

# UFO

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ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Aug. 13, 1997

## SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

Well, another quiet week at Shoreline Park. We had some visitors though, including some from Ft. Lauderdale and a doctor from the Naples, FL area who was very interesting to talk with. He told us that his interest in UFOs had really been lifelong and started as a young man when someone gave him a newspaper containing his great-grandparents' wedding announcement from back in the 1880's in Virginia. There was also a story in that newspaper of someone having had a UFO sighting! Speaking of sightings though, there are none to none to report from Shoreline Park. We have enjoyed the cooler, less humid evenings this week courtesy of two cold fronts that made their way down to the Gulf Coast. Very unusual for this time of the year, but a most welcome relief from the heat and high humidity that we expect in August. Some reports of sightings in the local area have filtered through to us, however. One set of reports from the Gulf Breeze area and the other from Perdido Key, west of Pensacola.

The weekend that Hurricane Danny paid us a visit, July 18th, 19th and 20th, 1997, there were three sightings on Perdido Key involving a cylindrical shaped object. One of these sightings was witnessed by five men from the pool of a Gulf front condominium. It was approximately 11:30 p.m. when the men noticed a cylindrical shaped object descending from high above about a half mile offshore and then following the shoreline from west to east toward them. It stopped and hovered about five hundred yards out into the Gulf right in front of the witnesses. All the time the object was hovering, it alternated colors between light lime green and white. It hovered for over a minute and then shot off due south, rising and reaching the horizon in about a second and a half. One of the witnesses states that it "took off at incredible speed." There are some details missing from this report which we hope to be able to track down and thus provide a more detailed account at a later date.

The Gulf Breeze reports all occurred on the evening of Wednesday, July 30th, 1997. Two of our regular skywatch group, Ray and Elise Pollock, saw three amber lights in the sky as they were driving to Gulf Breeze at around 8:45 p.m. The lights were to their south-east, toward the

Navarre Bridge. They first spotted them while driving on the Bayfront Parkway in Pensacola and kept them in sight as they drove over the three mile bridge. The lights were stationary in the sky and maintained their elevation. No drop of fade was noted as would be the case with flares. As they travelled over the bridge, one of the lights went out and then the other two went out together. The lights were visible for well over five minutes.

Another witness called the Gulf Breeze police department to report seeing amber lights in the sky at around 8:40 p.m. They appeared at an approximate forty-five degree elevation and were going off and coming on in sequence. We believe there is some video of this event, although details right now are sketchy and we hope to have more information at a later date.

A third witness called, Art Hufford, president of Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON to report that at 8:15 p.m. they had seen bright amber lights in the sky near the Navarre Bridge from their vantage point just east of The ZOO in Gulf Breeze. The sighting lasted thirty minutes with the individual lights staying lit for approximately two to three minutes at a time. The lights were coming on and going off in a sequence from left to right. As they went out on the left side of the configuration, more would come on to the right. This is a pattern that we have seen many times in the Gulf Breeze area and is not dissimilar to the effect given by the recent Phoenix, Arizona sightings.

A fourth witness called *The Islander* on July 31st and asked that we contact him regarding a sighting on the previous evening. Despite our best efforts, we have been unable to reach this witness, but will continue to try so that we can hear if his story corroborates the other three reports.

It should be noted that no conclusion has been reached regarding these Gulf Breeze reports and they are still under investigation. The local military bases including Eglin Air Force Base, Hurlburt Field and NAS Pensacola were contacted and apparently no maneuvers were taking place on this particular evening. We will give more information regarding these sightings as it becomes available.

We were contacted recently by Michael Williamson, an author from Plano, Texas. He wrote a

regular column in the *Plano Star Courier*, every week for over a year and a half. Kind of like Skywatch Diary!!

His column was entitled "Unexplained Mysteries" and was devoted to the discussion of well detailed UFO incidents. His Sunday, October 16th, 1994 article details the well known "Lubbock Lights" sightings as well as some interesting historical information. He writes of an incident in Aurora, Texas in 1897, where there were reports of an "airship" and some people believe that "the remains of an alien who was killed by the townspeople . . . (are) buried in an unmarked grave in the public cemetery." This story has, we believe, been featured on the *Unsolved Mysteries* show. Michael also details a 1946 sighting by the crew of a B-29 reconnaissance plane of a "mother ship which dwarfed the Air Force bomber, and undertook docking maneuvers with five smaller craft at an incredible speed of some 5200 m.p.h." This sighting was classified until the Freedom of Information Act, and interestingly pre-dates the 1947 Roswell incident.

Michael goes on to detail many more sightings in Texas in his October 1994 article, ranging from the 1946 report to the famous Betty Cash incident in 1980. These kind of reports just confirm our theory that every state, county, nation, worldwide has its reports of UFO sightings just like these which are not well known to the general public. It is evidence like this, though, and the sheer volume of it, that may eventually give even the strongest skeptic pause for thought. Our thanks to Michael for sharing his reports and we hope he continues his research ad infinitum.

Information on the upcoming Project Awareness Tampa UFO Conference can be obtained from Project Awareness by calling (850) 432-8888 or by e-mail at UMRB.73A@PRODIGY.COM. The Conference will be held October 31st, November 1st and 2nd, 1997 at the Camberly Plaza Hotel, Sabal Palms, in Tampa, Florida.

If you have a sighting or encounter to report, or wish to contact the local Experiencer Support Group, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. If you would like information, please write to: Carole Baker, P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola FL 32522-7152. Keep Looking Up!

Look — up in the sky:  
It's a bird, it's a plane, it's . . .  
What was that, anyway?

ITEMIZER-OBSERVER, Dallas, OR - July 30, 1997

MONMOUTH — They said it was just a meteorite. But the truth is out there.

Actually, the truth is just at the end of the cul-de-sac.

Lyle French, 84, was walking with his wife around 10:45 p.m. July 27. He's certain of the time. He was watching television by 10:50 p.m.

They saw a bright light descend from the sky near their home on Laurie Lane in Monmouth. It was no meteorite, French said. At one point, it was a mere 200 feet off the ground.

It was so mere that French thought it was going to smash into a house at the end of a near-by cul-de-sac.

Then things got weird.

Whatever it was simply turned off its headlights. The light — and it was bright — just blinked off, French said. "That's the first time I've ever seen anything like that."

News reports Monday morning were full of sightings of a glowing red ball in the sky. Authorities explained it as a meteorite.

French said it couldn't have been. It buzzed his nearby home and then simply shut off. French is no Carl Sagan, but he does know that meteorites just don't do those sorts of things.

But if it wasn't a meteorite, what was it? Is there intelligent life on other planets and, if so, what's it doing buzzing neighborhoods in Monmouth?

N.W. FLORIDA DAILY NEWS, Ft. Walton Beach, FL  
Sept. 7, 1997 CR: B. Reid

## LETTERS

### Eglin's big secret

Re: Your Sept. 4 article, "Eglin says no radar, 'no idea' on object."

If the public really wants to know what's going on at Eglin Air Force Base, they'll find the answers in Col. Phil Corso's book, "The Day After Roswell."

No less a national figure than Sen. Strom Thurmond pens the foreword attesting to Phil's many contributions to the nation. He goes on to say: "We should all be grateful that there are men and women like Colonel Corso — people who are willing to dedicate their lives to serving and protecting the ideals we all hold so dear."

Phil, in his book, discloses how the U.S. government covered up the facts about its recovery of the first UFO near Roswell, N.M., in 1947.

The Armed Forces Journal International, July 1997 issue, Page 26, "Mining Silver Bullets," features a photo of a "silver bullet" in action on its front cover.

Several nights ago, about 2:30 a.m., while enjoying the night sky from my condo balcony, I was startled by a bright, cometlike object arching from the north-northeast and heading south-southwest. Almost simultaneously, I noticed two dim lights streaking on a flat trajectory, traveling from west to east, far out in the Gulf of Mexico. The lights were traveling at very high speed.

Phil says UFOs are capable of speeds up to 7,500 mph. I can well believe it after I saw what I saw.

I think there's a story here. You may want to pursue it.

JOHN MCCORMICK  
Destin

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,  
Little Rock, AR - Sept. 27, 1997

## Agency: UFO seen by Swiss was balloon

ZURICH, Switzerland — The mystery of one UFO has been solved. A unidentified flying object passed dangerously close to a Swissair jetliner traveling between Philadelphia and Boston on Aug. 9, the airline said Friday.

Swissair spokesman Erwin Schaerer said the crew reported that an object sped by about 50 yards from the Boeing 747 after the plane had taken off from Philadelphia and had reached 23,000 feet.

The pilot told the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board that the object as long and wingless, but the copilot said it was more spherical, he said. And what was it?

It probably was a weather balloon, board spokesman Pat Cariseo said Friday.

"[The sighting] does not lead us to believe that was something self-propelled," Cariseo added. (AP)

# Crop circles cause speculation

By Jodi Fuson  
Staff Reporter

WAVERLY--Was it an alien landing or natural phenomena?

No scientists showed up to investigate the mysterious circular depressions just south of Amberly Road on 140th Street Waverly, but a few hundred curious spectators did.

B.J. Kruse and his friend, Nick Bartlett, both 15, discovered the patterns in a wheat field just south of Kruse's home on July 6. They finally convinced Kruse's mom, Brenda, to come and investigate with them last Friday. They said they did not go into the field before then because they did not want to disturb the pattern. "We didn't think anyone would take us seriously if we came out by ourselves," said Nick.

When asked what they thought made the two circular patterns in the wheat and a long key-like projection, Nick said, "You could say it's UFOs, but that's a little far

out."

The two boys said there were no trails or footprints going into the wheat field. Myer Nore of Lincoln was at the site Saturday to investigate with his mom, Janaree. Myer was on his way to a piano lesson in Waverly. Both mother and son made sketches of the patterns.

Myer noted that in the big circle the wheat in the center was pushed down in a counterclockwise direction and on the outer rim it was flattened in a clockwise direction. The wheat was neatly folded down and showed no signs of being cut.

In the little circle the patterns were just the opposite. The circles were about 15 feet apart and were not connected until the boys made a path between them. The larger one was about twice the size of the smaller one.

The keylike projection extended out from the back of the larger circle. From end to end, the entire pattern measured approximately 128 steps.

One explanation for the unusual pattern is a natural phenomena

called ion plasma vortices. W.C. Levengood, a scientist from Grass Lake, Mich., investigated a similar crop circle in an Arlington, Iowa, corn field in February of 1996. According to an article in the Arlington Telegraph Herald, Levengood has studied approximately 150 crop circles around the world.

Ion plasma vortices are defined as collections of electronically charged particles high above the earth's surface (similar to lightning).

"When these particles are pulled together by the earth's magnetic field, the ions become swirling masses that emit energy," stated the article. "When the vortices move to earth and strike crops, the intense energy weakens the plant stalks, causing them to lie in the circular direction of the vortex and parts of the plants are browned by microwave-like energy."

The Iowa circle was 55 feet in diameter. The large circle in Waverly measured approximately 40 feet in diameter.

A spokesman from the Lancaster



News Photo/Jodi Fuson

**WHEAT FIELD FIND--Nick Bartlett and B.J. Kruse were the first to discover some odd depressions in a wheat field just down the street from Kruse's house in Waverly Heights. The two stand in the largest of two circles. Behind them extends a key-like projection. On the opposite end of the large circle was a smaller unattached circle. The find was the talk of the town for several days.**

NEWS, Ann Arbor, MI - Aug. 13, 1997

## Is the truth out there for UFOs?

■ Couple describes possible UFO scenarios in state.

By MELANIE FELICIANO  
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

An Oscoda woman wakes in October 1994 to find her bedroom bathed in white light. She looks out the window where a soundless craft hovers near her house with steady green and red lights flashing then backs away at high speed.

Four Traverse City children are sledding in February 1995 when an object streaks out of the sky making a sound like a microwave oven. The two older boys return to their home much later than their younger siblings because they found themselves sitting on their sled naked, their clothes stacked neatly next to them.

These are only two of more than 50 possible UFO scenarios reported in Michigan between 1994 and 1995, according to Bill and Linda Murphy, state co-directors of Mutual UFO Network Inc., known as MUFON.

At a slide-illustrated talk at Borders Books and Music on East Liberty Street Tuesday night, Bill Murphy said Michigan is the fourth leading state in reports of UFO sightings, following Florida, California and Oregon.

"Strange things are in fact happening in our skies," Murphy told an audience of about 40 people who have reported — or said they have friends who have seen — objects in the sky that might be alien spaceships. "Michigan has been something of a playground for UFO reporting."

Bob Olejniczak of Rockford was among those at "UFO's and Related Phenomena." The former MUFON member said he and his brother thought they had seen an object "coming down from the clear blue sky and into the clouds," while they were looking for the planet Venus one evening.

Harry Willnus, a former MUFON state director in the late 1970s, estimated that one out of 10 people have had some kind of alien experience.

"I think this is widespread throughout the country and possibly throughout the world," he said.

The subject has risen in appeal because of the mass media.

"I think the masses are somewhat easy to control in some ways because once something becomes popular it becomes the thing to do," said William Robinson of Ann Arbor, adding that shows like the "X-Files" books and the daily news have created a more recent hype on a centuries-old phenomenon.

The former U.S. Air Force contractor said he read the reports on the 50-year-old Roswell, New Mexico, case and even though there is conflicting evidence, he thinks something unusual happened there.

"Everything is open for speculation," Robinson said. "I'm somewhat skeptical, but I'm somewhat open."



MURPHY

INDEPENDENT, Grand Island, NE - July 29, 1997

### Letters to the editor

#### Another perspective on existence of UFOs

In response to the George Ayoub column in the June 28 Independent — "We are not alone — or maybe we are." I always enjoy the wit and humor used in your columns. Few can compare to your abilities to write this type of material, and I, for one, have enjoyed reading it.

While you are able to dissect almost any subject and make it humorous, there are a few of us who in some corner of our minds have serious thoughts about some of these subjects. I myself — like Diogenes of old — carry a (mental) lamp looking for the truth. Perhaps it is a lost cause, but as you well know, our curiosity to "learn and know" leads us into many discoveries (good or bad).

To go straight to the subject of UFOs, a number of years ago, I lived in Central City with my husband and my

then three small children. We lived next door to a couple often visited by a son-in-law, given to wearing dark suits.

He said he worked for the FBI under J.E. Hoover. He asked my opinion on one occasion of UFOs. I didn't have any (then), and he proceeded to tell me of the Roswell incident. He said UFOs (alien ships) exist and that one (or more?) crashed in New Mexico and that bodies were found. (Not dummies but real aliens of some sort.) He knew, he said, because he was there himself. For what it's worth, that's what he told me.

As time went by, a few incidents occurred, and I became more interested in the subject from different material that I read, and I read a lot. Some material covered the Bible, ancient history, Solon, Plato, Einstein, other religions, etc.

My curiosity was aroused when I read of Ezebiel and what he described — "wheels" — and what Moses had to say. I read the Epic of Gilgamesh and the Mahabharata — the Iliad of ancient India. Since you are a writer, I have to assume you like to read also, and if you have not read the Mahabharata, do so!

This epic was found inscribed in stone slabs unearthed from a few layers

of older Babylon. You will read of Girka and his Vimana (spacecraft), which could hover, go up and down, sideways and past the sun like a streak of light.

Discussed was the star system he came from, what metals were needed to construct the craft, how to overhear conversation in other crafts, terrible weapons reminiscent of our atomic weapons. Girka speaks of how he accidentally set off the rocket (weapon) and destroyed the triple city (Sodom, Gomorrah and another city recently discovered) and how badly he felt about it.

Who was it who said, "There is nothing new under the sun"?

As for Diogenes, I often wonder if he knew that truth can be stronger than fiction.

