicist

A SENIOR physicist at Dundee University said yesterday that it was "entirely possible" Tayside was being visited by craft from advanced civilisations from distant solar systems.

In the wake of a rash of UFO sightings, Dr Paul Crawford, a lecturer in applied physics and electronic and mechanical engineering, said, "I certainly can't think of any rational explanation for what these people claim to have seen."

"While I would not class myself as a believer in UFOs—I think agnostic might be the best description—I would not rule out the possibility that there are aircraft of extra-terrestrial origin."

Dr Crawford, who is also heavily involved in the university's work with the Natural Environment Research Council's satellite, said, "All sorts of theories are put forward for sightings of this kind ranging from astronomical phenomena to weather balloons and secret military experiments but I don't think any of these can explain what is supposed to have been seen around Dundee."

"As for them not being seen by astronomers or the air force, I should think that any civilisation advanced enough to travel between solar systems would make every effort possible not to get too

involved with our species which, by their standards, must appear pretty primitive and warlike."

He said that, similarly, he was not surprised that the university's NASC satellite receiver failed to show any trace of the "visitors" observing.

"It would be a huge coincidence if the satellite was pointing at the right place at the right time and anyway, if you are capable of inter-planetary travel, you are not going to hang around and be photo-graphed."

Dr Crawford said that while many claimed UFO sightings were clearly hoaxes, this did not appear to be the case with the recent events in the Dundee area.

Dr Crawford's remarks came as fresh reports of other unexplained sightings of mysterious objects in the night sky over Dundee emerged yesterday.

After the experience of Broughty Ferry 12-year-olds Graeme Binnie, Joanne Leitch and Cameron Stewart was revealed in The Courier yesterday, several other people have given accounts of similar sightings—all expressing relief that they were not alone in seeing unexplained phenomena.

# It's life, but not as we know it

BAFFLED boffins at Birmingham's UFO Society say they are stunned by a dramatic leap in sightings of flying saucers.

Until this month the society received about one call every six weeks reporting a possible sighting in the area.

But over the past three weeks a staggering 35 people have reported seeing an unidentified flying object.

In most sightings callers report a saucer-like object with a domed top surrounded by red, green and blue lights.

Other sightings are reported to be of

By Darren Parkin

a huge black triangle.

But society bosses are puzzled at the increase.

"It is an extremely exciting period for us but at the same time we don't really know why there is this sudden increase," said society expert Marilyn Aldworth.

In the most recent case a farmer said he saw a saucer hovering over his horses as it projected a light on the animals.

In a written report to the society he

claims the horses stood "almost paralysed," for two hours after the incident.

Meanwhile the country's leading UFO experts were this week gathering information on the sightings.

"We've monitored the number of sightings around the country for many years but the recent increases, particularly around Birmingham, are quite amazing," said Professor Tony Dodd of Leeds-based Quest.

"We are currently pressing the Government and Ministry of Defence to pass on information but, as always, they are reluctant to co-operate."

# 'Grey' day gets down to earth

By CATHY GORDON

CLOSE encounters of the extra-terrestrial kind — we can't get enough of them. At least when it comes to fiction.

The X-Files keep millions of us glued to the box, and every time the film *ET* is repeated we are there on the edge of our seats as the creature from outer space desperately tries to phone home.

But what if the stuff of science fiction turned out to be true? It may seem incredible, but countless people all over the world are convinced they have been abducted by aliens.

And the phenomenon will be put under the microscope on April 20 when the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) hosts a one-day international conference delving into the claims of alien abductions.

Philip Mantle, organiser of the event, says: "More and more people are coming forward and reporting this type of experience. Many, if not all, are very sober, reliable members of the public from all walks of life. People who say they have these experiences are not lunatics."

One woman who has no doubt that she has had many UFO abduction experiences throughout her life is former art teacher Pauline Delcour-Min, who will speak at the conference. She is 48, has a first class honours degree and lives with her husband in the very down-to-earth location of West Didsbury in Manchester. But her story is far from earthly.

Delcour-Min, a regression therapist and member of the National Federation of Spiritual Healers, says she was regressed because she had such strong feelings that she had been abducted by aliens.

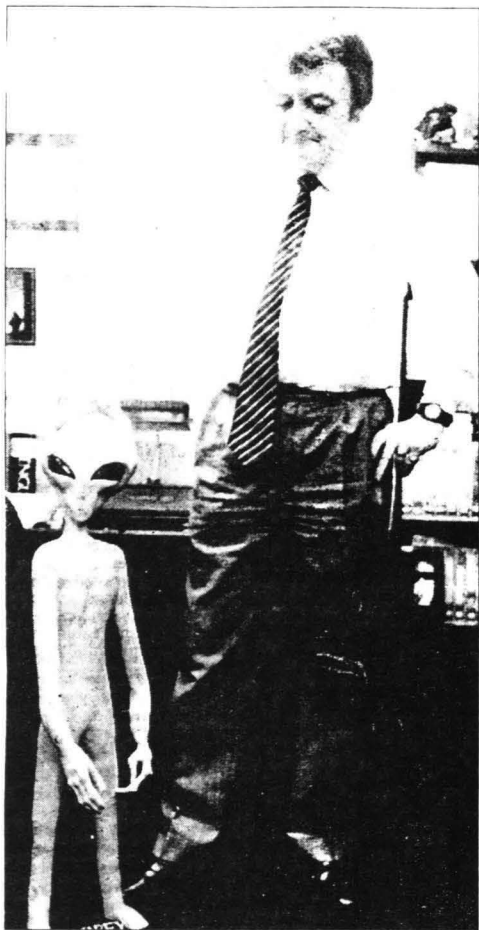
She says regression revealed she had been abducted by beings known as the "greys", partly because of the colour of their skin.

"The greys are humanoid, with large heads. The other beings are insect-like and felt very loving and positive. The greys are collecting genetic material for their own purposes. They are not concerned with our welfare, but the others are. They want us to move forward to a positive future," she says.

Delcour-Min knows most people find her story hard to swallow. "I have had to go through a reality shift myself to take all this on board."

\*The one-day conference, *A Day Of Abductions*, is at the Pennine Theatre, Sheffield Hallam University, and is open to members of the public. For details contact organisers Philip and Susan Mantle on 01924 444049.

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - April 8, 1996



**SKYWATCHER:** Roy Lake, founder of London UFO Studies says the number of sightings has increased over the years

# Space invaders like hot spots

**CHINGFORD** is fast becoming the hottest spot for UFOs in London, claims a sky-watch expert.

Roy Lake, founder of London UFO Studies, says the aliens are attracted by the vast expanses of water at the reservoirs.

Another favourite sightings spot is Pole Hill, Chingford and apparently UFOs are known to be attracted by electricity pylons.

Said Roy: "They like the King George reservoir best and we've had far more reported sightings from that part of London than any other."

Roy has been a firm believer in UFOs since 1952 but the number of sightings has vastly increased since then, he says.

"It's not just that people are more aware than they used to be, or that they're more willing to report what they've seen," Roy said.

"I can't explain it, nobody can but there are definitely more of whatever these things are around."

"Shapes vary from elongated to circular but almost all of those seen at Chingford have been disc-shaped."

Roy has heard some odd

## ALIEN BEINGS ATTRACTED TO ELECTRICITY PYLONS

tales in his time, such as that of a dead fox found with all the blood drained from its body, its internal organs having been pulled out and left on the outside.

People have phoned him with stories of being abducted by aliens and of weird things going on in their homes.

"I can spot the cranks easily and I just say 'thank you for calling' and hang up. Sometimes it's children messing about."

"But often it's someone with a real problem, someone who can hardly believe what they've seen."

"They find it reassuring to know they aren't being accused of hallucinating or being drunk."

London UFO Studies has been going since 1990 and one of its investigators is Tony Golbourne, of Wigton Road, Walthamstow.

Tony, like Roy, has seen a few strange sights in his time, most recently in November. Even his young children have apparently seen and heard strange goings-on.

"Matthew, who's three and

a half, caught sight of our handbook which had a drawing of a being from outer space on its cover, something I keep well out of sight normally.

"But he just said 'man' and pointed to his bedroom. He'd obviously seen something odd in his room."

Readers may have seen Roy on Cable TV yesterday, when during Weir Night, he talked about the experiences

of some of the group's members.

On Friday, March 15, London UFO Studies is holding its Waltham Forest branch meeting at Unity Hall, in Bramley Close, Walthamstow.

Doors open at 7pm and the event begins at 8pm.

There will be three guest speakers and a chance to see the latest UFO evidence on film.

Tickets are £4 (concessions £2).

Further details can be obtained by ringing Roy on 0181 270 9919.



**UFO SPOTTER:** Tony Golbourne watches out for strange sightings (C95/753/23)

# Close Encounter of a remarkable kind

## Numerous credible sightings of UFO over town

**WITNESSES** of a strange "Outer Space type" craft hovering over Middleton have contacted the *Guardian* to describe what they saw.

Liz Andrews, of Barleyfield Walk, Middleton, said she was called outside by her son, Michael, who saw the strange red and blue pulsing light type object while he was out playing football with his friends.

She said: "I thought he was just making it all up. But then one of his friends came in and was almost hysterical telling me that there was something out there."

"But by the time I went out there it had gone."

Later she said she saw a report in last week's *Guardian* about someone else having seen a weird Outer Space-like craft in the sky. "I know people must think 'Oh Yes'. But your eyes can't play tricks to the extent of what we saw."

Son Michael, a pupil at Cardinal Langley High on Rochdale

Road, plus his brother, who attends St Mary's Primary in Wood Street and two pals also witnessed the "craft". And they drew pictures of the UFO for *Guardian* reporter Corin Gibson who called on the lads.

Thirteen-year-old Michael said: "It was like a huge glowing ball hovering low in the sky and we could just see it over the houses on Langley the other side of the road."

"Smoke or something seemed to be coming off it. Then it dipped even lower and we lost sight of it. It was definitely not a plane, more like a comet."

Other witnesses who rang our news desk also described the object as being a glowing ball, and redish-purple. Most corroborated it as hovering above the town for

about 20 minutes before disappearing.

Phillip Porteus, of Kirkway, Alkington, says he was so shocked at what he saw, he immediately rang Manchester Airport to see if they had anything on their scanners.

"I was gobsmacked when I saw it," he said. The sightings were all on Saturday 17 February, as the *Guardian* story witness pinpointed.

He has now filed an official report on the sighting to the airport, outlining the object's shape, colour and noise.

"There's only one thing it could have been," he said. "It wasn't a cloud or any kind of reflection from the sun. So it must have been a spaceship. Too many people have seen them for them not to be true."



● **UFO alert...** Cardinal Langley pupil Michael Andrews with his brother and pals at home completing their drawings of the 'Close Encounter' mystery object they saw.

A MINISTRY of Defence spokesman in London said: "I have not heard of this particular sighting. The standard policy regarding apparent UFO sightings is that we are only interested in them when there is an established risk to the country's security."

"Mainly we find a lot of the sightings have a logical explanation, such as helicopter lights or planets in the sky."

Mike Jones, who monitors all "strange airborne sightings" in the Rochdale / Middleton area for the

European organisation, Quest, said: "I know people are saying that these type of sightings are always going on in Middleton. But the town really is no different than anywhere else."

But their views are unlikely to impress our witnesses who also included Sylvia Sheldon. She was driving herself and 15-year-old daughter Joanne back to their home on The Downs, Alkington when they saw what she described as "a commotion in the sky". "It was so incredible I almost lost control of the car," she said.

## UFO seen over city

Something bizarre floated over early-morning Chichester, according to worried watchers.

Patrick Riall, of Parklands Road, was working in the packing room line at Shippams when a colleague pointed out a UFO flying by.

Now Mr Riall is wanting to know whether anyone else saw the object go overhead.

"I didn't believe in UFOs before, but I have been thinking about it ever since and I certainly believe now. I am not a crank, but I can't help but believe now."

Mr Riall said the object, sighted at 8.35 am on Wednesday February 15, was a red metallic colour, squashed oval in shape, with lights around the centre rim and a few spasmodic lights above and below.

"I have never seen anything like it before in my life. It was moving quite slowly. It was about 250 foot up and disappeared over the roof. It was coming from the north-west across the city going south-east."

He wondered whether any pilots on the busy Gatwick flight path had seen it.



A MYSTERIOUS grey wedge shaped object has been seen in the skies above Wigan.

And local UFO investigators are intrigued by the strange sightings. The object has been seen by several people whose stories bear striking similarities.

A man in Red Rock was literally knocked off his feet as the object flew above him at an incredible speed.

And a Beech Hill man spotted the bizarre craft fly straight between two aeroplanes way up in the sky.

A Quest International UFO investigator for the Wigan area said: "The sighting in Red Rock is quite remarkable. The man who saw the object was very shocked."

He was knocked to the ground by the force of the wind created by the object as it rocketed past him. It was flying very close to the ground."

The Beech Hill man contacted the Civil Aviation Authority to report his sighting and was told by the person on the other end of the phone that it could have

been an experimental plane from Warton.

But the man said: "My sighting came the day after the two airline pilots spotted something similar as they approached Manchester Airport."

The Quest International investigator went on: "Some people have seen this object hovering, even moving backwards."

● Another intriguing sighting comes from Barry Gilbert who actually claims he photographed the UFO pictured right.