Dee Powell  
311 N. Lincoln No. 6

Murphy showed slides of crayon-renderings drawn by "abductees" and night-sky spectators that illustrated sightings in Dexter, Holland, Kingsley, Traverse City, Bad Axe and elsewhere.

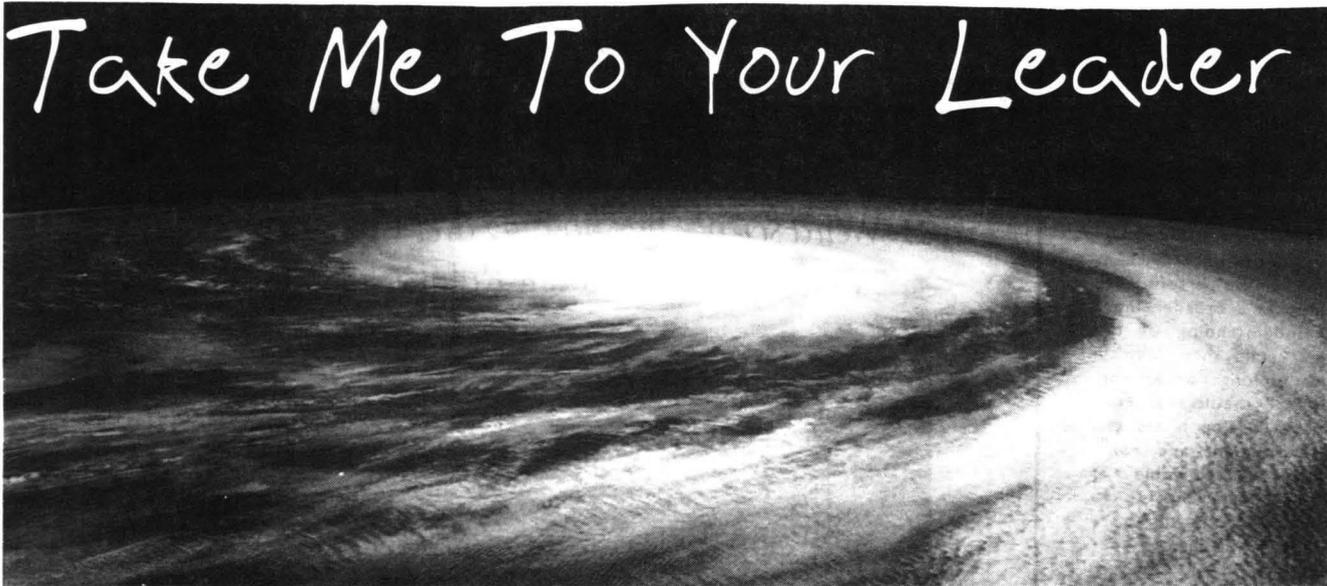
MUFON, a Texas-based non-profit corporation, is an international scientific organization composed of people interested in researching the phenomenon known as "unidentified flying objects." Even though all the pieces of evidence MUFON gathers cannot prove anything, Murphy said, it is important for everyone to report sightings to trace patterns.

#### Even though all the pieces of evidence MUFON gathers cannot prove anything, Murphy said, it is important for everyone to report sightings to trace patterns.

Murphy said that "experimenter" should call the UFO hotline (800) UFO-2166 after finding cover, estimating the distance of the object from their viewpoint, figuring the time the object appeared and disappeared, recording direction changes and noting

structure types.

"Ninety percent are honest mistakes, but we welcome reports. No one should be afraid to make an honest report," Murphy said. "When you've dismissed that it's Venus or good beer, then it's an unidentified flying object."



## Grand Rapids' Virginia Tilly Leads UFO Investigative Efforts

BY:Stelle Sloomaker

**V**irginia Tilly, founder of the Bureau of Investigators of Mysteries and Unusual Phenomena (B.I.M.U.P., pronounced 'beam me up'), has her masters degree from Andrews University, her bachelors from Concordia University, and worked as a school teacher for more than 20 years. She's friendly, intelligent and caring—the quintessential picture of the favorite aunt. Tilly lives in a pleasant home on Grand Rapids' north-east side, where she works on crewel embroidery, shares recipes on the phone with friends, and heads up her investigations of unusual phenomena — including UFOs and alien encounters. "The scariest things have been some of the people involved, not the phenomenon," shares Tilly.



Virginia Tilly

Move over  
Scully...

Tilly's research has brought her a measure of fame. A published author and international lecturer, she's currently producing an audiocassette series. She's been interviewed as a media source for national and local TV as well as by the press. Tilly holds membership in the IMDHA (International Medical and Dental Hypnotherapy Association), APRT (Association for Past Life Research and Therapy), and ASTD (American Society for Training and Development). As a member of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network), Tilly has served on the board of directors and as Director of Public Education, Research Specialist, State Section Director, and Field Director. "I don't think aliens are here to attack us. I don't think they're here to eat us. I do think they've been here throughout history," says Tilly.

Sight Unseen  
or so say  
the powers  
that be...

Tilly began researching UFOs in the

early 70s, three years after witnessing such a craft, along with hundreds of other motorists, on the US 31 expressway near Lake Michigan. "I saw up ahead of me an unusually bright light. I thought it was a small plane — then realized it wasn't moving," Tilly recalls.

"It was hovering about 250 feet above the treetops. Such a classic sighting: near water, power lines, a traditional disc shape, tilted slightly, with colored lights around the perimeter and a bright light on the bottom center. Everyone began pulling off the road real slow. There was never an official statement released—the media only said there were no qualified witnesses."

On a beautiful July night in the late 80s, Tilly took her nephews out to look for satellites. The evening was warm and clear. As a bright light approached from the east, the boys became excited over sighting their first satellite. "I told them, 'That's no satellite. It's too low, too bright, and it's coming from the wrong direction,'" recalls Tilly.

The huge, wing-shaped craft was soon met by another; a military jet took pursuit. Now that the Stealth bomber has become public knowledge, Tilly thinks that this sighting may have been a military test of the then top-secret jet. She presumes that many of today's sightings may be the military's new Aurora craft. But, she does not believe the military is responsible for all UFO activity.

Though she didn't see it herself, Tilly tells of a 1986 sighting, with many, many witnesses describing a craft as large as Wings

Stadium hovering over tree-tops. She traced about a dozen reports referred to her that tracked the UFO's flight from the Indiana border, through Kalamazoo, northwest and across Lake Michigan, and on to Milwaukee. "In Michigan, there's been the highest percentage, historically, of reported sightings," notes Tilly.

All is not  
well in  
Roswell...

Contemporary fascination with UFOs still gets a boost from 1947's famed saucer crash in Roswell, New Mexico. According to Tilly, pieces of the craft were scattered throughout the area. The metallic fragments were unlike any known, a metal with memory, virtually indestructible. It could be crumpled, but would regain its form. People claiming to have gathered fragments say the military went to all homes in the area demanding the extraterrestrial souvenirs be relinquished. Others, working on the military base, say they were prohibited from talking about the incident.

Just like in the X-Files

episode a few years back, this spaceship reportedly held alien remains: child-like, hairless "Grey" aliens. These traditional other-worlders stand approximately four feet tall, have deep-set, slanted eyes, and four-fingered hands. Tilly says that the military and the scientific community covered-up this incident, and continue to repress evidence of aliens today. "Scientists have become the high priests of our society. If you dare consider anything outside their realm, you're out of line. There's a commitment to money," asserts Tilly. "Scientists should be leading the way."

Abducted by  
aliens...

This phrase has become a humorous epitaph, used to allude to individuals a few miles west of wacky. But according to Tilly, abductions do occur... locally and on a regular basis. As a certified hypnotherapist, Tilly helps those with sketchy abduction memories recall their close encounters. She also helps facilitate a support group for those enduring these experiences. According to Tilly, once the subject of an abduction, a person will be most likely to encounter aliens again.

Tilly's description of abductee's stories reminds you of contemporary zoologists tagging baby animals in the wild, and then checking up on them every so often to study their

growth and behavior. Yes, baby animals. Those claiming these alien encounters report their abduction experiences very often began when they were children. In many cases, siblings report being abducted together, while parents, in the next room, tell of having an urge to check on their children, when they are overcome by a feeling of contentment and fall off into a heavy sleep. Many awake with a horrid dread, only to find their babes asleep in their beds and safe — but not untouched. One mother told Tilly that her child rose in the morning and said, "Mommy, the little doctors were here again last night."

Abductees relate similar tell-tale signs. Bloody noses, small, scoop-shaped bruises, symmetrical puncture patterns, as well as a psychological trauma that's more pronounced in adults than children. Young abductees often develop an intellectual precocity: one small boy reportedly woke up and knew all about the solar system (he had toured it the night before). Some people share incidents of healing, though, when aliens heal, it seems more an alien after-thought, not the intent of the visitation.

Many adult abductees become substance abusers and develop marital problems; others relate an onset of psychic and prophetic abilities. Those seeking professional help are often told they're delusional, and end up further traumatized by the therapies and medications prescribed to

(continued on page 4)

Grand Rapids, MI - June 1997)

help them. The world as they had known it, their belief systems and their credibility with friends and family are turned upside-down. On the other hand, Tilly sees most abductees as coming out of the experience as kinder, more humane persons. They seem to possess a broader, more accepting understanding of the world. They retain their faith in God, but can no longer accept narrow, parochial theological constraints. Many develop a concern for the environment and some become vegetarians. "I would not say it's a good experience to go through. But, it expands you. You're definitely different. It changes your world view," says Tilly.

After spending most of her life investigating these phenomena, Tilly believes... but faces the frustration that she's not getting any closer to the truth. There have been times when she's decided to 'get out', but she's always drawn back in... by an interesting phenomenon or a person who's encountered one and needs her help. "I have more questions now than answers," admits Tilly. "But, I know there's something out there."

N.W. FLORIDA DAILY NEWS,  
Ft. Walton Beach, FL  
Sept. 6, 1997 CR: B. Reid

## Witnesses positive something fell from sky

■ Eglin has stopped its search; Walton's sheriff's department plans to keep on looking.

By JOHN KEEGAN  
Daily News Staff Writer

The truth is out there, but it's still not known what was seen hovering in the north Walton County skies on Tuesday night.

Eglin Air Force Base remained satisfied Friday that there isn't a need to further investigate unusual lights seen Tuesday in the clear night skies above the Freeport area because no civilian or military planes are missing, Eglin spokeswoman Leigh Ann Redovian said.

However, eyewitnesses and members of Tuesday's search team still say something was up there.

Kent Scebbi and his wife, Phyllis, were southbound on the Rocky Bayou bridge about 8:45 p.m. when they saw two lights in the eastern sky, north of State Road 20.

"My wife said 'There are your UFOs' because I'm always talking about the stuff I saw in Nevada and Arizona," he said. "They looked like tower lights but I never saw a tower out there...I thought they might have been the after burners of an F-16 or a single-engine jet, but the lights weren't fading and weren't moving in a horizontal direction."

Scebbi, 40, said the northern-most light was slightly lower than the southern light and both maintained a horizontal distance from each other. He described the lights having light blue centers, with white rings around them. Each was the size of a quarter on the windshield, he said.

Scebbi said he watched the lights for about three minutes, until they were obscured by trees.

# 'They Came Here First!'

Weird science has nothing over weird art in memorial to Mount Rainier UFOs



By VICTORIA ELLISON • Special to The Seattle Times

Fifty years ago, a private plane spotted nine flying saucers over Mount Rainier. Days later, in July 1947, a rancher reported a UFO crash on his Roswell, N.M., property. A resulting military investigation deemed the "crash" insignificant. Yet these events snowballed into a cultural invasion of historic proportions.

Seattle curator and artist David Kane has gathered at the Center on Contemporary Art works by 40 local and national artists with aliens on the brain. Some are playful, toylike paintings of dancing little green men and cast urethane saucers that look like hard candies. Some derive minimal abstract works from space imagery; others use the wildfire spread of the Roswell legend and accompanying conspiracy theories for text-based conceptual, political and parodic themes.

The profusion of alien paraphernalia is great fun. The exhibition includes a huge cache of movie posters, '50s space toys — ray guns, lunch boxes, beanies — and such campy illustrated publications as "Other Worlds" and "Fate Magazine." Portland's Alex Schomburg, 90, contributes a terrific original gouache illustration for a long-ago pulp-fiction novel cover.

### Reliving an abduction

But the most compelling works are by true believers. New York's Ionel Talpazon's primitive mixed-media drawings of UFOs are as structured as a Boeing engineer's sketch. He relives what he believes to have been his abduction by aliens through obsessive studies of the craft that took him. His bright, primary-colored works recall cross-sectioned shapes of children's metal spinning tops, replete with notations, arrows and funneling current that bring to mind Leonardo da Vinci's studies of how water works. Though rendered in a childlike manner, they are immensely sophisticated, with the economy of means and

absolute conviction fundamental to the best art. These are works of exuberant imagination.

A Wall Street graphic designer by day, New York artist David Huggins claims he first met aliens at age 7 and later fathered more than 200 half-alien babies in forced sexual experiments. "Weirdly," notes CoCA director Susan Purves, "the abductees' stories, using 12-step lingo, closely parallel those of recovered-memory ritual-abuse victims we've lately heard so much about."

### Haunting images, odd vulnerability

Though Huggins' paintings are technically amateurish, by no means conventionally "good" art, they are powerful statements about a disturbed psyche, and some of the most haunting images from the exhibition. In a blandly furnished bedroom, a boyish man lies inert and rigid in bed. A fragile, praying mantis-like phallic figure enters the room through a black doorway. In the foreground is an alien with cavernous, gaping insect eyes in a naked human female body. The ordinariness of the scene, its Edward Hopper-like emptiness, plus its sheer odd vulnerability, is broodingly disturbing.

The pinhole photograph reconstructions of saucer landings by nonbeliever Markus Tracy are especially beautiful and romantic. In sepia tones, these slightly blurred silhouettes of saucers touching down in backlit grass fields have a sweet, storybook nostalgia.

Like many group shows of this scale, CoCA's would have benefited by grouping artists thematically. Some work depends on its preoccupation with aliens to justify its presence; other work is visually strong in its own right. Written material to help the viewer sort through the rather overwhelming collection would have been welcome.

But if you can't stand the sensory overload, stay away from CoCA — it's been taken over by UFOs. The truth may be out there, but the art is in here.

The National Weather Service in Mobile, Ala. reported that there were clear skies Tuesday night with visibility of 8 to 10 miles.

After receiving calls about the lights and a possible plane crash, Eglin Range Patrol, a C-130 from Duke Field, Walton County sheriff's deputies, and more than 30 volunteers from Freeport and Woodlawn searched the areas west and east of Freeport and the more than 26,000 acres of American Farms north of Freeport.

The search ended Tuesday night.

Redovian said the Air Force didn't continue Wednesday because the Walton County Sheriff's Department planned to keep looking.

However, Col. Bill Chapman said Friday that his department didn't continue the search.

Jim Blaylock, a Freeport volunteer firefighter, said he and six

other firefighters on Tuesday's search caught a strong and distinct odor of smoldering pine straw, but never found a fire.

Blaylock said the C-130 was about a half-mile north of his location on J.W. Hollington Road east of Freeport and never flew over the heavily wooded area.

"It appears to me and everyone else there that it was a haphazard search," he said.

Blaylock, a former Civil Air Patrol member, said the lights may have been from a low-flying plane making a drug drop.

"My speculation is it was a plane dropping a particular package with a flare," he said. "If it wasn't, it isn't going to rest on my shoulders or the others who were out there. Eglin was in charge. They were calling the shots."

Eglin radar operators reported Tuesday that a falling object was detected on radar about four

miles south of Test Site C-6, but Eglin spokesman Maj. Matt Durham refuted that Wednesday as being "a bad assumption."

"We felt satisfied that nothing went down," he said. "As far as we're concerned, the matter is closed."

Durham said tapes of Tuesday's radar activity were reviewed and nothing was detected.

Eglin's Range Operations Control Center "speculated" that the lights may have been a meteor, but their was no tangible evidence, he said.

Finding a meteorite soon after it has been seen falling is a "very rare" occasion, said Wayne Wooten, staff astronomer at Pensacola Junior College's Space and Science Theater. Wooten suggested that witnesses could have seen an exploded meteor which can look like the lights on an aircraft.

VISUAL ARTS REVIEW

### "They Came Here First!"

Exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first sighting of the flying saucer, through Aug. 16 at the Center on Contemporary Art, 65 Cedar St.; 206-728-1980.

### "Military Cover-up"

by Markus Tracy is a photograph created with a pinhole camera. A four-inch plastic spaceship and toy soldiers were models.



PANEL DISCUSSION

### Are we alone?

On Tuesday, the Center on Contemporary Art presents "An Evening With the Experts," a panel discussion "on the millenarian meaning of aliens." Shedding light on the matter will be Tony Nugent, University of Washington professor of religion; Dale Goudie of the UFO Reporting and Information Service; Peter Davenport of the National UFO Reporting Center; and Dr. Susan Lepselter, an ethno-anthropologist from Austin, Texas. It's 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at CoCA, 65 Cedar St.; \$3 (CoCA members free); 206-728-1980.

# UFOs

## EVENTS WHERE!

50 years later, the world's fascination with creatures from beyond hasn't flagged one bit

By Merry Hayes  
Journal Reporter

Fifty years ago today, a Boise pilot flying near Mount Rainier spotted nine shiny objects in the sky.

Shaped like pie pans and as large as DC-4 passenger planes, they wove in and out of formation over the Cascades. The pilot, a businessman named Kenneth Arnold, thought they were jet planes. He clocked them at 1,200 mph — faster than any known aircraft at that time.

Military officials discounted Arnold's claim. And he found it hard to believe himself, telling reporters: "It seems impossible, but there it is."

That sighting on the afternoon of June 24, 1947, received worldwide publicity and sparked a deluge of similar sightings. News reports of Arnold's account coined the term "flying saucer."

A week later, a crash of what some believe was an alien spacecraft occurred near Roswell, N.M.

The modern UFO craze had begun.

Today, people across the country report seeing spaceships, strange lights and alien beings. UFO researchers spend much of their lives compiling sighting evidence, enthusiasts try to contact extraterrestrials with high-powered lights and sound recordings, and believers describe what they claim are UFO abductions.

UFOs have also invaded popular culture, from "The X-Files" to tabloid reports of humans having alien babies to the Disney World ride ExtraTERRORestrial Encounter.

Is it science fiction? Or have we made contact with beings beyond ourselves?

"It appears we are dealing with some form of intelligence," says Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle. "Who are they? Where do they come from? I have no more idea than the next guy who walks down the sidewalk."

Some say they're extraterrestrials. Other theories are time travelers, beings from other dimensions or creatures who live inside the Earth. Some believe all of the above.

Skeptics don't dispute that people are seeing strange things they can't identify. But they say it's a tremendous leap of faith to claim that UFOs are from other planets or other dimensions.

"There's no physical scientific evidence that we have been visited by



Illustration by Marcus R. Donner/Journal

other beings," says Barry Karr, executive director of the Skeptical Inquirer magazine.

Davenport seeks that evidence. He compiles reports of UFO sightings from across the country and posts them on the Internet.

UFO researchers say well over 90 percent of reported UFOs are identifiable objects such as airplane lights, ball lightning, meteors and planets. Researchers have gathered mounds of anecdotal data on the reports they can't explain, along with a few photographs and burns in the ground — but no proof.

"We're in the very beginning of our understanding of this field despite the immensity of data," Davenport says. "I think the phenomenon is very large and very complex, and we have yet to understand even the basics."

Davenport receives as many as 40 calls a day on the 24-hour UFO hot line (206-722-3000) he has operated in the basement of his home since taking over as director in 1994. Calls come in from airline pilots, law enforcement officers, air traffic controllers, UFO investigators and other citizens. They report triangular ships of all types, discs of all kinds and balls of light.

The most dramatic sighting he's investigated occurred in March in Arizona. On the night of March 13, thousands of people saw unusual lights in the sky.

Many UFO enthusiasts believe the government knows much more about UFOs than it is telling.

One of the many alleged cover-ups is the reported discovery of a crashed flying saucer and several dead aliens near Roswell in 1947.

"I think the government knows everything. They know about extraterrestrial life," says Larry Childs of Bothell, and state director of the Mutual UFO Network. "The powers that be don't want the run-of-the-mill people to know about it. They (government officials) might lose control."

But Childs says many people do know about UFOs first hand.

"A lot of people see things. A lot more than we realize," he says. "People have seen them over Bellevue. They've seen them going along I-90."

Childs and his wife, Marilyn Childs, an astronomer and former physics teacher, claim to have seen many UFOs themselves. Marilyn Childs says her relatives saw flying cigar-shaped ships in the 1800s, and she notes that ancient cultures reported witnessing gods in airships.

The couple investigates sightings as part of MUFON, which has about 170 members statewide and 6,000 around the world.

Although the group draws a fringe element that believes every sighting, MUFON says it takes an objective, scientific approach. They interview witnesses about sightings and make written reports, often employing the expertise of consultants such as psychologists, engineers and astronomers.



▲ The alien portrait above was painted by SeaTac artist David Chace, who interviews people who claim they have been abducted by UFOs and creates portraits of the beings they describe.

## Close encounters

A few recent South County reports made to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle:

5/19/95 10:30 p.m.

FEDERAL WAY. Man with two sons driving north on I-5 witnesses delta shaped craft with sequentially pulsating red lights around edge fly north, descending.

8/26/95 9:15 p.m.

AUBURN. Woman, son, three men witness object with four bright lights, one large red light underneath suddenly appear in sky. It rose, streaked.

9/10/95 10 p.m.

AUBURN. Young woman sees "black boomerang with dim lights" descend in sky. Then she and five friends see triangular ship with five lights hovering.

2/28/96 7:10 a.m.

NEWCASTLE. Man and wife witness four small, metallic-looking objects, reflecting bright sunlight, streaking north to south. First two, then third and fourth.

12/14/96 8:20 p.m.

ISSAQUAH. Three adults witness a long, narrow disc with a very bright, cream-colored light over Tiger Mountain. It draws close to woman, pursues her.



Dan DeLong/Journal

Marilyn and Larry Childs frequently look for UFOs from the front lawn of their Bothell home. The two are officers in the Mutual UFO Network, Inc.

(continued on page 6)

Kent, WA - June 24, 1997)

# The most wonderful thing ... and the worst

## Woman is convinced she was abducted

By Merry Hayes  
Journal Reporter

Evelyn McNutt used to ignore the strange experiences in her life that she couldn't explain.

Missing time. Odd lights that filled her room at night. Dreamlike memories of alien beings, spaceships and medical exams.

But two years ago, after a terrifying vision of small gray creatures coming to get her as she lay in bed, the Bothell homemaker sought to solve the mysteries.

She says research and a deep look within herself brought her the answer: She had been abducted.

"It's like the most wonderful thing that can happen to you and the worst thing," she says. "You realize that we're not alone. There's other beings out there."

A 1991 survey by the Roper Organization estimated that 4 million Americans have had what some believe are abduction-related experiences. Woodinville hypnotherapist Sharon Filip says she has counseled more than 100 of them.

Homemakers, lawyers and doctors, engineers and business owners, most in their 30s and 40s who want explanations for unusual happenings in their lives.

Filip says abductees are first taken as children and abducted again and again through adulthood. Usually at night in their bedrooms, transported through walls and closed doors and windows. Sometimes while driving a car.

They lose an hour of time here and there. They sometimes wake up in the morning with puncture wounds, rashes in unusual shapes, bruises like fingerprints as if someone had held them down. Some women who had been pregnant awake to discover their babies gone.

Often traumatized by the experiences as children, they blocked many of the memories. But they have flashbacks and recurring dreams.

Dreams of seeing and being examined by different beings — small gray creatures with round or almond-shaped eyes, beautiful blond human-like beings, scaly reptilians and insectoids. Some say they've also seen humans in military uniforms with the creatures.

Many who claim to have been abducted say they underwent medical exams. Some had surgeries, and others gave birth to hybrid children. Some were taught information about the Earth and its future.

Often the experiences are frightening, but some abductees say some of the beings express compassion and love.

Filip says siblings, parents and grandparents are often abducted as well. But it's common for people not to talk about the incidents, even within a family, because of fear of ridicule.

"They're afraid to bring it up because someone will think they're crazy," she says.

Filip, who uses hypnosis to help clients uncover memories, says people all over the world, many who've never read or heard about UFOs, recount similar experiences. And she herself has been transported through a wall and seen a being materialize in her bedroom.

"I'm a very skeptical person myself," she said. "But I don't deny the truth when it's in front of me."

Others say psychological phenomena can account for what many call abduction experiences, and they're skeptical of the use of hypnosis in these cases because people are susceptible to suggestion under hypnosis. Bob Kohlenberg, a University of Washington psychology professor, says alternative explanations have to be explored.

"It's possible that there is an actual abduction," he says. "But it takes a lot of work to rule out other explanations."

Most of McNutt's abduction memories didn't come out of the one hypnosis session she underwent, and she took psychological tests given by a psychiatrist. He diagnosed her with post-traumatic stress disorder. She says she knows the cause has been her contact with aliens, spiritual beings and creatures from other dimensions.



The case previously reported in the Foley/Fairhope, Alabama area is still ongoing and so is the investigation. I was encouraged to receive a report this week from the local MUFON President, Art Hufford, who had personally visited the area on two occasions recently. His visits were prompted by the discovery of apparent landing trace evidence on the property of the witness who has been reporting the sightings and taking video and still pictures of UFOs in that area.

The witness now logs a total of 18 unexplained sightings included those previously reported here. On the morning of April 29 the witness contacted the local investigators who have been working with him on the case to report that he had been out in his backyard hitting golf balls when he found "shoebox-sized" depressions in the ground. The same morning the investigators received an anonymous message on their answering machine from another witness who stated that he had been driving down a local highway (which turned out to be the highway that adjoins the property upon which the original witness resides) at 1:30 a.m. that morning and saw a UFO either hovering very low or landed behind a house along the road. This second witness called the investigators back later that day, providing more details of the sighting. He had been driving his wife into town on a family emergency early that morning, the man explained, and therefore could not stop as they passed by the UFO. This witness describes the craft as having a pulsing red strobe light on top with orange/white light coming out of the bottom. This description coincides exactly with the UFO

that the original witness has been seeing around his property and that which is depicted in the video and still photographs. This second witness' testimony puts a UFO very near the location where the first witness found the strange depressions in his backyard. Unfortunately this second witness wishes to remain anonymous so is not available for interview or comment.

Upon visiting the scene, the investigators found two depressions, equi-distant from a central point. The depressions were thirty-five feet and six inches apart, or seventeen feet and nine inches away from the central point. Each depression was rectangular in shape and measured 7-1/2 inches by 12 inches by 3-1/2 inches deep. These depressions were made into extremely hard ground, ground that barely shows automobile tire tracks. The edges of the depressions were sharply cut and dead straw on the ground around them was cleanly cut and pressed down into the depressions. The amount of force that would be required to cause these depressions is undetermined but the evidence at the site suggests that a formidable weight or force would have been required to make them. At the central point between the two depressions, there was a patch of earth that was scraped clean measuring 14 inches in diameter together with three other smaller scraped patches approximately four feet out from the center, forming a perfect equilateral triangle. A circular area with a diameter of approximately 34 feet across showed signs of the vegetation (berry vines, weeds, tree seedlings and straw) being pushed outward from the center with a slightly swirled effect in a clock-

wise direction. The investigators stated that the effect was not as pronounced as that seen in a crop circle, and may or may not be related to the UFO landing.

The next day, the investigators returned to the site again. This time they carried a compass into the affected area and found that there were, in fact, some magnetic anomalies. The compass needle acted in an erratic manner as the compass was carried toward the center of the area, deflecting up to between eighteen and twenty degrees away from true north as the central fourteen inch scraped area was approached. The next day this anomaly had disappeared, which would apparently rule out its being naturally occurring. Unfortunately, even though the services of Nancy Talbot, the researcher who works in conjunction with Dr. Levengood (analysis of cereal crops affected by crop circle formations) were made available, no soil or vegetation samples were taken and forwarded for analysis.

It is still quiet as far as sightings go at Shoreline Park and the construction is continuing. I was unable to attend the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON monthly meeting which took place on May 18 personally, but next week I will include a write up of the meeting by the Secretary of Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON, Boots Eckert, who also heads up the local support group. Her perspective on Ms. Dennis' presentation should be interesting.

If you have a sighting or unusual experience to report or you would wish to contact the local Experienter Support Group, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

STATESMAN-JOURNAL, Salem, OR - July 15, 1997

# Shaw residents appear unfazed by recent brush

## with alien life

Lloyd Henkel lives near the site of the Willamette Valley's most recent alien touch-down.

And he's making the most of it.

The 71-year-old Shaw resident jumped on his riding lawn mower last week, soon after reports surfaced about the crop circle on nearby farmer Dan Wavra's wheat field.

Henkel kicked his cows out of their pasture and carved his own circle on property that borders Highway 214.

The Henkel Circle is a simple one, compared to the intricate square-within-a-double-circle carved into Wavra's wheat. But it has more of an obvious purpose.

In the middle of the circle stands an alien, looking suspiciously like a wig stand with aluminum-foil antennas. The creature holds a sign, "Free Alien Parking."

Henkel is waiting for a response, sort of hanging out in a holding pattern.

"If they land, I'll give

### MARIE GRAVELLE AGRICULTURE WATCH



them free hookups," he said with a grin. "They can even take their choice of any of my beef out here."

He'd donate a goose, as well. It would do everyone a favor if aliens abducted a few of Henkel's ever-growing flock of geese.

The cattle rancher isn't the only one reacting to the crop circle. Above the freeway on a nice, south-facing slope, the wheat pattern is quite pretty. And it's attracting a load of sightseers.

Wavra and his wife aren't in the humor camp on this one.

"We have people camping there at night," the couple said. They've already lost some of their wheat crop to

the circle itself and are likely to lose more if people keep trampling about, trying to connect with Martians.

But a quarter-mile away in the Shaw Market, Roger Cone is getting some extra laughs along with the extra business.

"I think it's hilarious," he said of both the rumors of UFO landings and Henkel's handiwork.

As for those who think aliens dropped into Shaw, he quipped, "I think maybe they've been beamed up one too many times."

"I'll tell you, nobody out here is scared that we're in danger of hostile aliens."

And no one is capitalizing on the event. In Roswell, New Mexico, another possible alien touchdown spot, millions of dollars have been made by merchants selling T-shirts, mugs, even alien quilts.

But the few residents in Shaw are too busy chuckling to make a buck off their aliens.

"It's something to cheer

up this little community," said Robin Garver, a florist who laughs every time she drives by the Henkel spread.

But lest we get too cheeky here, there are those out there with profound concerns. Hundreds of crop circles pop up each year. They've led to UFO clubs, research firms and others dedicated to unraveling the mystery.

Someday, we may know whether the Shaw Incident was a UFO landing, a military weapons test, a tornado-type phenomenon, a cellular telephone that went berserk or just some guy with a Honda 4-wheeler pulling a 2-by-4.

For Henkel, and most of Shaw it appears, it's a lot more fun not to know.

"If they come and they have one of those rejuvenating machines, I'm gone," he said.