Whether the picture is

genuine or an elaborate hoax is currently being investigated but it certainly makes interesting viewing.

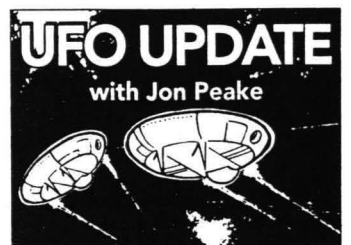
Did you see anything like this in Red Rock on Sunday, February 11? The time was around 7.30pm.

The sender said that being a keen amateur photographer he was out talking some photographs of the night-scape in Red Rock when the odd object came into view.

He said it remained like it is in the picture for around 10 minutes

allowing him to get a good shot of it. Then the beam retracted and the object shot out of sight.

If you saw anything similar to this or have seen the strange wedge-shaped object, or indeed anything else odd in the skies above Wigan, contact Jon Peake on 228000 or write to UFO Update, Wigan Reporter, Martland Mill, Martland Mill Lane, Wigan WNS O.L.X.







## Cattle mutilation mystery continues; UFO sightings reported

By Phaedra Greenwood  
The Taos News

It's still happening. On July 8 a cattle mutilation in the usually peaceful valley of Arroyo Hondo was reported to the Taos County Sheriff's Department by cattle owner Jesse Gonzales. The site was in a pasture across from Herb's Lounge, out of sight of Highway 522, down below a bank of willows. Gonzales said when he fed the animal around 7 p.m. the night before, the 6-month-old bull was alive and well. Gonzales did not see anything unusual in or near the pasture the previous evening.

"I'm a professional hunter of deer and elk, and I slaughter my own animals for meat," Gonzales said. "So I know what it looks like when you pull the guts out of an animal. This was not done by anything human."

He said the bull hadn't been dead very long, that it probably happened "in the wee hours of the morning," Gonzales said the tongue and one eye was missing, as was a patch of skin around the lower jaw. The hind end had been neatly cored out and the tissue was pink, he said, "as if they had gone in there and sucked everything out of it." The sexual organs had been removed intact.

Gonzales said there were no tire marks and no tracks on the ground, in spite of recent rains. "And I'm a tracker, so I'd know." He said the gate hadn't been opened or there would have been gate marks. There was no blood around the body, he said. He noticed that the edges of the wounds were smooth and dark "as if they had been burned."

"I've seen what predators do to a cow," Gonzales said. "They tear it with their teeth, and it's ragged. I couldn't have made a cut that clean if I had used a razor blade."

Cattle mutilations have frequently been associated with sightings of unmarked helicopters or UFOs. Though Gonzales noticed nothing unusual the night he lost the bull, he said, "A couple of nights later I saw these very weird lights, blue and red, three or four of them hovering over Gallina Canyon."

Gonzales said his sister and her husband watched a large red light "as big as the moon" on the other side of the Rio Grande Gorge, which frightened them when it "took off like a comet." A man who lives across from Herb's Lounge and preferred to remain anonymous says he has often seen three lights, "all colors — red, blue — hovering over the hills. 'I kind of got used to them,' he said.

His description was reinforced by Anthony Garcia of Arroyo Seco, who says he watched two blinking spheres, "one red, white and blue, the other white and greenish-blue," hovering over Valdez about helicopter height for 25 minutes around 2:30 a.m. Tuesday (July 30). "They weren't planes," he said. "They were too low, and they weren't making any noise. I would have filmed them, but my video camera was broken," he said. "I've been reading UFO books for years, but I had never seen anything before. I told my whole family about it."

Gonzales' neighbor, Ben Valerio, in lower Arroyo Hondo, said he lost a steer, worth \$150, about a month and a half ago. Valerio said he didn't report it.

"The male organs and back part of it had been removed," he said. "I hadn't checked my cattle in two or three days, but I didn't see any tracks. There was no blood. It was very neat," he said.

Daniel Quintana of El Prado said he got a lot of publicity when he lost a heifer in February or March of 1994. "Investigators were excited about it. They wanted to come and camp on my land. They invited me to a seminar [on cattle mutilations], but I couldn't go," he said. "People don't want to report it, but I don't care," he said. "People ask me about it all the time. I lost an investment property. It was worth about \$450."

Photographs taken by former deputy brand inspector Philip Cantu show that the lower jaw, one horn, the tongue and both eyes were missing, and the back end was cored out. "None of those parts was on the ground either," Quintana said. "They cut a straight line across the forehead, pulled off the skin and took an almost square patch from the side. You could see the ribs."

He said he found the heifer lying in the snow with no tracks around it. "I had to break tracks through the snow to get to it," he explained. "There was no blood around it. But I found a little spot of blood tunneled into the snow about 50 feet away outside the corral. They did a very neat job, perfect," he said.

### Classic mutilations

"Clean," "neat," "precise" and "surgical" are the words most often used to describe the numerous cattle mutilations that have been reported since 1967 from Arkansas to California, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, from the San Luis Valley in Colorado to Raton, Eagle's Nest, Questa, Truchas, Pot Mountain, Peñasco and Chacon. According to data compiled by a journalistic investigator, Linda Howe of Jamison, Pa., for her video tape, "A Strange Harvest," animal mutilations include horses, dogs, cats, deer and even a goat and have been reported from as far away as Sweden and France.

David Perkins, a writer from Gardner, Colo., who says he has "crawled across hundreds of cow pastures" in the past 10 years investigating cattle mutilations, estimates "on the low side" that there have been more than 5,000 livestock mutilations in this country since 1967. Perkins says he has been looking at mutilation patterns. "They are cyclical. Most of them happen between April and November," he said. "There have been very few in the winter." The strangest thing about cattle mutilations, he maintained, is the lack of evidence. "Right now I'm leaning toward the military secret operation theory," he said. "I see all kinds of lights zooming around here, but I don't know what they are."

Almost a hundred cattle in New Mexico had been reported lost to "classic mutilations" in 1979 when former Sen. Harrison Schmitt called for a multi-state mutilation conference in Albuquerque. Texas researcher Tommy Bland was quoted in *Taos Magazine* (spring 1980) as stating at the conference that the mutilation phenomena dates back 200 years and includes Puerto Rico, Canada, Australia and Scotland. Quoting records from the



Daniel Quintana's heifer was found dead and mutilated in his corral in El Prado in February or March of 1994.

Philip Cantu

British Museum in London, he said, "Even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of 'Sherlock Holmes,' had investigated mutilations in England."