Marie Gravelle covers agriculture for the Statesman Journal. She can be reached by phone at 399-6716, by fax at 399-6706 or by e-mail at newsroom@open.org

# Close encounters in Utah

Story by Zack Van Eyck

Deseret News staff writer

At that instant, on a pitch-black, moonless morn in the fall of 1972, Lennis Gines knew what it was like to see a UFO.

"I turned the light on and this thing, whatever it was, went right up in the air to the top of the trees," said Gines, a 63-year-old widow. "That's when it scared me. I turned the lights back off and it went down again.

"If it hadn't gone up without a sound, I may have convinced myself in my mind that it was just kids driving around. But I know what I saw."

Gines soon was joined by her teenage son Sam, who was ready to round up the cows for milking. Together, they waited and watched in the dark for 45 minutes as the blue and yellow lights, some 150 yards to the east, cascaded across the river bottom.

Eventually, Gines' 16-year-old decided he'd waited long enough. His father, who was working the night shift, insisted the cows be milked on time. But Sam got no help from the family's otherwise loyal cattle dog, who whimpered and ran inside to hide.

"My boy gets in the truck and goes over, and he said he could see a doorway, windows and shadows going in and out," Gines recalled this week, nearly 25 years after the event. "It was like someone was going in and out on the ground.

"The cows were bunched together, he said, and he had quite a hard time getting them out (of the field) without the dog, but they did come down the road and into the corral. The cows were nervous and didn't give the milk they usually gave."

Gines, still frightened, helped her younger son Will get dressed, then hustled to the barn to bring Sam back to the house. But when she re-emerged from the barn, the lights were gone — all except the distant glimmer of sunlight.

The incident is one of several UFO tales that made the rounds through this highland village in the early '70s. Craig Gines, an unrelated man who lives nearby, had his own run-in with a UFO around the same time. A group of young campers were visibly shaken by an aerial observation and a local shepherd often spotted UFOs, or so the stories go.

"When I was growing up there was a lot of people saying they'd seen things but didn't know what they were," Gines' daughter, Mary Jones, said in a telephone interview from her home in San Jose, Calif.

Jones was a teenager at the time but slept through the event. She still wishes her mom had roused her out of bed.

The next morning, she went out to the pasture with her mother. In a dampened area, just across the fence on a neighbor's property, the pair saw a 25-foot wide, clockwise swirl of flattened grass.

STEPHANIE TANNER BROWN, DESERET NEWS

LARA SUTZ, DESERET NEWS



Lennis Gines believes she saw a UFO on her property in 1972.

SUNDAY EXTRA

Then she saw a beam of white light shining on the family's horses, moving from animal to animal.

But in her half-awake state, Gines was unalarmed — until she reached the downstairs sewing room at the back of the house.

With her widening eyes fixed on the brightness beyond the window, she reached through the doorway of the adjacent bathroom and flicked on the light.

WOODLAND — At first, Lennis Gines didn't think much of the blue and yellow lights in the field behind her rural Summit County home.

Probably some kids in a four-wheel drive, she thought.

It was a little early — about 4:30 a.m. — for teenage visitors. And the silent, rotating lights weren't anywhere near the narrow country lane that meandered past the family's two-story home and on to the Provo River.

INDEPENDENT, Chewelah, WA - Aug. 21, 1997

## UFOs reported over Chewelah

A number of Chewelah area residents were treated to a "close encounter" with one or more unidentified flying objects (UFOs) just before midnight on August 12 after being awakened by strong winds and strange noises.

The object (or objects) was described by one resident as a "series of spots of light rotating in a clockwise direction" in progressively larger

circles just below the clouds directly above her house. She indicated that the objects were "about four times the size" of their house.

Believing that there had to be some "reasonable explanation" for the strange lights, her husband's first thought was that the lights could be a result of reflections from a lawn sprinkler. An extensive investigation,

however, revealed "no earthly explanation" for the objects that seemed to hover and maneuver over Chewelah.

Adding to the mystery, the wind suddenly stopped and a strange silence fell over the area just as the object began hovering over their house.

In response to a frantic telephone call, a neighbor volunteered to visit the local UFO witnesses in "the nut house" first thing in the morning. The neighbor first consented to take a peek outside and quickly reported back that the strange objects were, in fact, directly over her house! The

lighted objects were described by several witnesses as flat on the bottom with a domed top as they danced about the skies just below the clouds.

Although almost anything is possible, there is a very good chance that the "objects" observed over the Chewelah area were not objects at all!

Perhaps by coincidence, the Spokane Tribal Bingo Casino recently installed a rotating laser light on top of their facility south of town and the sightings occurred on the first cloud covered evening following the installation.

"I don't know how a car could have gotten in there because it was real swampy. There were no tire tracks," Jones said. "My mom doesn't make up stories. She's always been real down-to-earth, so I really believe her."

Mary's father, however, was skeptical. And Sam, who was tragically killed a few years later, didn't like talking about it. For years, the family kept the story to itself.

Then, in 1988, a relative told the story to some co-workers. And one of them told Ryan Layton, a Davis County man who has made a hobby of investigating UFO reports on his own.

Layton called Mildred Bieseles, a Salt Lake County resident and state director for the Mutual UFO Network, one of the country's oldest and most respected UFO research organizations. Together, they visited the 15-acre Gines farm and recorded the story for the first time.

Bieseles, like any sincere UFO investigator, knows there's a mundane explanation for the large majority of sightings. In this case, she couldn't find one.

"It sounded credible," she said of Gines' account. "They weren't making a big deal of it. They were inclined to sort of underplay it. We had to find them. They weren't coming forward as an attempt at publicity."

They still aren't. Gines, whose husband died six years ago, reluctantly spoke to the Deseret News. Will Gines, who also got a look at the lights that morning, now lives next door to his mother but declined an interview.

Craig Gines, one of Sam Gines' best friends, likewise refused to talk about his own brush with the unknown. He told his story to Layton and Bieseles years ago and isn't going to relate it again, he said through a family member.

# Family saw silver discs zipping through Utah's skies

*Pilot, wife and son kept 1947 experience to themselves after friends ridiculed their account.*

**By Zack Van Eyck**  
Deseret News staff writer

Roswell, N.M., is the UFO capital of the world this week, all because of an event the U.S. government says never happened.

Imagine what Utah would be like if a small plane piloted by Earl "Skip" Page had collided with a UFO in the skies above Utah Lake.

According to Page's two passengers, it almost happened.

On the clear, sunlit afternoon of July 12, 1947, Page, his wife, Beulah, and their 9-year-old son, Ronald, were flying a two-seater from Las Vegas to Salt Lake City. UFO sightings and the alleged crash near Roswell were big news in America that summer, but the Pages had no idea what was about to take place.

At roughly 3:30 p.m., a group of silver-colored, disc-shaped objects zipped past the Pages' plane, coming within about 50 feet of the aircraft at the same altitude. It was a near-miss Beulah, now 81, and Ronald, 59, will never forget.

"At first we thought it was birds. We just saw the movement," Beulah, a Salt Lake native, said in a telephone interview from her home in Olympia, Wash. "My husband turned (the plane) to where they were going and they zoomed away like crazy.

"It got kind of scary when we turned toward their direction. They just disappeared."

The entire sighting lasted only a few seconds. The Pages didn't notice markings, windows or even how many objects

were in the cluster. Beulah thinks there might have been three.

"There was definitely something there," said Ronald, who was squeezed in between his parents but had a good view of the sky. "Those were the days before we had jet airplanes or anything like that. I'd seen fighter aircraft in those days, but they weren't anything like what I saw."

Once they arrived in Salt Lake City, the Pages told their story to family members and friends they had come to visit. The reaction was one of skepticism and ridicule. Within days the trio stopped talking about the event, although the story is well-known in the family.

"I remember it made them nauseous because they didn't know what it was," said Marilyn Pope, Beulah's niece, who lives in Wyoming. "It was just something completely new they'd never seen. It was kind of a shock."

By keeping the story to themselves, the Pages avoided the public scrutiny and grief experienced by Kenneth Arnold, the Boise pilot who had a similar sighting on June 24, 1947.

Earl Page did tell the story to Frank Salisbury, who married into the family in 1949. Salisbury, who will retire this summer as a professor of plant physiology at Utah State University, had a keen interest in UFOs and would later write "The Utah UFO Display." His 1974 book contains the only previously published account of the Pages' near-miss.

"It was apparently a tremendously moving experience for them," Salisbury said. "Apparently those objects zipped under his wing not very far away, so it was really very impressive."

Dozens of UFO sightings were reported by the media during the now-famous "wave of '47," but hundreds of

others were later uncovered by UFO researcher and author Ted Bloecher. In a 1967 book, Bloecher reported no less than 853 UFO sightings in the United States that summer, including 363 reports of multiple objects flying together. Most were spotted during the day and between July 4-8. According to Bloecher, 160 sightings were made on July 7 and very few occurred after July 13.

Earl Page was born in Bountiful in 1912. He moved his family from Salt Lake City to Hanford, Wash., in 1943 to work as an electrical engineer at the government's then-secret nuclear weapons facility. The plutonium production outpost was so isolated the family often took weekend plane trips. The July 1947 trek was a vacation journey to California, Nevada and finally to Utah.

Earl Page later served as a maintenance supervisor at Hanford. He died of a heart attack at the age of 49. To that day, he remained convinced he saw something extraordinary in Utah's skies. Whether or not it was extraterrestrial, Page's widow and son can't say for sure.

"Do I think they were real? Yeah, I think they were real," said Ronald, who lives near Richland, Wash., and works at Hanford. "What they were I can't say, but in today's world I probably would have thought less of it than at that time."

Earl Page's wife remarried and is now Beulah Ditto. She grew up in a Salt Lake home at 600 South and 700 East near the old streetcar barns. That house is now a parking lot, but she still has family in Utah — and the memory of an event that nearly changed history.

## More stonewalling on UFO information

In my last UFO-coverup update (Letters, July 31), I lamented the fate of my Freedom of Information Act request sent months ago to the Army in my quest for certain documentary evidence supporting retired Lt. Col. Philip J. Corso's alleged role in the U.S. military's back-engineering of one or more crash-landed "flying saucers" from the late '40s and early '50s.

In order to loosen the Army's tight grip on that evidence, I'm seeking help from Sen. Charles Robb, D-Va. Also, on Sept. 10 I wrote to Helen F. Fahey, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. Summarizing the import of Corso's expose as published in his memoir "The Day After Roswell," I asked Fahey to empanel a special grand jury to examine and report on [Corso's] revelations.

I explained the need to "activate this 'people's panel' that by its reporting function can expose and defuse what may well be the greatest violation of the public trust ever committed."

But those lofty words failed to stir any curiosity or any sense of duty on the part of Ms. Fahey. One almost could hear a sigh of kiss-off relief when, on Sept. 22, she sent me this reply: "Based on the information you provided, I must decline to empanel a grand jury to investigate the 'Roswell' incident."

Now, one wonders what kind of information would convince Fahey to change her mind. How about a mass landing of "flying saucers" on the White House lawn? Or what if *The Journal* got a leaked copy of the medical examiner's report on the retrieved alien bodies (as revealed by Corso)?

LARRY W. BRYANT  
Alexandria

# Hypnotherapist believes patients may have been alien abductees

By KAREN TESTA  
Associated Press Writer

The light-hearted conversation between a mother and her teenage daughter suddenly turned solemn. Both women were frightened, skittish — and had no idea why their mood had changed.



— John S. Stewart/AP

**'ALIEN' THERAPIST:** John Carpenter describes places and beings that people under hypnosis recall seeing. Patients claim they've "lost time" somewhere. They have no recollection of a few hours in their lives, fearing they may have been abducted by aliens. Carpenter, a licensed clinical social worker in Springfield, Mo., hypnotizes patients and interviews them about their "lost time."

Lynne Bishop remembers that warm, spring day in 1972. She and her mom were in their car driving toward the north-central Arkansas town of Marshall, where they'd normally make a turn toward home.

"All of a sudden — blank," Mrs. Bishop said. "Next thing you know we're driving on a road we didn't know. We're both very nervous, very scared.

"I said, 'Mom, where are we?' She said, 'I have no idea.'"

They turned around and found their way back to Marshall — but were on the opposite side of town from which they'd come. When they arrived home, they realized they were an hour late. It was an hour they could not account for until 20 years later, when they met John Carpenter, who helped them unlock the mystery: They'd been abducted by aliens.

"I really didn't want it to be anywhere near the truth," said Mrs. Bishop, who uses a pseudonym when she talks publicly of her experiences.

Yet she believed what she revealed to Carpenter under hypnosis was true, especially after her mother told the same story of being lifted into a craft and examined by strange creatures.

## What are aliens like?

John Carpenter, a licensed social worker and UFO researcher, said his studies have revealed similar stories from nearly all people who believe they have been abducted by aliens. He reports:

- The aliens are stick-figures, between 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 feet tall, with gray bodies, oversized heads and dark, almond-shaped eyes.
- The creatures do not talk, but rather communicate through telepathy.
- Abductions tend to continue through generations of families.
- In nearly all abductions, a beam of light is used as a transporter. "They never go out the front door," he said.
- There has never been an instance of deliberate harm or malice by an alien.
- Aliens do not want to conquer the world. "They have no need to do that," he said.

Mrs. Bishop met Carpenter at a UFO conference in Eureka Springs, Ark., in 1992.

"When my mother corroborated it, in a way made it worse," Mrs. Bishop, now 43, said. "It took away the ability for me to say it didn't happen at all."

Carpenter, a licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist in Springfield, Mo., who is himself a believer in aliens, said the story of Mrs. Bishop and her mother is quite common. He says that most people who are abducted by aliens — participants, as Carpenter likes to call them — are

not wackos who relish the idea.

"They don't claim to want it," said Carpenter, whose business card identifies him as the national director for abduction research for Mutual UFO Network, based in Seguin, Texas.

In the past nine years, Carpenter has screened some 300 supposed "abductees" and found about 120 credible enough for further study. For those, he employed the same hypnotic technique he uses on patients who want to quit smoking or lose weight.

On weekdays, Carpenter, 42, is a therapist who does marriage and family counseling. He does UFO research on his own time and doesn't go out of his way to let his regular patients know of his hobby.

Still, Carpenter does not try to keep it a secret. He speaks at conventions all over the country, holds support groups for abductees and presides over public meetings to discuss his work.

## Tech today

## The search for signs of life in cyberspace

By Terry Schwadron

I'll admit it. I haven't decided for sure whether aliens crashed 50 years ago in the desert outside Roswell, N.M. Then again, I don't worry about it too much.

Why interplanetary travelers would pick such a spot is beyond me, but, for lots of folks, the question seems consuming. Next month, thousands of people are expected to descend on Roswell for a celebration and quasi-scientific debate over exactly what did happen half a century ago.

Whatever you want to believe, be sure of this: You can find supporting evidence on the Web.

There are several sites questioning whether a large dent in the ground was caused by an out-of-control weather balloon or a misguided spacecraft, whether a quartet of extraterrestrials were inside and later autopsied and whether the government is covering it all up.

The Web is the perfect forum for the believe-it-or-not quality of the Roswell debate. For the casual visitor, facts may matter less than presentation; the story may have to be sort-of-true-enough to support the sales of UFO-related paraphernalia and excitement.

I am pretty certain that these sites are assembled by earthbound terrestrials who want to control your personal computer. Here's a rundown of some of what you might find:

Perhaps you can avoid my mistake. I started at the Popular Science site (<http://www.popsci.com>), thinking that the magazine-sponsored site would probably have a solid and fun presentation. I was right, with one exception.

The magazine's Web Roswell special report has been turned into a game — an intelligent, informative scavenger hunt — that actually demands that we know some of the significant or silly facts about the event. The presentation was great, but only

a real fan of the debate could possibly know the answers. A survey about whether I would agree to join aliens on a romp through interplanetary space was easier to handle.