Subsequently, Kenneth Rommel, a former FBI agent, spent \$50,000 from a federal grant on "Operation Animal Mutilation." In this report he concludes that most of these animals died of natural causes such as "black leg" and "red water" and were then dissected by scavengers. In January of 1979, his report states, three expensive race horses near Malga, N.M., were mutilated. "Information obtained from the New Mexico Livestock Board revealed ... [that] the upper eyelid as well as the upper tips of the ears had been excised. In one animal the genital area had been removed. It is important to note that the investigating officer concluded there was nothing mysterious about this damage, which he attributed to coyotes."

### Looking for help

Many livestock owners who have suffered these losses disagree with the predator/scavenger theory. Some of them, who have fully cooperated with investigators, both private and official, say they feel embarrassed by the publicity and the reactions of their friends and neighbors, and frustrated by the lack of follow-up by the agencies. An article in the *Albuquerque Journal* (Sept. 20, 1994) stated that Sen. Pete Domenici "offered help to state brand inspectors, who say something other than predators is cutting up the livestock," citing "more than two dozen mutilations ... reported this summer, most of them near Taos, Chama and Raton. ..." Domenici reportedly said, "I am prepared to ask the federal government to make available whatever resources are necessary [to help solve the mysterious deaths of livestock]."

Deputy director Kevin McKlellan of the New Mexico Livestock Board in Albuquerque said in an interview with *The Taos News* Thursday (July 25) that he couldn't release any

information because "all reports are considered part of an ongoing investigation." He would not say how long the livestock board had been investigating cattle mutilations or how many cases they had already handled. He urged livestock owners to call the board about any animal in question and "to stay away from it and don't touch it." He said a task force would be dispatched within 36 hours to do an investigation, collect evidence and determine the cause of death, but not take tissue samples.

### Autopsy results

What does the smattering of autopsies and laboratory tests show? In the fall of 1995 Bob Dugan, a rancher and certified veterinarian from Monte Vista, Colo., performed an autopsy on one of his own pregnant cows, which he discovered dead and mutilated in his pasture behind their house. According to his wife, Carol Lee Dugan, he found nothing to indicate what suddenly killed the animal. "The cow was one of our healthiest and best animals," she said in an interview Saturday (July 27). "There was some minor inflammation in the intestine," she said, "but not enough to kill it. The cuts looked like they had been done with a diamond cutter or a hot, searing knife." She mentioned that a nearby neighbor "heard some sounds and saw some lights that night," but said that she and her husband were sleeping.

According to Rommel's report, in 1980 Dr. Dale Spall, a visiting chemist at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, tested the tissue of a mutilated animal and found "a low copper value" which he stated was surprising, but warned that "the whole exercise was not done well enough or completely enough to make any valid comparison (to a control animal of unknown origin)." Spall also found traces of chlorpromazine, a powerful tranquilizer, in the blood, which he said might have been there for some time, and a high level of naphthalene which indicated the animal had been on a hor-

mone feed. Spall added that this drug occurs naturally in all animals.

The only consistent laboratory finding in livestock mutilations over the years, according to Perkins and Howe, is from a pathologist and hematologist in Denver, Colo., Dr. John Altshuler, who found when he examined the edges of the wounds in mutilated cows, that the hemoglobin was "cooked" as if by high heat.

### For curious minds

In 1994 John Paternoster, former assistant attorney general of New Mexico, former head of the state attorney general's investigative division and winner of the recent democratic primary race for district attorney, became involved with the mysterious death of livestock through a client, Tom Reed. Reed, manager of Tres Ritos ranch a few miles north of Questa, had found several cows dead and mutilated. Paternoster said this is a significant, ongoing problem.

"There are few frontiers available to curious minds, and this is one of them." He said he would like to push for federal funding, a task force of certified, scientific experts and a "consistent forensic protocol" for investigating each mutilation "to see if we can come up with some hard facts. This could instill trust and faith in the government that they are doing something about the problem," he said. Paternoster said the location of the mutilated animal should be treated as a crime scene so evidence can be carefully collected before the area is trampled over.

### Where to report it

An "Animal and Livestock Incident Report" prepared for Altshuler states that "excisions of mutilated animals have been examined microscopically since 1989 and the medical findings of high heat applied at the excision lines may eliminate any possibility of predator. We attempt to understand what is happening with these animals, and your cooperation in getting fresh tissue samples to us is important."

Causes stated for reporting the incident include "animal with cookie cutter incisions, neatly cored-out rectum and/or tail removal, precise hide-deep only excisions of genitals, ears, eyes, tongue and other body parts, bloodless excisions or small holes in the neck or chest, pale pink to white muscle tissue indicating blood drained from animal and unusual soil conditions at the scene such as a hard or baked ceramic consistency and/or depressions resembling tripod marks." For more information on private investigations, call Perkins at 719-746-2373 or Gail Staehlin in Albuquerque, 251-8884.

If you find a cow you suspect has been mutilated, report the incident to your local sheriff and to the New Mexico Livestock Inspection Board in Albuquerque at 841-4000.

# AROUND THE ISLAND / COMMUNITY LIFE

## Is Chupacabras Saga Getting Your Goat?

'Creature' captivates Hispanic community

By Carol Hernandez  
STAFF WRITER

ALMOST DAILY, ERIC DeJesus and his buddies at a Lindenhurst bolt manufacturer invoke the name of the ubiquitous blood-sucking creature that has captured the fancies of Hispanics throughout the hemisphere.

"Chupacabras is gonna get you!" DeJesus, a machinist, growls as he sneaks up behind an unassuming co-worker and grabs the startled man's leg. "We fool around," he said. "At work, everybody makes a joke out of it."

But for those who believe in the terrifying creature that's been rumored to suck the blood of helpless farm animals worldwide, that laughter may be borne of a nervous fear. Some say it is an alien. Others claim it is a harbinger of disasters to come. But one thing the Latino community can agree on is that the legend of Chupacabras is on everybody's lips.

"The Bible says you're going to see a lot of mysterious things in the future," said DeJesus, who admits to being spooked. "It's a mystery."

The Chupacabras frenzy all over Spanish-language television, radio and newspapers escalated a notch for DeJesus and other Hispanics on Long Island last month when a Bay Shore family found its nine rabbits and one chicken dead and allegedly bloodless with ominous puncture wounds.

Adam Gross, an investigator with the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in Huntington Station, said an autopsy revealed that the animals were crushed to death, and their blood and organs remained inside. In addition, the investigator said, there was only one rabbit with a puncture wound.

But neither his explanation nor experts' efforts to dismiss the tales as superstition has quieted the rumors.

Literally meaning goat-sucker in Spanish, the mysterious beast has been blamed for livestock deaths from Puerto Rico to Mexico and Miami.

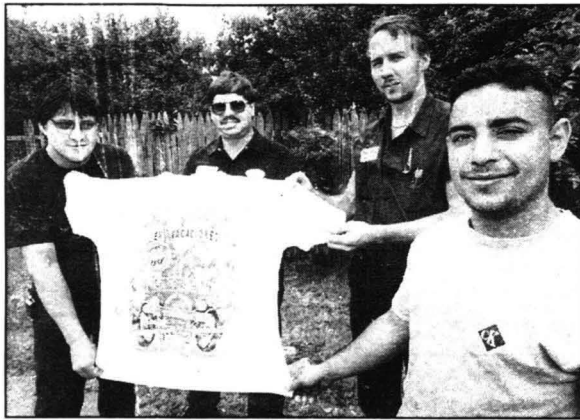
Then: "It was on the Spanish news," DeJesus said. "They said, 'Chupacabras is in Long Island.'"

The winged being supposedly swoops in during the night and sucks the blood from goats, horses, cows and — in its so-called local appearance — even chickens and rabbits. Few claim to have seen the beast, but many describe it as an alien-looking creature with an oval head, bulging red eyes and a long, snake-like tongue. It hops like a kangaroo and has spikes protruding from its back. The creature lives in underground caves or comes from outer space, the legend goes.

"I think it was something strange," said Hilaria Lopez, who owned the rabbits and chicken that were mysteriously snuffed out. "I don't know if it was the Chupacabras because I didn't see it."

The SPCA's Gross says otherwise. "It was a prank by a human. I told them it was human-related, and it did not convince them," he said of the family and neighbors he interviewed. But word of the animal deaths convinced other locals that Chupacabras had added Long Island to its list of haunts.

"I believe in the Chupacabras," assured Trisha LeBron of Central Islip. "I think it's real. I believe he's an alien animal of some sort. There's a lot of experimenting," she said, alluding to the creature as a scientific experiment gone awry.



Newsday / J. Conrad Williams Jr.  
Displaying a Chupacabras T-shirt in Lindenhurst are, from left, friends Henry Zaporta, Doug Miller, Don Delaney and Eric DeJesus: The legend is widespread.

### THE TALK OF LONG ISLAND

In Brentwood, Belen and Luis Antonio Torres offered their thoughts: "There is something in which to believe," said Belen Torres. The couple owns Botanica Belen, where they market in the spiritual with the sale of candles, incense, statues of saints and crucifixes. "It is very agile, and it could be from outer space," Luis Antonio said gravely. "And it uses a method of hypnotization."

Whatever Chupacabras is, it has definitely entranced the public. Hundreds of folks at Brentwood's annual Puerto Rican-Hispanic Day Parade last month came to town sporting Chupacabras T-shirts. The T-shirts — one featuring the creature as a muscled reptilian-looking thing holding a lifeless and bleeding goat, and another portraying the blood-sucker as an almost human-shaped alien dressed in oversized clothes and pinkie ring — were much talked-about. Strangers were coming up to each other to swap tales about the Chupacabras' latest exploits.

In Puerto Rico, where the myth originated more than a year ago, a local politician and his posse go on weekly Chupacabras hunts in the mountains. In Miami, a radio station sponsored a hunt of its own by sending a disc jockey in a goat costume into the Everglades. You can merengue to a Chupacabras tune popular on Spanish-language radio stations. And even learn about the monster on its very own computer home page.

The Chupacabras craze is not cause for concern, said Felix Matos Rodriguez, a professor of Caribbean and Latin American history at Northeastern University in Boston.

"At least since I've been growing up, there always seem to be these cycles of monster, supernatural, difficult-to-explain UFO-type creatures that attack people or attack animals," Rodriguez, a Puerto Rican native, said.

"I'm sure there will be a couple of Christmas songs with the Chupacabras," he said. "It's not new."

Although the animal deaths are real, zoologists and other officials are blaming instead wild coyotes or dogs or animal diseases.

The supposed myth could be a result, Rodriguez said, of "the skepticism toward official and government explanations of things. The mythical explanation becomes a popular expression of distrusting official sources. The cynicism allows you to make the jump to take the whole thing as a joke."

# It was Nessie, witnesses say

LONDON (Reuter) — Sixteen people watched in amazement as a mysterious object plowed swiftly across Loch Ness, leaving a whitewater wake before disappearing after five minutes into the depths of the Scottish lake.

"I cannot find a rational explanation for what I saw," English tourist David Neeld said yesterday after Thursday evening's sighting. "I do not think there is any other explanation than it was the Loch Ness monster."

Sightings of the monster, nicknamed Nessie and often described as having a long neck and large body like a brontosaurus, have been reported since the 15th century. Several expeditions have been undertaken in the loch but they have found nothing.

The strange object was first spotted at 10 p.m. by Kate Munro, joint owner of the Craigdarroch

House, a hotel on the edge of the highland lake.

### High speed

She alerted her husband Dave and 14 guests who watched the object for five minutes. They said it appeared to be something large just under the loch's surface, moving at high speed.

"There was no traffic on the loch at all, yet here was a wake as big as comes from a cruiser," Neeld said.

"There were a few locals in the hotel's bar and they said it was Nessie, so I will go along with that," he said. "I must say that I was very impressed."

Another tourist, Karen Hemmingsway, said: "Whatever we saw was certainly quite strange. There were no boats around at all. I think I could well have seen the monster."

## VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

BIGFOOT REPORT... Roads washed out during the February flooding is blamed for the lack of Bigfoot evidence this spring, but we do have a report.

This one came at a point a few miles above Dixie off the Dry Creek Road, according to Wes Sumerlin and Lane Savage, who made a trip to the area June 24.

They went there in response to a report of the Friday before by Sumerlin's son and daughter-in-law, John and Sally, who first had spotted the footprints.

Getting to the scene definitely requires a four-wheel drive outfit, Sumerlin told me. He and his wife, Peewee, had tried it the day before in their little car but succeeded only in getting it banged up pretty badly. We are intentionally being vague about the location because the property owners do not want "a whole bunch of people up here roaming all over."

Suffice to say for now, that the sighting area is near sites of several other previous Bigfoot reports, tracks and the critter itself.

Wes Sumerlin, who reported the track was 13 inches long, swears it is the same track he found in 1982 at Squaw Spring campground. He said there were eight prints in the ground the other day, then they were lost in brush.

Sumerlin also reported that he and Savage had met a woman that day, who said she had seen the same track and a smaller one in the area just above the June 23 sighting.

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA - July 4, 1996

## BIG-BANG THEORY: O.C. WONDERS

ENVIRONMENT: Homes, nerves are rattled throughout county by mysterious noise at about 3 p.m.

By JULIO LABOY  
The Orange County Register

What the heck was that? A mysterious rumble rattled homes and jangled nerves from Santa Ana to Corona del Mar to Laguna Niguel on Tuesday afternoon.