Instead, I pressed my Web controls and moved — admittedly at something less than warp speed — to a site calling itself the Roswell Incident site (<http://www.roswell.org>). It looked quite official, and in most serious tones, the site walks visitors through all of the evidence, testimony, myths and counterclaims of alien invasions.

Not to spoil things for you, but these are folks who don't believe.

Within the site is a copy of the definitive 1995 Government Accounting Office Report on Roswell (<http://www.roswell.org/gao.html>), ordered by Rep. Steven H. Shiff (R-N.M.) who wanted to find if the government had covered up the Roswell events.

The report itself is pretty plain by Web standards, all text and no fun. But the hard-core fan of the debate will probably appreciate its many juicy tidbits. Several entertainment sites weigh in, among them Hollywood On-Line, (<http://www.hollywood.com/holiday/roswell/html>), which is owned by the Los Angeles Times. There is absolutely no information about Roswell, but there are recommendations about good UFO-type movies.

At an Air Force links site (<http://www.af.mil/navigate>), one can do a site search for Roswell information and retrieve some original Roswell Army Air Field documents about the New Mexico brouhaha. By now, I was having trouble believing in any government documents.

By contrast, I loved visiting a site at <http://www.sierra-vista.com/roswell>, which came complete with java applets carrying the 50-year-old news from the Roswell Daily Record across the bottom of the screen as if it were breaking news, along with some well-executed graphics and music.

An area calling itself the Roswell Autopsy Film site ([http://www.execpc.com/\(TILDE\)vjntpr/jroswell](http://www.execpc.com/(TILDE)vjntpr/jroswell)) has lots of anonymous analysis of photographs and films taken in and around Roswell to argue that something happened.

For the basic UFO aficionado, there is a plethora of space-wandering sites. I'd start at UFO Resources (<http://www.newageinfo.com/res/ufo.htm>), which has enough link information to hold reader attention until ET gets home.

## Norman had its own UFOs 50 years ago

By ROB COLLINS  
Of The Norman Transcript

Before Air Force officials in Fort Worth, Texas, declared that the wreckage found near Roswell, N.M., was nothing more than a weather observation balloon, Norman experienced two reported sightings and a mysterious blast in the early days of July 1947.

W.H. Carson, who was dean of engineering at the University of Oklahoma at the time, reported spotting unidentified flying objects on July 6, 1947, according to the July 7 edition of *The Norman Transcript*.

Carson, who served as dean from 1937 to 1962, wouldn't swear that they were "flying saucers," but his wife and a couple of neighbors corroborated the story.

The strange objects were reportedly seen flying over Norman about 6 p.m. on July 6. Carson said he was resting in a hammock back of his home at 943 Chautauqua Ave. when he saw a silver object at an estimated height of 15,000 to 20,000 feet.

When his wife Emma joined him, Carson mentioned the unusual object. About that time, two more appeared and were witnessed by Mrs. Carson and the neighbors.

"I don't know what they were, but we saw them," Carson told *The Transcript*.

Carson, who died in 1969, said the objects were traveling from east to west into the setting sun.

Due to the height, the engineering dean said it was impossible to determine the shape of the flying objects. Carson, in whose honor Carson Engineering Center was named, did not notice any apparent noise or smoke trails.

Another story that appeared in the July 7, 1947 edition of *The Transcript* described a "big noise" heard by a large number of Normanites the same evening as Carson's sighting.

Police made an extensive check of the west and southwestern parts of town after the sound, which shook walls and made windows tremble.

One man facetiously remarked that maybe one of those flying saucers landed in Norman. That same edition of *The Transcript* included a United Press story that quoted George Kuger of Denver describing a flying disc with an American flag on it.

In another local incident, Mrs. Dewey Clawson of 321 N. Flood Ave. reported seeing a falling object that bore no resemblance to a falling star just before "good dark" on July 7, according to the July 9, 1947 edition of *The Transcript*.

Mrs. Clawson said she was sitting on her back porch when she noticed the object falling from the sky. It had the appearance of being approximately 6 to 8 inches in

diameter and appeared to disintegrate as it fell earthward, she said.

Mrs. Clawson said her son, Stuart, saw a similar object on July 5. He initially believed it was a firefly but later realized it was too large. It was also too high for any kind of fireworks.

In the same issue of *The Transcript*, the United Press reported the regional Army Air Force announcement that explained the wreckage of an object found on a New Mexico ranch near Roswell.

AAF headquarters in Washington reportedly delivered a "blistering" rebuke to officers at the Roswell base for suggesting that it was a "flying saucer." Over the years, Roswell made a comeback as people began talking about alien bodies that were allegedly recovered.

In the early days of the Cold War, the UFO frenzy had gone nationwide. According to the July 8, 1947, edition of *The Transcript*, strange discs had been reported over most of the 48 states, parts of Canada and Mexico City.

A "flying saucer" in the hand was worth \$3,000, the United Press reported. There were no takers for rewards of \$1,000 each offered in Chicago, Los Angeles or Spokane for "a genuine flying saucer."

Russian Vice Consul Eugene Tunantzev in Los Angeles scoffed at suggestions that the saucers might be from Russia.

U.S. Army officials discounted theories that the flying discs might be secret weapons for use in bacteriological warfare. They said it was significant that none of the discs had yet registered on Army radar.

On July 10, 1947, President Harry Truman compared the UFO controversy to the famous moon hoax that was more than a century old.

That hoax, which was printed in the *New York Sun*, told of the discovery of man-bats living on the moon and seen through a secret, powerful telescope.

Truman also said he knew nothing more about the saucers than he had seen in the newspapers.

SKYWATCH DIARY  
By CAROLE BAKER

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - June 4, 1997

On Saturday evening, a group of us travelled to the Foley/Fairhope area to skywatch and hopefully have a sighting of the craft that is being reported from that area. Sadly, by the time darkness fell, the only thing illuminating the sky was lightning, and it was quite a show. It was soon followed by heavy rainfall, so all that was accomplished was the setting up and taking down of cameras and lawn chairs, etc. Avid skywatchers, we may be, but foolhardy enough to sit out in a field during a lightning storm, I don't think so! Hopefully the opportunity to skywatch over there will arise again, and we will be able to return hopeful of a sighting.

While there, one of the investigators working on the case advised me of another sighting that occurred around 2 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20. An employee of

a local sheriff's department, who wishes to remain anonymous in order to protect their job, reported seeing a UFO less than one quarter mile away above some trees while driving home from their shift. The other witness also reported seeing three or four lights which shone spotlights on the ground intermittently as if searching for something. This continues to be an interesting case and as I come across any further information, I will continue to report it here.

My thanks to Boots Eckert for the following report from the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON monthly meeting a couple of weeks ago. "The guest speaker for the May 18 meeting of Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON was Caryll Dennis of Clearwater, Florida. Caryll is a popular speaker at conferences around the United States. She is an experiencer and a

researcher of UFO-related phenomena, especially on extraordinarily gifted children, the vanishing twin phenomenon, and the science of colors. She is the author of three books: *The UFO Reference Book*, *Colorology: The study of the Science of Colors*, and *The Millenium Children: Takes of the Shift*. During her presentation she shared her intriguing story, as well as her research into these areas.

In her book *Colorology: The study of the Science of Colors*, Caryll tells how our lives are affected by colors and explains how and why. She reveals details about her frequent visions of "The Spiral of Life," which consists of all colors of the rainbow, and how we fit into that spiral.

During her research Caryll discovered that in many cases of pregnancy that had been diagnosed as twins, only one baby was

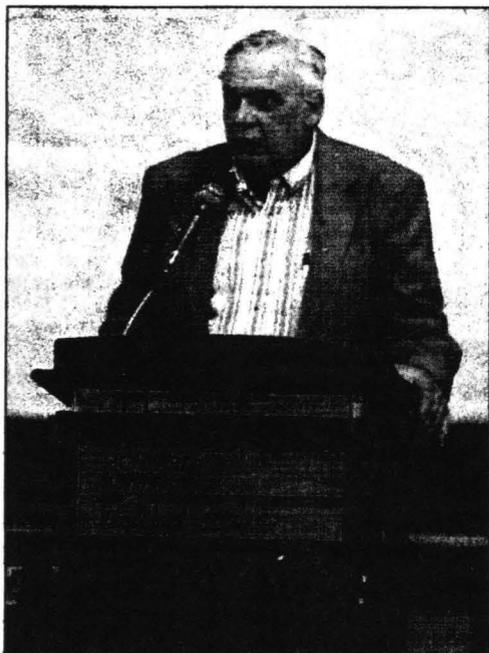
born. She also discovered that she was one such twin. She shared fascinating details of how her twin, Karyl, communicates with her and helps her.

Caryll's latest book, *The Millenium Children: Tales of the Shift*, addresses the fact that a great many extraordinarily gifted children are being born. Their intelligence level is in the genius range and they have a variety of creative and inventive talents, including healing, inventing, retention of pre-birth memories, unusual physical strength, and marked psychic and telekinetic abilities.

Caryll believes that these children are the forerunners, the ones who will make it possible for us to get through the Earth changes.

Some visitors to Shoreline Park this week include a couple from Georgia and a young family from Clearwater, Florida who intend to make Gulf Breeze their home. They have a deep interest in the UFO phenomenon and feel drawn to move to the Gulf Breeze area. I am sure that they will become regular skywatchers once they are settled in. Still no sightings to report from Shoreline Park. Hope springs eternal.

If you have a sighting or unusual experience to report or you would wish to contact the local Experiencer Support Group, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!



Times Union / TOM LAPOINT

**RICHARD PRICE** speaks about what he claims was a visit from alien beings at the Howard Johnson Hotel and Conference Center in Albany.

## Man not alone retelling tale of alien abduction

By DARRYL CAMPAGNA  
Staff writer

**B**efore the lecture began, the young woman sitting in the small audience told of lying in bed waiting to fall asleep one night four years ago when she suddenly "felt this energy or presence, and it felt like it wanted to come into the back of my head."

Realizing it was futile to struggle, she said she allowed the force to pass into her skull. After that experience, she said she found a rounded lump under her scalp, about a half-inch in diameter. She's never had a doctor examine it, believing medical intervention is not necessary. She parted her nearly waist-length hair with her fingers and pointed out the spot to anyone who wanted to touch it. About the size of a dime, it felt smooth and hard and was centered a couple of inches above the nape of her neck. She said she's not sure if she has an alien implant, but she does believe she had some kind of supernatural experience.

The woman did not give her name or say where the incident took place, saying she did not want to provide

too many telling details.

The gray-haired, grandmotherly-looking woman sitting two rows farther back at the Howard Johnson's meeting room had brought a photograph to prove why she believes in Unidentified Flying Objects. She showed a picture taken at a family reunion at Great Sacandaga Lake in July 1987, in which a bright, oval-shaped object surrounded by Saturn-like rings hovered over a group of children. But nobody saw that object when the picture was taken, the woman said. She insisted it wasn't a flaw on the negative that appeared during developing. It was, she said, a UFO.

"They're there," she said. "They're right around you, but you don't see them."

Fourteen believers and skeptics turned out Tuesday night and paid \$5 at the Howard Johnson Hotel and Conference Center in Albany to hear Colonie resident Richard Price Sr. talk about his alien abduction, which he says occurred in a cemetery in the Lansingburgh section of Troy when he was 8 years old.

Price is well-known in UFO circles;

he enjoyed a round of appearances on radio and television in the early 1990s. That celebrity came soon after a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology agreed to examine the implant Price says the aliens had put into him. He's begun speaking again recently about his abduction because he disagrees with the professor's finding — published in 1995 — that the implant was not extraterrestrial in origin.

Now 50, Price says the abduction has shaped his entire life. It affected his performance in school, rendering him unable to concentrate; it affected his two marriages, one of which ended in divorce and the other in estrangement; and it had a lasting effect on his emotional state.

He's not making a fortune telling his story. He used to work as a cable television installer, but he has been unemployed and living on Social Security disability for the past several years.

"I don't consider myself having mental problems," Price said Tuesday. "I consider myself having emotional problems. I'm a person

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - July 9, 1997

## SKYWATCH DIARY

By CAROLE BAKER

Well another interesting week of skywatching at Shoreline Park, and more visitors to report. We spent a great evening with Terry and Catherine Waite from Sacramento, California. They are avid astronomers and also very interested in UFOs. We really enjoyed talking with them and "swapping lies" as the saying goes. Unfortunately we were not able to have a sighting, but we did spot several satellites as they flew overhead.

Everyone has been talking a lot about the Roswell Anniversary, the new Air Force Report and Philip J. Corso's new book "The Day After Roswell," Philip Corso also appeared on the NBC show "Dateline" last week. The T.V. and news coverage as well as the contents of this new book have given rise to much interest and discussion of the Roswell incident.

A friend of the regular skywatching group, Rick Bos and his children stopped by at Shoreline Park on Saturday evening on their way to Roswell for the 50th Anniversary celebration. We hope Rick and his kids will share their experience of the event with us at a later date.

The sightings are still continuing in the Foley/Fairhope, Alabama area. This week I received a new report from one of the investigators there, Clopton Jones.

It appears that the original witness is still having sightings around his home, and there have been other witnesses in the area, as previously reported here. This new report includes some very interesting confirmation from a private pilot, who is not acquainted with the original witness at all.

On Monday, June 17th, 1997, a report was telephoned to Clopton Jones by a reliable witness stating that between 9:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on the evening of June 16th, 1997, he had seen a ring of lights

in the sky near his residence in south-east Alabama. The lights appeared to be less than one quarter of a mile to the north-west of his residence and after watching the ring of lights for approximately four minutes, they were lost to sight behind the treeline. The witness was awoken later that night by a very bright light behind his residence, which upon closer observation appeared to be several lights close together with four other lights forming a square configuration around them, shining downward. There was no noise audible from either of these sightings.

The following morning, Tuesday, June 18th, 1997 at 9:30 p.m., Clopton Jones received a call from a private pilot whose identity is now known to Clopton Jones, but who wishes to remain anonymous. The pilot states that between 1:30 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. that morning he was getting in some night flying in his Cessna at an altitude of between 800 and 1000 feet over south-east Alabama. He observed a strange object below his plane. Circling back to get a better look, he states that the object below him appeared to be a disc-shaped object between thirty five and forty feet across, and had three or four bright lights on the outside of it. He watched the object for about four minutes, and was able to see that below the object on the ground were two house trailers and a shed. This description of this site rang a bell with Clopton Jones, as it matches exactly the buildings at the residence of the original witness in this string of sightings. Clopton Jones then casually called the original witness and was not surprised when the witness volunteered that he has a sighting the previous night at around 1:30 a.m. The witness was concerned because as he stated to Clopton Jones, "This time it was different, there was this whine type noise that had a higher

pitch than the Navy planes which fly over here so much." Clopton Jones conjectures that what the witness was hearing was actually the Cessna flying above the UFO. The witness also stated that there appeared to be a strange dark circle in his yard that measured approximately 45" across that had not been there the day before. Clopton Jones went immediately to visit the site, accompanied by his wife Sue and their daughter Barbara, who is also a UFO investigator, based in Arkansas.

There was in fact a discolored circle of grass approximately 45" in diameter with a 10" circle at its center in which the centipede grass appeared completely dead, apparently having been burned. Clopton Jones proceeded to pass a compass over this central circle and the compass varied as much as fifty degrees as it crossed the center. Further tests have not been carried out, so this magnetic evidence is inconclusive.

This continues to be an interesting case and any further reports that I receive I will share as they come in.

In lieu of a regular meeting this month, Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON plans a "Potluck Supper Party" for its members at the home of its president and his wife, Art and Mary Hufford. More information regarding this event can be obtained by calling the hotline number below. This will be a great opportunity for our members to get to know each other better and discuss some of the interesting stuff that is going on right now.