It occurred at about 3 p.m.: A quick and sudden BANG! that sounded like a sonic boom, felt like an earthquake and had some theorizing that the cause may have come from outer space.

"It shook the whole house,"

said Bob Thomas, who was in his Laguna Niguel home when it happened. "It was much louder than a sonic boom."

Seismologists at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena said it wasn't a quake.

Was it a military jet piercing the sound barrier?

"It had nothing to do with us," said Sgt. Chris O'Leary, a spokesman at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station.

The rumble rocked the La-Z-

Boy store in Santa Ana. "It was like something hit the building," owner Barbara Walz said.

The jolt was a hot topic at Wilma's Patio on Balboa Island.

"It didn't shake and it didn't last," waiter Phillip Larnard said. "It was one quick burst and it was over."

Tony Cooke, an astronomer at the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles, offered this theory: a large meteor, called a bolide, plummeting through the Earth's

atmosphere and creating a sonic boom.

Another possibility: Cooke said tests of top-secret aircraft routinely produced sonic booms in Southern California a few years back.

But if that's what happened Tuesday, he said, laughing, "You're not going to get any information on that."

Register staff writers Vik Jolly and Tom Berg contributed to this report.

ORANGE CO. REGISTER, Santa Ana, CA  
July 10, 1996 CR: A. Snow



# Low beef prices, ecoterrorists — and now, extraterrestrials



**ROCKY BARKER**  
Letters from the West

Running cattle on the western range is getting harder every year. With drought, low prices, wolves, bureaucrats and environmentalists, it's a wonder ranchers can still make a living.

Then there are the aliens.

Don't laugh. Rancher Jean Barton isn't, anyway.

Barton, of Red Bluff, Calif., is one of hundreds of ranchers who have found their cattle dead and mutilated over the last 25 years. The phenomenon is a recurring theme in the new West that log-

ic hasn't been able to totally explain.

Barton's involvement with mutilations began Oct. 16, 1995, when she and her husband, Bill, were checking their 60 head of cattle running on the Lassus National Forest in northern California.

What they found were two dead cows, with their sex organs cored out. The ears were gone and on one a section of hide had been peeled away, exposing the teeth and jaw.

"They were so straight and smooth," Barton said of the cuts.

"There was no blood dripping."

Both cows had been in excellent health and had recently calved. When their veterinarian, Richard Meinert, examined the pair, he could find no exact cause of death. Both had lost significant blood but there was none around the carcasses.

He concluded the animals may have been tranquilized and blood-letted after being first "compromised by weakness."

The Barton case appears to be the classic cattle mutilation. The evidence

does not suggest predators. So who or what did it?

"Your guess is as good as mine," Barton said.

In December, rancher Tim Howard lost a pregnant cow to a similar fate 100 miles north in Klamath Falls, Ore. A calf was found mutilated in Paisley, Ore., in April.

Barton now knows all the stories because she decided to speak out. She knows some people will think she's a kook, but the president of the California Cattle Women thinks this issue is too important to ignore.

"Livestock publications don't tell ranchers this is going on," she said. "Most ranchers who have it happen to them don't want to hother with the media."

Cattle mutilations have been attributed to everything from satanic cults to the long-haired hippies down the road. The phenomena started getting attention in the 1970s when a rash of mutilations all over the West caused law enforcement officials to hold a big conclave in St. Anthony. The governor of Colorado issued a statement decrying the mutilations.

Since then, another cycle of reports erupts about every five or six years. The last one was in eastern Idaho in 1989-90 with more than 30 cases of mutilations reported from Bear Lake to Rigby. I guess that means we're due.

Boise native Linda Moulton Howe has become somewhat of an expert on the phenomena. She has been collecting reports on mysterious animal killings since the 1970s when she was a reporter for a Denver television station.

In her book "An Alien Harvest," she says extraterrestrial aliens are responsible and that the federal government knows it.

"I've talked to dozens of eye-witnesses who have seen silver discs landing in their fields," she said in a telephone interview from her home in Jamison, Pa.

Ranchers have told her about "non-human creatures," carrying away their cattle. I'm sure she didn't mean wolves.

Most people will find it hard to believe such stories without the proof that never seems to turn up. And many cases of mutilation can be attributed to predators, mostly coyotes, who have a taste for the softer flesh of cattle that often are missing from mutilated stock.

In 1975-76, Idaho Department of Fish and Game warden Joe Curry examined several cattle in Fremont County that were supposed to have been mutilated. He concluded they were killed by predators.

"I personally didn't see anything that looked like it was mutilated by a human being," Curry said.

Rigby veterinarian Ferrin Kinghorn responded to several reports of mutilated animals in 1990. He came to a similar conclusion.

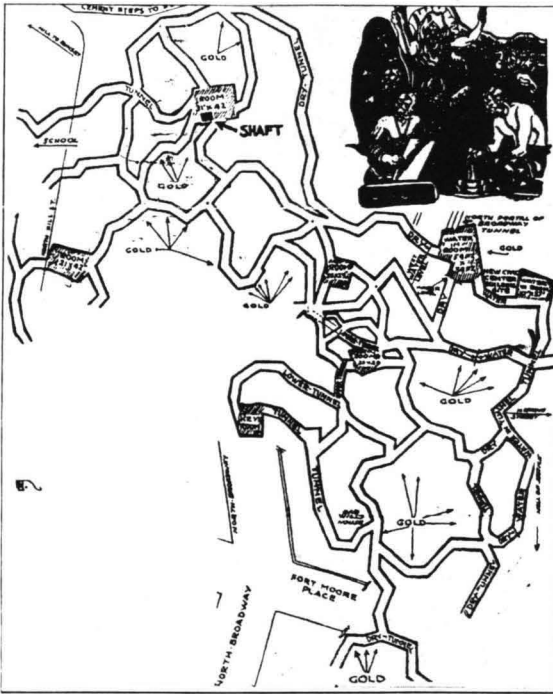
"The ones I saw there could be a logical explanation," he said. "But I don't want to leave the impression there aren't mutilations. I'm sure there have been some."

That leaves the mystery that keeps stories like this alive. It keeps Jean Barton watching the Western skies and telling anyone who will listen to pay attention.

Rocky Barker is the author of "Sewing All the Parts: Reconciling Economics and the Endangered Species Act" and the Post Register's correspondent-at-large. You can reach him for comments or column ideas by e-mail at: rbarker@srv.net

## L.A. Scene The City Then and Now

By Cecilia Rasmussen



G. Warren Shufelt's map purporting to show treasure-laden tunnels under L.A.

### Gold-Filled Tunnel Legend Didn't Pan Out

Beneath the busy streets of the City of Angels lies a labyrinthine network of 270 tunnels, most of which, though now fenced shut, were dedicated to the safe street crossings of horses and people.