If you have a sighting or unusual experience to report or would wish to contact the local experimenter support group please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze UFO Hotline at 4338-3261. If you would like any information please write to: Carole Baker, P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152. Keep Looking Up!

who didn't expect this to happen to me."

Price's account is detailed, and for an hour he gave it to the audience of 14: He was playing with a boy down the street from his childhood home on 10th Avenue in Lansingburgh when he heard a peculiar sound similar to, but not exactly like, an approaching train. His playmate stayed behind, but Price followed the sound the distance of several city blocks to the Oakwood Cemetery. There, he saw two creatures about his height, clad in uniform tunics and helmets, with slanting dark eyes.

At first terrified, Price tried to run. But the creatures used some force to draw him to them. They escorted him to a disk-shaped craft about 50 yards long that was sitting in a clearing in the nearby woods. They took him on board, where they were joined by two other aliens. The aliens put him down on a table, examined him and then inserted a tiny implant a few millimeters long under the skin of his penis.

"I think they were looking for nerve endings," he said.

Although the aliens spoke among themselves in a language unintelligible to him — Price described it as similar to the sound of stereo equipment being played too slow — he understood one when it warned him to never remove the implant or he would die. He does not remember the experience as particularly painful or frightening. The aliens also handed him a small piece of parchment-like material that contained an alphabet of geometric symbols. Price said he hid the parchment in the back of a radio in his childhood home and did not retrieve it when his family moved from that house some years later.

Price initially talked about the abduction to his father, who dismissed it as the product of an active childhood imagination. He later confided in his grandmother, who seemed to believe him but warned him to be careful of discussing the incident. It wasn't until he was 16 and talked about it to a classmate that word of his experience spread widely, triggering ridicule and isolation.

"The experience itself wasn't bad, but the aftereffects were bad," he said.

Price said he was in his early 40s when the implant worked its way through the skin and he was able to pull it out. David Pritchard, a MIT professor with an interest in abduction experiences, heard about Price and agreed to examine the implant in 1989. He studied it on his own

and with the help of some other researchers until 1994. He presented his initial findings at an abduction studies conference at MIT in 1992, and published them in 1995 in a compilation of papers presented at the conference.

His conclusion? The implant was consistent with the hardened pus and other natural substances that the body produces when it is encasing an irritant such as an ingrown hair. The tiny projectiles that Price says were transmitter wires were consistent with cotton fibers, Pritchard said.

However, that doesn't mean Pritchard, a professor of physics, is ready to discount Price's abduction story. A number of alien abduction narratives have a surprising amount of similarity, even among people who have never spoken or heard each other's accounts, Pritchard said.

"The fact is, we're trying to send probes to other planets," he said. "I don't consider it at all unreasonable that some extraterrestrials will figure out how to send robots here."

"My view is it's hard to discredit the man's testimony as testimony," Pritchard added. "It's been consistent over the years. So what do you make of the story? To him it's real. To me, as a Western-trained scientist, there's no physical evidence. There's a phenomenon of people reporting similar stories as real. To them, they're real, but they're not crazy."

Price's audience Tuesday didn't seem to think he was crazy. Even those who said they might need a little more convincing found his talk interesting.

"The pure truth is a very rare thing," said one man in the audience who described himself as a singer and songwriter and goes by the stage name of "It's Only Me Dino." "Interesting, OK? But like I said, I'm a healthy skeptic."

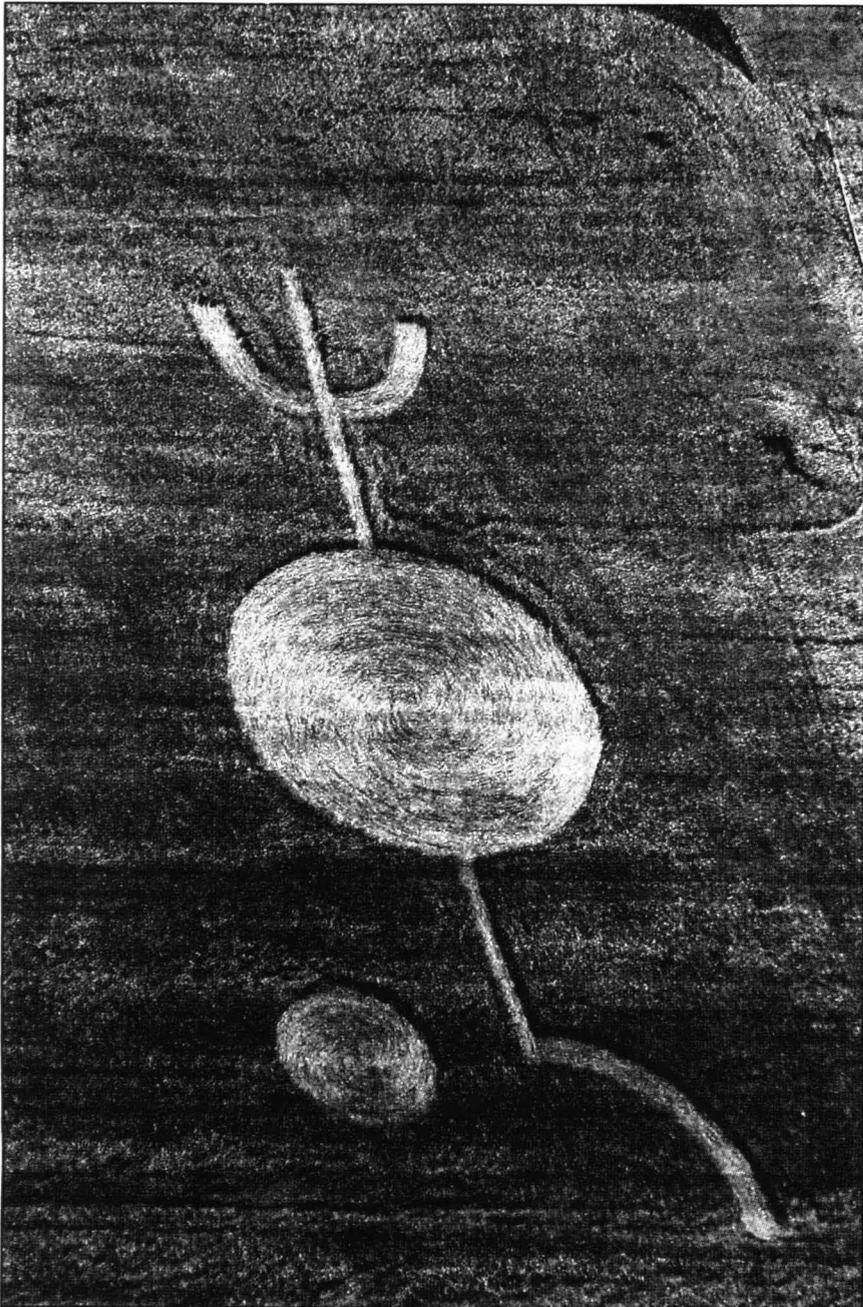
Price, in the meantime, hopes to soon finish the book about his abduction experience that he's been writing off and on for the past eight years or so. He also publishes a newsletter a few times a year that mixes updates about his life with items about UFO findings and abduction experiences. He has a mailing list of about 200 people and charges \$2 a year for a subscription.

He also had some advice for anyone who's had an experience like his. "Come out in the open and talk about it, because there just might be that one individual who can fill in the blank," he said.

# Extraterrestrial Life? Or Joker Up Late at Night?

BY MARK HAVNES and ERIC RODERICK

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE



Mitch Mascaro/The Associated Press

## ET or TEE-HEE-HEE?

This aerial view shows a crop circle discovered Sunday in Gary Hansen's wheat field in Cache County. Could it be a message from extraterrestrials of distant worlds, or merely an elaborate hoax from pranksters bored out of their skulls in this one?

SMITHFIELD — They're back! For the second time in less than a year, mysterious crop circles have appeared in a Cache County barley field outside Smithfield, leaving residents scratching their heads as to their cause.

The circles — which have been attributed before to everything from pranksters to UFOs to gophers — were discovered Sunday at 6:30 a.m. by farmer Gary Hansen in his field across U.S. Highway 91 from his house.

Hansen's daughter Maegan, 15, said drivers have been pulling off the highway since Monday afternoon when an aerial photograph of the circle appeared in the *Herald Journal*. She said people are taking pictures of the circles or standing at the center of the larger one, presumably for cosmic enlightenment.

Visitors have been a problem, she said, trampling through the 750-acre field of barley that is about 2 1/2 feet high.

"We've had to put up 'no trespassing' signs," said Maegan.

She said there are two unusual things about the circles. First, when a visitor to the site opened his compass, the needle started to spin wildly. Second, the rocks within the circles have not been disturbed as one would expect if something were dragged over them, such as a board or rope.

Maegan's brother, Dustin, said the stalks in the circle were laid down perfectly.

"It's amazing the way it's made," he said. "Every grain piece is laid in a perfect spot. No kernels broken. If you step on it, the kernels are [normally] crushed."

Gary Hansen is also mystified, saying he has never seen anything like it.

He refused to guess the cause of the circles, but called them a "mess" that has cost him about \$500 in trampled grain.

When asked if he believed in UFOs, he said, "I haven't, but it's starting to make me think a little bit now."

Others have been thinking about it, too.

Maegan Hansen said that some have speculated the designs were made by the devil in an attempt to "corrupt our minds," while others have attributed them to "angels sending a blessing."

One observer Tuesday said he thought they were gifts of art from a higher intelligence.

"My friends think it's all pretty weird," said Maegan who begins Sky View High School in the fall. "They call me the 'Alien Girl.'"

The circles were not the first in the county.

On Aug. 23, 1996, a circle with an extended design appeared in farmer Seth Alder's field in Providence, about 15 miles south of Smithfield.

While no one ever came up with a definitive answer for what made it, county Sheriff Sid Groll said a farmer told him that gophers will make grain lie down when they trim kernels from the stalks. The sheriff's department did not investigate the latest incident.

But Luci Olsen of Young Ward was driving with her husband, county sheriff's Sgt. Mark Olsen, in August when he received a call to investigate the circle at Alder's farm.

"I had my video camera with me so I grabbed it and filmed it out of curiosity," she said after visiting the Hansen field.

She said she was interviewed about the circle by the tabloid TV show "Strange Universe" and sold the show a copy of her tape.

Richard Hall, chairman of the Fund for UFO Research in Washington, D.C., was surprised to hear about the circles on Tuesday.

"That is very intriguing. Just [Monday] we got a call about a circle outside Trenton, N.J."

JOURNAL-STAR, Lincoln, NE - July 14, 1997

# 2nd crop circle thought to be hoax

BY BETTY VanDEVENTER  
Lincoln Journal Star

There's another one... But the finders of this crop circle say it's probably a hoax. It's different from the one found Friday in the same Waverly wheat field.

Two 16-year-olds, Craig Boline of Waverly and Nate Kellison of Lincoln found the second, smaller crop circle Sunday morning about 10 feet away from the first. Boline suspects teen-agers he spotted near the first crop circles shortly after midnight Sunday may be responsible for this one. Boline's mother, Brenda Kruse, explained the most recent discovery.

Boline arrived home shortly after midnight Sunday and saw about five cars parked on a dead end road about 1 1/4 blocks from his house near the first crop circle. He thought he might have known the teens, so he drove down the road. When the invaders saw his car lights, they ducked. Boline drove back to his house and then heard tires squealing, leaving rubber on the road, as

they sped away.

About 11 a.m. Sunday, Boline and Kellison walked to the wheat field to look at the first crop circles. That's when they found the second one. But this one was smaller and it looked like people had walked between the crop circles, trampling down wheat.

"We can't really explain how it got there."

—Thomas Zuercher, Waverly farmer

And when they looked more closely at the new circle, they discovered the golden wheat was broken off at or near the ground and all the wheat was flattened in a counter-clockwise direction.

Boline's step-brother, B.J. Kruse, and Nick Bartlett found the first crop circles on the south edge of Wa-

verly, just off the dead end street near 140th Street and Amberly Road.

They said there were no tracks leading to the first crop circle described as a depression that looked like a big "F" or a big key. The larger circle was about 40 feet in diameter and the smaller one about half that size. They said wheat along the outer rim of those circles was flattened, but not broken off, in a clockwise direction while wheat on the inside was flattened counter-clockwise.

"We think the first one was real. We really do," Brenda Kruse said. But she, too, thinks the second is suspicious. The teen-agers would have had to make the second crop circle in less than an hour, she said, be-

cause they weren't there when she and her husband, Dale, returned home at about 11 p.m.

Some people speculate the first circles were the imprints left by alien landing craft; others think pranksters are likely responsible or a natural phenomena called ion plasma vortices — brief, intense flashes of microwave energy that are drawn toward the Earth by magnetic fields.

Whatever they are and however they got there, the crop circles were drawing lots of sightseers Sunday.

People were jogging over to the wheat field, driving over or walking their dogs by to see the unexplained crop circles just behind the Kruses' house. Brenda Kruse said she suspects the family has seen at least 300 sightseers from their dining room and living room windows.

And a lot of people in Waverly and Lincoln were talking about them.

"When I went up to work, they kind of gave me a tough time," B.J. Kruse said. He works at the Trackside in Waverly.

"The majority of the people we talked to didn't think it was people," who made the first crop circle, the 15-year-old said. "They thought it was something else."

Brenda Jokisalo and Carol Rogers of Lincoln drove out Sunday to see the crop circles. Rogers said she's been following stories about crop circles for about 10 years, since she visited the British Isles and became interested in prehistoric stone

circles.

Thomas Zuercher, who farms the wheat field for his aunt, said he hasn't seen anything like it in the 25 years he's been farming near Waverly.

"We can't really explain how it got there," he said, noting that there were no tracks or footprints leading up to the first crop circle when he saw it the first time.

It would have been time consuming and difficult for someone to have made the first one, he said, and unlikely they could have done it without being seen by someone in the neighborhood.

If you hadn't seen the crop circles by late Sunday afternoon, it was too late. Zuercher combined the wheat field.

While some say the Waverly crop circles may be the first reported in Lancaster County, Hank Highsmith, 43, of Lincoln says he saw some 20 or so years ago.

Highsmith, who now works for a welding supply company, said he was hauling grain for his father-in-law Ted Stevens of Waverly when Stevens pointed out the odd depressions he found in a wheat field between Prairie Home and Waverly. Highsmith said Stevens, who is now deceased, was leasing the field just north of Prairie Home, around July 4, 1977, when he found the circles. Highsmith said one circle was about 30 feet in diameter.

"We didn't do anything. He just combined right over them," Highsmith said.

# Another crop circle crops up in valley

By Lance Pitcher  
staff writer

SMITHFIELD — Gary Hansen, a farmer north of Smithfield's residential area and east of U.S. Highway 91, found he wasn't the only one interested in how his grainfield was doing Sunday morning. Some cars slowly rolled by, other cars stopped and there were some people who couldn't help but make it a Kodak moment.

Imprinted in the southeast corner of his field was a crop circle, the patterns some call the artistic work of alien beings. To others, it's an atmospheric phenomenon, and to some it's nothing but a prank.

"I don't know what to think," Hansen said. He has farmed in the valley for 25 years and said he can't explain it.

Hansen said he wasn't about to start worrying about aliens visiting his farm, but he didn't know what to make of it, and

couldn't see any evidence of a hoax.

"If it would have been a lot of people, the grain would have been tramped down," Hansen said.

The crop circle was first noted early Sunday morning. Smithfield resident Bruce Tarbet was on his way to Richmond when he noticed a few cars stopped along the road and then saw why.

"I didn't see it yesterday," Tarbet said of a drive he made Saturday. "I'm kind of an old farm boy. I watch the ground a lot to see how things are doing. A lot of people say it may be some people from outer space, I don't believe that."

Brooks Hansen, 16, and his cousin Destrie Hansen, 17, said they didn't notice anything on their way home to the farm from the Cruise-in at about 1 a.m. Sunday. However, Brooks' sister Maegan, 15, said



Mitch Mascaro/Herald Journal

Automobiles pass below what appears to be Cache Valley's latest experience with the unknown north of Smithfield. The crop circle was discovered Sunday morning.

DAILY TELEGRAPH, Adrian, MI - July 20, 1997

## Irish Hills area has history of odd alien encounters

By PAUL WETTER  
Daily Telegraph Staff Writer

IRISH HILLS — If you're looking for space aliens or UFOs in Lenawee County, just head for the hills.

Known more for drawing Metro Detroit tourists than extraterrestrial visitors, the Irish Hills have still been the traditional sighting grounds for UFOs in Lenawee County.

Two sightings were reported to the Daily Telegraph on Dec. 22 and 23, 1967.

David and Kenneth Kennedy were traveling by car along U.S. 12 in northern Lenawee County about 11:30 p.m., Dec. 14, when they noticed a bright light in the sky.

"It was much brighter than a star in the sky that night," said David Kennedy, 19, of Adrian. "We noticed it right after we left Clinton. At first we thought it was an airplane with its landing lights on."

By the time the father and son had reached the intersection of M-52 in Franklin Township, they noticed the light hadn't moved. They turned south on M-52 and pulled to the shoulder of the road, watching the light above the trees in the western sky.

"We got out of the car but still couldn't make out what it was. We must have been watching it for about three minutes at the time," David Kennedy said.

As other cars slowed, but didn't stop to watch the light, David Kennedy said the light began to move toward them at an altitude of about 500 feet.

"Just about directly over our car it turned northeast and took off faster than anything I've ever seen," said David Kennedy. "It was out of sight in seconds."

The pair described the object as huge and triangular in shape with red lights at each corner. The craft made no sound as it moved, which troubled the father and son. Both were licensed, private pilots, and they were listening for an engine sound to try and determine what the craft was.

"We were amazed and startled by the whole thing," David Kennedy said. "Both Dad and I were really shaken up by whatever it was."

On Dec. 23, two Adrian High School students reported they had also viewed a similar object in the sky while leaving a South Main Street parking lot around 6:30 p.m. Dec. 19.

The students said it was a very large object with two red lights on its sides and a yellow light in the middle. It moved rapidly toward the southwest and made no discernible sound.

A great deal of UFO activity occurred during the mid to late 1960's according to Don Berliner, a committee member of The Fund for UFO Research. He estimates that 90 percent of all sightings go unreported.

"People are hesitant to report their sightings because they are afraid of being laughed at," Berliner said. "If you go to the police they might take your report, but then tell you they're more worried about breaking up a fight down the street."

Dan Wright, who investigates alien abduction stories, says several families in the Irish Hills area report regular visits from UFOs. He works with a mother and daughter in one Lenawee County family who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

"What's interesting is that their details of abduction closely match much of the details from abductions in other parts of the country," Wright said.

After so many sightings and alleged encounters, Berliner said researchers are still stumped by the basic questions about the issue.

"We know nothing about the motive for these visits," he said. "From all indications, the beings are trying to be inconspicuous at almost every turn. We can only guess that it doesn't fit their needs to go public in a big way."

she thought she heard strange noises around 11:45 p.m. Saturday.

"I thought I heard something," said Maegan, who was celebrating a birthday Sunday. "It was like a buzzing beep sound. It was weird. I didn't pay any attention to it."

Hansen's crop circle was the second in Cache Valley in a year's time. Gerald Alder, a farmer in Providence, found a pattern in his field southeast of Macey's in Logan while harvesting his barley Aug. 23. The shapes of Hansen's crop circle

*"I thought I heard something. It was like a buzzing beep sound. It was weird. I didn't pay any attention to it."*

and Alder's bear no resemblance. Hansen's crop circle does have

all the characteristics of the crop circle phenomenon that became common in England. The stalks of the grain were not damaged; the stalks created straight lines pointing outward from the central circle; and there was no definite evidence of human involvement. The dried and brittle soil was not marred by footprints, and rocks in the dirt, which could have been disturbed in the soil by ropes, wooden boards or barrels, sat untouched.

The design consisted of a main circle about 50 feet in diameter. Extending east toward the mountains was a 3-foot-wide line that reached 15 feet before it broke into a three-pronged fork. Extending west toward U.S. 91 from the larger circle another line, also 3 feet wide, extended 10 feet before curving into a semicircle. There is a smaller circle, about 10 feet in diameter northwest of the larger circle.

While Hansen said he realizes the crop circle may bring visitors, from Earth that is, to get a look at it; for him it's back to farming.

GAZETTE, Texarkana, AR/TX - Aug. 6, 1997

IN OUR VIEW

## Duped again

If our government deceives us, we allow it to happen

Oh dear, we have found out once again that our government has been less than forthright with us.

Some people are horrified to learn that U.S. officials downplayed—that's a nice word for deceived us—sightings of supposed unidentified flying objects because they were worried the mass hysteria would aid the Soviets in the Cold War.

It seems someone thought the Soviets would use sightings to send us into frenzy and panic. Thus, the government, through the ever-present CIA, set out to debunk UFO reports and educate the public about the lack of evidence to substantiate reports.

The revelation of this tactic, provided by historian Gerald K. Haines who poured over countless now declassified documents, has prompted a range of response—from outrage to disappointment—from people who cannot believe the government could be so lacking in confidence in the governed.

How could we have trusted a government that did not trust us?

Consider the times. We had emerged from a world war as the leader of the free world and defender of democracy. That dragged us into a variety of entanglements, the most frightening of which was a war in Korea. Communism made inroads all around the world.

At home, Joe McCarthy was finding communists around every corner—or that is what he wanted us to believe. It took us years to figure he was a bigger threat to freedom than the people he was labeling enemies of the state.

The threat of nuclear obliteration was constant.

After Korea, we just wanted some peace and quiet. We wanted to build our houses in the suburbs, send our kids to good schools and prepare them for college, hold down decent-paying jobs and revere God and country.

If the government wanted to tell us that UFO sightings were figments of overactive imagination—or later attribute those sightings to our own spy planes—we were content with the explanation. At least most people were.

But anyone with any sense of history and reality knows that people in power do not always consider the truth an ally in perpetuating their political ascendancy.

This does excuse the deception of our leaders. But before we become too outraged or disillusioned about the way they govern, we must examine our participation. We are not absolved from apathy.

The price of freedom indeed is eternal vigilance. And the price of a forthright democracy is our active interest in its functions.



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

BRIGHTON & HOVE LEADER, Sussex, England - July 3, 1997

The sleuth is out there

## THE SUSSEX FILES

**W**ATCH the skies... that's the message from UFO hunter Larry Dean to the people of Brighton and Hove.



**According to UFO hunter Larry Dean, the truth really IS out there. And this is the right time of the year to be keeping an eye on extra-terrestrial activity in the skies above Sussex. Richard Worley reports**



on her mother's car failed to work.

Larry said they can only speculate why the UFOs are appearing.

Reasons could include that they are surveying or monitoring the environment, revisiting us after contact thousands of years ago, or simply making us aware of their presence.

Some believe the craft are a new type of secret military aircraft.

But Larry says: "If they are, why bring them over a heavily populated area?"

"People used to say 90 to 95 per cent could be explained away, but that's changing now. The phenomenon is increasing."

**Some people have reported pulsating red lights and a craft shaped like a cigar**

Larry said Skysearch will continue logging and investigating all reports, and is organising Skysearch watches this summer to try to capture an FT or UFO on film.

He urged people to be on the look-out and, if sky watching, to carry a camera or video camera.

Anyone making a sighting can contact Skysearch's 24 hour hot-line on 01273 300805.



Larry is hoping the area will again be the scene for a visit from a phenomenon which has sparked a rash of reports and locked people's gaze upwards for the last two summers.

The extra-terrestrial visitor is a giant triangular craft and recent reports have it appearing overhead around this time of year.

Larry, director of investigations of Skysearch, a UFO research organisation, said: "It has appeared

before around the end of July and the beginning of August.

"But we would like to make people aware now in case there's a change of pattern."

He said: "We're interested to see whether there is a return of this craft, be it terrestrial or extra-terrestrial."

Larry, co-founder with Patricia Begley of Saltdean-based Skysearch, believes in extra-terrestrial and inter-dimensional contact. He said so far this year has been a relatively quiet one for local UFO sightings.

There have been two interesting reports, he said.

One came in May from a Rottingdean couple who spotted three strange lights in the sky which hovered and then moved at incredible speed while they drove home on the A259.

The other came in March when a man pulled his car over in Isaacs Lane, near Burgess Hill, to take a closer look at red lights in the sky.



As they moved nearer, he reported that he could make out a dark disc shape with red lights rotating at its edge.

The silent craft then moved away, rose and shot off at great speed.

The man called the police who suggested he checked with Gatwick Airport for aircraft in the area. He was told there was none.

Larry said the summer of 1995 was an especially busy time.

"We had activity from all over the place locally," he said. "We were having sightings in Lewes, Uckfield, Burgess Hill, of discs, lights in the sky, cylindrical shaped objects."

Residents in Brighton, Portslade and Rottingdean reported pulsating red lights and a cigar-shaped aircraft.

A motorist near Brighton Racecourse was

among a group which saw a white streak in the sky turn into a triangular shaped object which then split into two spheres.

A hotelier in his car near Chanctonbury Ring reported following a UFO heading towards Brighton.

And a Newhaven town councillor spotted a large flat hexagonal silver object in the sky travelling in a bizarre manner.

At the time, Larry told the Leader he thought the sightings were leading up to a mass close encounter.

In Skysearch Magazine, Larry and Derek Ost focused on the Flying Triangles phenomenon.

They wrote: "It would seem that we are being inundated from all parts of our globe with reports of Flying Triangles or FTs."

"Indeed, as a UFO research organisation, Skysearch has also had an increase in reports of these objects."

"Independent reports all refer to the object being 'at least the size of a jumbo jet' and a common factor between the majority of sightings received here at Skysearch mention an orange amber nose light."

The number of sightings last year went down, but two interesting reports came in at the end of July and beginning of August.

A Brighton hospital worker said he and four colleagues were standing in the car park at 3am when they saw a bright pale orange light which, when it passed directly overhead, was clearly a triangular object and made a low humming.

He estimated it was about 500ft long.

And a week earlier a teacher and psychotherapist living west of Brighton reported seeing an object the size of a jumbo jet with a bright amber light over three nights.

On one of the nights it appeared to be accompanied by four triangular objects which flew in circles, changed direction and hovered over and under each other before vanishing.

At the same time, street lights flickered on and off and the electric windows

**'It appears we are being inundated from every part of the globe with reports of objects called Flying Triangles, or FTs'**

**ALIEN and UFO photos by SKYSEARCH**

## UFO swoops on lorry driver

TALES of the unexpected have been brewing across Burton and South Derbyshire, as residents bombard police with stories involving — flying bricks.

From the outer limits of Newhall to Stapenhill, people are experiencing close encounters of the third kind — with a series of unidentified flying oblong objects.

Reports, which started with the sighting of a crescent-shaped UFO hovering over Swadlincote, switched yesterday as residents spotted a pinky brown brick shaped object in the sky above Newhall.

The X File-style sightings sparked a UFO investigation after a Burton lorry driver claimed that he was confronted by a giant airborne black mass he could only describe as resembling a giant brick or skip near a UFO spotters' paradise.

The driver, who works for the Burton firm of Thacker's Pet Products says he had left the Victoria Crescent firm to deliver goods to Middleton in Derbyshire, a stone's throw away from Ashbourne, once a peak UFO activity centre, when he stopped at

a junction.

There, across his vision, was a jet black shape without any detail. It hovered immediately in front of him before zooming from one side to the other faster than his eyes could follow and then stopping.

Mr Stephen Dyche, of Baker Street, Stapenhill, is to return to the scene of the sighting in 10 days with UFO investigators keen to discover an explanation.

He said: "It certainly wasn't aerodynamic. It was getting on for a shape like a brick with nothing to keep it up there. It was just stuck there and there wasn't any movement like you'd expect from a helicopter if it was hovering."

"I didn't believe in UFOs or that sort of thing before now but this has definitely changed my mind."

Mr Dyche said later sightings of an object similar to the one he saw on Monday had been reported in East Anglia.

And he said after reporting the incident to police and the Civil Aviation Authority an organisation called Sub-paranormal Investigations is also set to probe the case.



## Harlow 'hotbed of UFOs' claim

**ARE UFOs visiting Harlow by night?**

That's what a specialist author asked — and several Citizen readers answered yes.

David B Adams told us how a worried Harlow resident had contacted him after being woken up by a bright light shining through her window one night last month. He has since received a number of calls backing the woman's claim.

He said: "One lady told me that she had been woken at exactly 3am on April 7 — the night before the other incident. She said her budgie was 'making a hell of a noise'."

"Her whole flat was illuminated from the outside despite the thick velvet curtains over all her windows."

"She did not look outside and who can blame her? Sadly, three days later her budgie died."

The original Harlow witness claimed she had seen an oval grey and white object with a domed top outside her window.

She said that a similar smaller object fell away from it towards the ground.

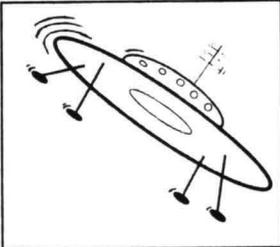
Several other people contacted Mr Adams with some claiming to have seen similar things. Others thought it may have been the Hale-Bopp comet.

He added: "I usually only deal with airline pilots or aircrews who have reported airborne phenomena, but the people I have been talking to in Harlow have seemed very reliable witnesses."

"A lot of the people reporting or writing about UFOs grossly exaggerate things and I spend a lot of time de-bunking that, but I am more than satisfied that these people are genuine."

"I try not to draw conclusions from these events but Harlow does seem to be becoming a hotbed of UFO activity."

Anyone else wanting to talk about unusual experiences can contact Mr Adams on 01704 560899, or write to him at 55 Richmond Road, Birkdale, Southport PR8 4SB.



SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO, Essex, England - June 23, 1997

## Andrew starts a UFO probe

UFO experts are hoping to investigate the sighting of a strange object in the sky off spotted by a Stanford man.

Forklift truck driver Andrew Blue, 30, had just reached the roundabout where Maplin Way joins the A127 at Shoebury when he saw a cigar-shaped object in the sky.

Andrew, of Southend Road, Stanford, said: "It wasn't a plane. It had two red flashing lights on the top half, two on the bottom half and a white light in the middle."

"It was nothing man-made. When it was hovering it was horizontal but when it moved it went vertical. It was twice the size of a house in length."

The chairwoman of Southend UFO group hoped to make a full investigation including visiting the site where Andrew saw it in the early hours of Wednesday morning.

She also contacts the Met office, the Ministry of Defence, and airports to rule out other kinds of air traffic.

# Have you joined UFO believers?

IT was 50 years ago next month that the US military went public about the remains of a metallic "flying disc" that had crash-landed outside the desert town of Roswell, New Mexico.

Twenty-four hours after the announcement, the army retracted the statement and declared its find "a scientific air balloon that had malfunctioned".

Now, as we head towards the millennium, many people are becoming increasingly aware of the UFO phenomenon — and more and more desperate to find out if the truth really is out there.

In the run-up to the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident, ITV is screening a series of special programmes, called "Into the Unknown", about the UFO and aliens phenomenon.

One of those taking part, alien expert and author Nick Pope, who worked for the Ministry of Defence's "UFO department" from 1991 to 1994, says he was initially sceptical.