Other passageways, some much older and all now abandoned, burrow under UCLA, a Bel-Air estate and El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park near Olvera Street—a tunnel rumored to have been used by Chinese residents to escape the notorious Chinese Massacre of 1871.

But the tunnels have legendary predecessors, complete with fabled stories of a maze beneath the surface that dates back nearly 5,000 years in Hopi Indian lore.

It was those that mining engineer G. Warren Shufelt said he was looking for.

In 1934, Shufelt began discovering caverns beneath downtown by means of his newly invented "radio X-ray," a sort of advanced dowsing rod.

To understand his find, Shufelt said he took his secret to Arizona, to a famous Hopi Indian leader known as Little Chief Greenleaf.

The Hopi tale the chief told him begins about 3,000 BC with a highly advanced race known as the Lizard People. According to legend, after a fire or meteor shower nearly destroyed their culture, the mysterious race built three underground cities along the Pacific Coast.

The capital of this underground world was said to be beneath downtown Los Angeles. (Another city was under Mt. Shasta, and no one knows where the third city was.) Caverns and tunnels housing a thousand fami-

lies supposedly were created with an unknown chemical solution that melted bedrock. Tunnels and rooms were said to be filled with gold—then a symbol of long life rather than wealth—and lined with a cement superior to any known to modern man.

The legendary lost city of tunnels was built in the shape of a lizard, also a Hopi symbol of longevity. Its head was supposed to be under what is now Dodger Stadium and its tail under the Central Library.

Shufelt never made it clear whether the Lizard People were said to have reptilian or human

features. But the book "Mysterious California" recounts a 1972 incident of a San Jose man hiking on Mt. Shasta who swore he saw a "reptilian" humanoid in shirt and trousers walking along the slopes.

On Shufelt's return from Arizona, he began mapping and plotting to find this golden underground world. He theorized that the greatest trove of all was a "key room" under Times Mirror Square housing a map to 37 golden tablets, each 4 feet long and 14 inches wide, which chronicled the race's history.

"My radio X-ray pictures of the tunnels and rooms, which are

subsurface voids, and of gold tablets with perfect corners, sides and ends, are scientific proof of [the gold's] existence," Shufelt told The Times in an article on Jan. 29, 1934.

"However, the legendary story must remain speculative until unearthed by excavation."

He soon had his chance. After one last survey with his radio X-ray, Shufelt believed he had found a "treasure room" on Ft. Moore Hill, where the Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters is now. (The hill had already captured treasure-hunters' imaginations. Spaniards reportedly buried their riches there in the mid-19th century when the Americans took over. But a year before Shufelt's excavation, gold-diggers who attacked the hill with shovels had nothing to show for it but sweat.)

The city gave Shufelt permission to drill down to 1,000 feet, but after reaching only 350 feet, drilling stopped for fear of a cave-in. Breathless newspaper accounts were never followed up, and Shufelt disappeared.

But he wasn't the only one who believed that an ancient city lay beneath Los Angeles.

Five weeks before Shufelt started drilling, Edith Elden Robinson of Pico Rivera had a vision that was later recounted by the American Society of Psychological Research. She envisioned "a vast city . . . in mammoth tunnels extending to the seashore." The tunnels had been constructed by a vanished race to protect themselves, she said, and to provide access to the sea.

(A Hopi expert says the Hopis did have a tribal social division known as the lizard clan. However, Chapman University professor Paul Apodaca finds Shufelt's version of the history to be "exaggerated and corrupted.")

Still, it's too bad no gold was found on Ft. Moore Hill. These days, the school district could use all the gold it could get.

REGISTER-GUARD, Eugene, OR - June 9, 1996 CR: D. Johnson

## Tale of visitation by Navajo gods draws thousands

By The Associated Press

BIG MOUNTAIN, Ariz. — By Cadillac and by pickup, by tour bus and by motorcycle, the people keep coming, turning off the reservation highway and bumping down 13 miles of rocky dirt road.

Thousands of Navajos have made a pilgrimage to this desert community since May 5, when a 96-year-old woman said she was visited by two tribal gods in the form of old Navajo men.

Yet even as Navajos flock to the site, sometimes waiting hours for a glimpse of Irene Yazzie's rundown hogan, there is widespread disagreement about how authentic the visitation was. The debate rages at trading posts and diners, where people eat mutton stew and fried bread under tarps and gossip in the dying Navajo language.

To some, the visit is a clear message — Navajos are in grave danger if they continue to forsake their traditions. The deities, it is said, warned that drought, poverty and rampant alcoholism on the reservation are all proof of the danger.

But some suspect the story was concocted to scare Navajos to return to their traditions, a tale like that of the white buffalo held sacred by the Plains Indians.

And some suggest the visitation was dreamed up to give the area a sacred aura and thereby boost the Navajos' claim to the land. The land is at a center of a bitter battle between the Hopi and the Navajo tribes. The grounds were declared Hopi land by Congress in 1974, but about 250 Navajo families still live there.

"If it was really sacred, it should have been closed just to the medicine men," said Bessie McCabe, a 47-year-old Navajo. She sheepishly admitted visiting the pilgrimage site "mostly out of curiosity."

The visit has stirred such interest across the 17 million-acre Navajo Nation that the locals have printed maps of the dirt roads and tied yellow ribbons to mark the way to the desolate spot. Navajo Tribal President Albert Hale even granted tribal employees four hours of leave to visit the site and declared May 17-24 Spiritual Unity Week.

Hopi Chairman Ferrell Secakuku said the influx of Navajo pilgrims heading for Yazzie's home could upset the fragile relations between the tribes. "I don't want her prayers to overshadow the settlement we've reached with the Navajo people," Secakuku said.

The vast Navajo reservation, which reaches into Utah and New Mexico, surrounds the far smaller Hopi lands. There are about 11,000 Hopis and nearly 200,000 Navajos, the nation's largest Indian tribe.

News of the visitation spread mostly by word of mouth. Yazzie banned cameras and video recorders and demanded that no one discuss the incident with non-Indians. The reservation newspaper, The Navajo Times, agreed not to write of the matter at Yazzie's request.

The tale told around the reservation is that the deities appeared to Yazzie as old men. Yazzie, unable to talk after suffering a stroke, regained her speech a few days before the gods' arrival, saying visitors were coming.

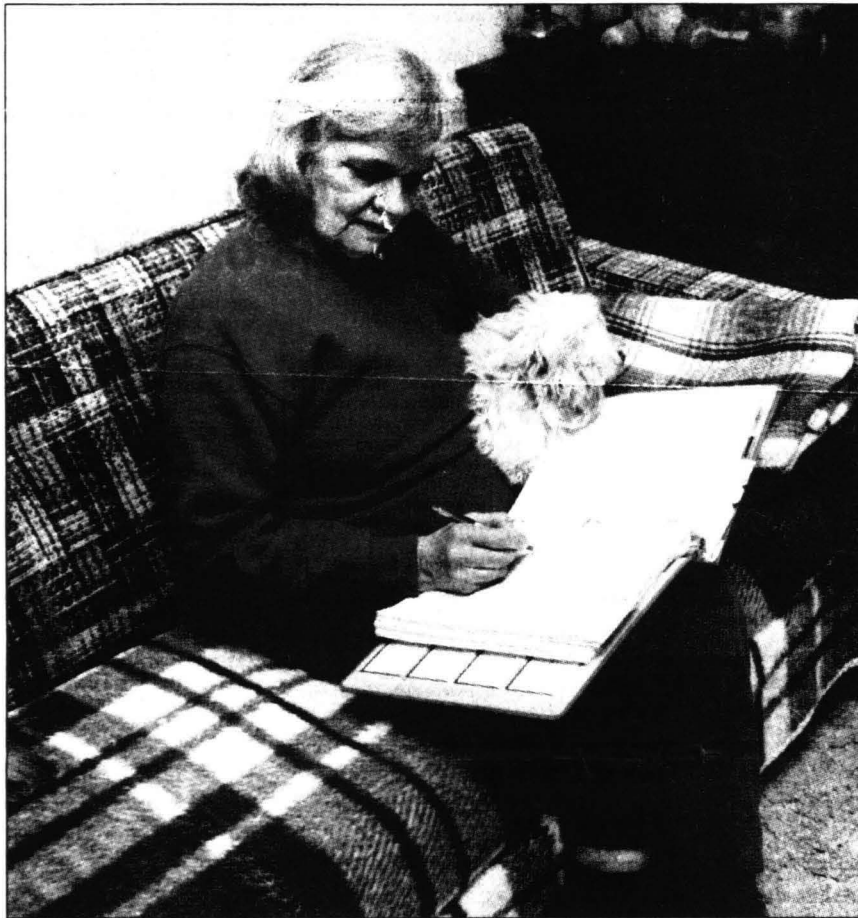
5/9-96

CHRONICLE, Centralia, WA - March 21, 1996

*"I found out that it was not hail, but turned out to be clear, gelatin-like chunks about the size of grains of cooked rice."*

— Dottie Hearn, speaking about substance that landed on her property

# The mystery of the blob



Ron Hoss / The Chronicle

■ Dottie Hearn will be in a "Mysterious Universe," on Tuesday. The Discovery Channel show hosted by science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke will retell Hearn's story of when a blob-like substance landed on her Oakville home in August 1994.

*Oakville woman will tell her story about gooey substance that fell from the sky and covered her property*

By Ron Hoss

The Chronicle

OAKVILLE — On Tuesday, Dottie Hearn will be in a "Mysterious Universe."

That is, she will be featured on the Discovery Channel show that science fiction writer and scientist Arthur C. Clarke hosts. Hearn will learn the results of the show's investigation into a mysterious blob-like material that landed on her property in August 1994.

Hearn still vividly recalls the incident.

"...After a rain shower, I stepped out on my porch and what I first thought was hail was laying on everything," she said. "I found out that it was not hail, but turned out to be clear, gelatin-like chunks about the size of grains of cooked rice."

Hearn was not alone when the blobs dropped. Her children, Sunny Barclift and Don Turnbow, were on hand.

Barclift took samples of the substance and put them into Hearn's freezer. Because it appeared that there had been a lot of aircraft activity in the area prior to the discovery, the daughter called the Federal Aviation Administration to see what had been happening in the skies overhead.

According to Hearn, that agency came up with an interesting speculation about military aircraft practicing bombing out at sea. What probably had fallen on her property, they said, was the residue of jelly fish blown high out of the water.

The chunks didn't fall just once, but six times in the days following the original dropping.

Hearn said that she was taken violently ill the day after the first episode. Hearn became so ill, she said she had to be transported to the hospital in McCleary by an ambulance.

The diagnosis, however, was of an inner ear infection. Doctors said the case was unrelated to anything else.

The incident received some national press attention. Hearn said she received a telephone call at the time

from a sister in Virginia asking, "Whatever is going on?"

After that, things seemed to settle down and pretty much get back to normal.

That is, until Hearn was contacted by Granite Productions in London, the producer's of Clarke's series.

The company sent Alice Soper to interview Hearn who in turn showed the researcher her samples, diary and a video that she and her daughter shot at the time.

Soper's interest was piqued enough to have her arrange for the camera crew's visit, which took place in July 1995.

In addition to several sequences at the farm, the crew asked Hearn to go with them to AMT Testing Labs in Redmond where they re-enacted for the camera a scene of Hearn delivering the samples to a technician. AMT followed through with a test of the substance but could find no match for it with anything they could identify.

So, the mystery remains.

What was the amorphous substance? Perhaps the program will give the answer. Stay tuned.

BARRICADA INTERNACIONAL, Managua, Nicaragua - April/May 1996 CR: R. Heiden

## Sheep to the slaughter

Several local newspapers, always on the lookout for a sensational story, recently devoted a series of articles to a strange incident involving a flock of 43 Pelibuey sheep on a farm in Popoyuaba, in the department of Rivas, whose throats were cut one night with such stealth that no one heard or saw anything out of the ordinary.

The strange similarity between this bloody event and similar cases in nearby countries fueled an outburst of wild speculation concerning the identity of the perpetrators and the motives behind their butchery.

Though the police attributed it to hungry coyotes driven from nearby cane fields by the seasonal stubble burning, the population was skeptical: no one heard any howling that night, and furthermore coyotes generally eat their prey, whereas "these sheep

only had their blood sucked out."

Alan Alard, the farm administrator, explained that the sheep corral is 50 meters from the house where he lives with his family, and their dogs did not even bark that night. "In the morning, the corral was awash with blood: some sheep were dying, others were already dead, and the sheepdog was shaking with fear," he reported.

A few days before, "El Show de Cristina" (a Spanish-language US television talk show that is broadcast in Nicaragua) had presented a report on sheep killings in Mexico, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico and the United States, where witnesses claimed to have seen strange beings like devils or extraterrestrials who they blamed for the orgies of blood.

Scanning the surrounding countryside from his hilltop telecommunications station, night watchman Carlos Hernández Rivas apprehen-

sively told reporters "a lot of pretty strange things have been happening as we near the end of the century. They're signs of what's ahead."

And reading Hernández' commentary, people could be forgiven for seeing the fate of the Popoyua sheep as

a portent of the tragic future awaiting ordinary Nicaraguan citizens as the election draws nearer, because during the last few years the country's politicians have increasingly come to resemble both coyotes and Satanic beings. ■