## 'Imaginations'

He says: "I was a complete disbeliever and sceptic at the outset, but after looking at all the evidence, I emerged as a believer ... I am convinced that nine out of 10 are fake sightings, but the remaining 10 per cent appear to be genuine."

The emergence of TV shows like "The X Files" and films like "Independence Day" have fuelled imaginations to the extent that people start to think anything they see in the sky is an alien craft and any bad dream they might have is the result of an alien abduction. Pope believes there is some truth in that.

"Certainly in Britain when the Steven Spielberg film 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' was released, UFO sightings reported to the Ministry of Defence that year spiralled!"

With more reported sightings than ever, and abduction cases on the increase, are we any closer to a final answer than we were 50 years ago?

Pope thinks earthlings are definitely on the right track. "We are going in the right

by **Tom Hedges**

direction slowly but surely," he explains. "We're building up more and more evidence."

"Now we are seeing more pilots who are prepared to speak on the record about UFO sightings; we have the military feeling a little more able to talk about radar evidence and aircraft being scrambled to try to intercept unidentified flying objects, and perhaps most importantly we have a more receptive climate in the general populus."

In a recent Newsweek poll conducted in America, 48 per cent of the general public said they believed in extraterrestrial explanations for UFOs and about 29 per cent of the population believed in contact with aliens.

Sceptics claim that it is all connected to the fall in popularity of Christianity in the Western world over the latter half of the 20th century. Pope, however, is concerned that people are mixing UFOlogy and religion to create their own strange beliefs.

## Suicide

The case of the Hale-Bopp comet and the Heaven's Gate cult mass suicide in California earlier this year only highlights the point. Members of the group believed the arrival of the shooting star masked the arrival of a vast interstellar mothership full of extraterrestrial beings ready to pick them up and whisk them away from humanity.

Rendezvous with the spaceship was to be achieved by "relieving their spirits of their worldly bodies" through a lethal mix of drugs and alcohol. Thirty-nine "above average intelligent" people took their lives on March 26 in anticipation of eternal salvation.

The group spread their gospel over the Internet — an, as yet, relatively unpoliced domain, and breeding ground for many of the UFO conspiracy theories currently doing the rounds.

Pope believes these superhighway tales,

which include mysterious "men in black", secret government agencies funding research on "captured space craft" and presidential deals with outer space friends, might have something to do with bookmaker William Hill's recent move to lower the odds on the discovery of intelligent extraterrestrial life by 2000 from 1,000-1 to only 33-1.

"Those are very low odds and it is interesting to tie that in with some of the conspiracy theories that we're hearing today," he muses.

"In my own research and investigations I've certainly felt that the pace of things is picking up. It's almost as if we're building up to something ..."

"For three years I looked at the UFO phenomenon officially for the Government and I certainly saw an acceleration of the pace of events. More and more exciting cases were coming in all the time, and when I went on to continue my research investigating and researching UFOs privately, things just went from strength to strength."

## Blockbuster

"Hardly a day goes by without me being contacted by someone who's seen something in the sky or had an abduction experience."

With the world's media frantically trying to hype the ET issue and every other TV series and Hollywood blockbuster plots revolving around alien invaders and high-tech spaceships, might people just get bored of the whole thing?

"There is a chance the bubble is going to burst and if there's one danger point it's probably going to be the doubtless media saturation surrounding the 50th anniversary of the first flying saucer sighting and the Roswell crash," says Pope.

He believes aliens will make themselves known when the time is right, and maybe at the moment they don't want too much publicity.

"They're following their own agenda. If there's going to be a landing it will be if and when they're ready to do it."

□ "The Uninvited", by Nick Pope, is published by Simon & Schuster, price £15.99. ITV's "Into the Unknown" season runs until Friday.

## Councillor demands inquiry into UFOs

THE Prime Minister is being asked to order an investigation into the spate of UFO sightings over Bonnybridge.

Local councillor Billy Buchanan wants Ministry of Defence experts to carry out a top-level inquiry into the thousands of cases in the area of the Stirlingshire village.

Mr Buchanan, who represents Bonnybridge on Falkirk Council, said: "I have written to Mr Blair demanding a proper investigation by the MoD. More than 3000 people have now reported strange activity in the area."

"No-one has claimed to have seen little green men or anything. But the vast number of sightings of lights and weird objects keeps continuing."

"Many of the local people, particularly the elderly, are getting anxious about these unexplained sightings."

Meanwhile, the BBC television programme Breakfast will tomorrow broadcast interviews with people from the area who claim to have been abducted by aliens, and next week Michael Aspel and a TV crew will be filming there for London Weekend Television's Strange But True series.

## LETTERS

# Is anyone out there?

AS FOUNDER of the oldest-established flying saucer (Unidentified Flying Object) organisation in the world, may I point out that modern UFO sightings are closely monitored and recorded by a variety of non-human means such as radar, photography, theodolites, camcorders etc. with the result that we now have a greater understanding of these craft and their performance capabilities.

With this enhanced data the mystery of these extra-terrestrial craft and the reasons and purpose of their visits to Earth will become more apparent within the next few years.

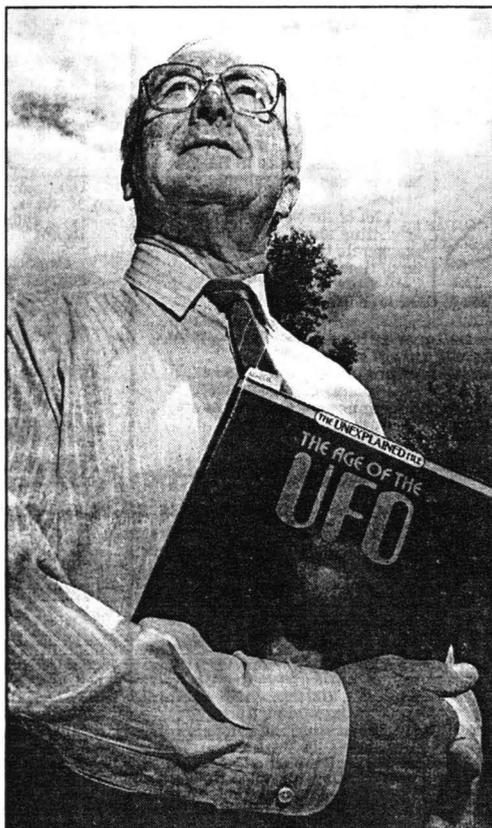
Fifty years ago, I was one of the few who believed, when many did not, so it's particularly satisfying to see how the subject has progressed.

This progression, now producing scientific results and measurable data, can only improve our knowledge and understanding of the greatest mystery this century. It only requires one sighting to be proved genuine for us to realise that we are not alone in the cosmos.

DENIS P. PLUNKETT, Bristol

THE giant V-shaped UFO which 'blocked out the stars' one night in America is of a type which is seen all the time over Britain. I research into what these things are and who is behind them, and organisations such as my Aerial Phenomena Association work closely with other teams across the country to try to solve this kind of mystery, and I have discovered that what is going on is totally amazing. I know what a normal aircraft looks and sounds like, and either someone has made a big breakthrough in aircraft technology or something incredible is going on. The Ministry of Defence gives odd replies to our inquiries, which indicates to me that without doubt it knows what's going on.

SIMON LEWIS, Morecambe, Lancs.



Believer: Denis Plunkett investigates UFO sightings

## Air base probes UFO claim

BODMIN driving instructor Mike Jones and his son Derren this week spoke of witnessing an unidentified flying object above their home late last Tuesday evening.

Mr Jones said this week that he and his son were in the garden putting out the bins, when they heard what appeared to be an aircraft or jet above them.

They looked up into the clear sky and saw the lights of the aircraft, as they watched for three or four minutes. But they were intrigued when they saw a strange white light following the plane's rear at great speed.

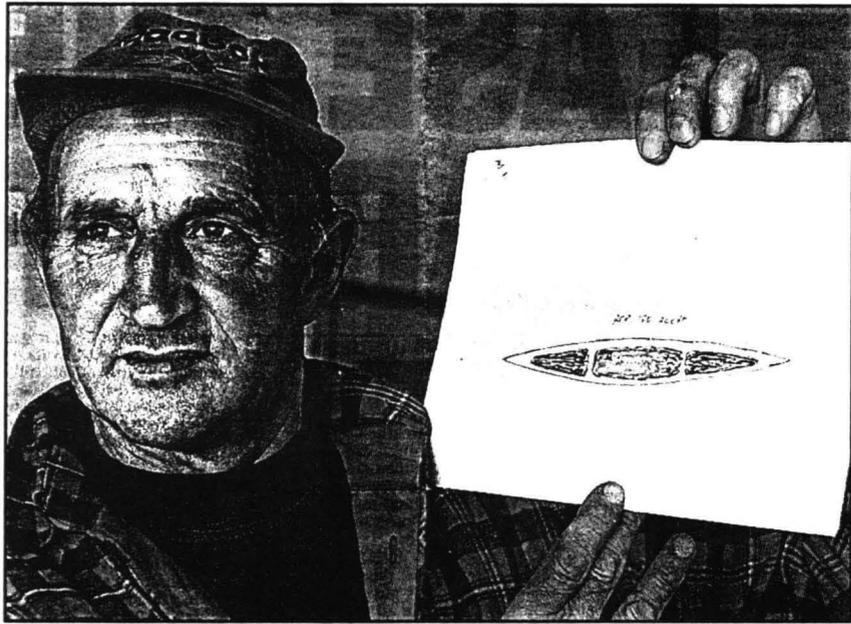
The pair watched as they saw the plane and the strange light fly over their home in St Mary's Road and disappear in the direction of the Beacon.

After telling his wife of the experience Mr Jones contacted RAF St Mawgan, near Newquay to tell them what he had seen.

Mr Jones said: "I heard the sound of the plane, but there was no sound from the trailing light. At first I asked my son if he was seeing what I was seeing and he agreed. I don't know what I saw but I saw something."

Mr Jones added that sources at St Mawgan said they were "very interested" to hear about what he had seen above the skies, and said that they were looking into the matter.

# MYSTERY OVER LOCH SIGHTING



DETAILED DRAWING ... Hamish Smith with his sketch of strange object in Loch Nevis

By JIM McLEAN

**UFO FEVER is sweeping the world ... from Arizona to the remote West Coast of Scotland.**

And now a priest, a businessman and a micro-light pilot - flying over Loch Nevis near Mallaig - photographed 'something sinister' in one of the deepest sea water lochs in Europe.

Their close encounter has been backed-up by a local woman who spotted 'a mysterious wave of water at the entrance to the loch'.

Hours later, the pilot and Hamish Smith swooped out of the sky with Father Michael Hutson, of St Cumian's, to photograph the 200ft blue and red object.

They had been taking photographs of remote churches and landmarks.

But Hamish said: "I've never seen anything like it. My first thought was the sunken boat."

"It was not a shoal of fish and the entrance to the loch is only eight metres deep so it couldn't be a submarine. A UFO is certainly a possibility."



FATHER HUDSON

"There was a woman walking near the mouth of the loch who says she saw a wierd wave rolling up the loch. The water was calm and she thought it strange."

NATO military exercises are features of this remote area, but military sources denied they had anything in the area at the time.

Local coastguards and police were alerted and checked the loch days later. Echo sounders

detected something, but divers found nothing.

Hamish made a drawing of the mystery object and described how it 'shimmered'.

UFO expert and *Saturday Times* columnist Ron Halliday says he will personally investigate the incident.

As chairman of the Scottish Earth Mystery Research, he said there have been several sightings where UFOs dive under and come out of water."

## Hour

Meanwhile, the group is holding a nationwide UFO skywatch on June 24, asking people to spend an hour between 10pm and midnight watching the night sky.

We will be delighted to report your experiences in our own close encounters special. Contact us if you see ET at *Saturday Times*, 195 Albion Street, Glasgow, G1 1QP.

UFO sightings on the increase

# More people reckon truth is out there

by Gary Nicks

A FOURTH witness has come forward to join three other local people who have all reported seeing a UFO in the East Coast area.

Paranormal experts have launched an investigation into UFO activity on the East Coast following numerous sightings of a flying saucer in May, April and March this year.

The Evening News reported on Saturday how three separate witnesses had seen what appeared to be the same strange object on different occasions at coastal locations around Scarborough.

Now a fourth person claims to have seen the same UFO, which was described by the three other witnesses as similar in appearance to a 1950s-

style flying saucer.

The man, who works in Scarborough but did not want to be named, says he saw the object while sitting in his front room which overlooks the bay at Knipe Point.

"It's quite large, maybe about twice the size of a full moon, and had white, yellow, blue and red or orange lights around the side," said the witness.

"I was watching it for a good 10 minutes using a telescope and binoculars. It was oval or kidney-shaped and came over the bay and the house then disappeared."

He has now set up a camcorder in his front room which remains on permanent standby to record any further sightings.

The International UFO Research Network is studying reports of the sightings.

STRASBOURG: Unusual parliamentary question

# Commission challenged to explain UFO sightings

A LABOUR MEP has challenged Eurocrats to declare where they stand ... on flying saucers.

Joe Wilson, member for North Wales, is awaiting an answer to his forthright parliamentary written question. "Does the Commission acknowledge that European airspace has been penetrated on several occasions by unidentified craft whose performance characteristics, such as flight and manoeuvrability, far exceed state-of-the-art aircraft design?"

Mr Wilson, 59, added, "Does the Commission acknowledge that the extra-terrestrial hypothesis is the most likely explanation for a number of reports of unidentified craft?"

Reports of UFO sightings across

Wales have grown to a record proportion. In September 1978 villagers saw a bright light descend into a field in Llanerchymedd, Anglesey.

On the same night UFOs were reported at Ruabon, near Wrexham, while in September 1990 South Wales Police received 60 calls from across Cardiff reporting spinning lights.

In October 1993 West Wales residents made frantic calls to the emergency services after seeing what they thought was a UFO.

The sightings, in Cross Hands, Carmarthenshire, were revealed as a high-powered spotlight called the Space Flower used by nearby Gwernllwyn Country Club.

# UFO sighting terrifies family on motorway



A UFO terrified a family from Heaton Moor, as they made their way home after a holiday.

Peter and Wynn Seel were on the M56 with sons Craig and Scott on June 1, after a holiday in North Wales, when they spotted the brightly lit object in the distance.

By the time the Seels reached the High Lee area, the mysterious triangle was directly above them, hovering in the air.

The family were then stunned when it suddenly zipped across the sky to the opposite side of the motorway at roughly 100mph before disappearing behind trees.

## Frightened

The four were too frightened to stop and search for the object, which had red lights on each corner and a large white light in the middle. But on their return home, they contacted UFO expert David Cayton.

Mr Cayton and the Seel family returned to the scene over the weekend and spoke to farmers in the area. But so far they have been unable to find any other witnesses.

Peter, 47, a mature student, said:

"We were coming along the M56, when we saw a light in the sky to our left. We kept watching as we went along and thought nothing of it. As we got closer I expected to see some structure holding it up because it was that still. But then I realised it was just hovering in the sky."

"To be honest, we were very frightened. We just wanted to get away from it. I have always kept an open mind about UFOs. Even now I find it hard to believe. But I'm just saying what I saw. I want an explanation for what it was."

David Cayton said a number of objects fitting the Seel family's description had recently been spotted across the UK. He said: "I am convinced this is genuine. They were very frightened. They knew very little about the subject before, but now they are very interested."

"We would like people on the motorway that night to come forward if they saw anything."

Anyone who thinks they may have spotted the UFO, between junctions 7 and 9 of the M56, can contact David Cayton on 4834956 or 0831 594331.

# Many sightings of UFO

UFO's have been spotted in the night sky above Craven Arms, according to a local couple.

The couple from Stokesay claim they have been spotting what could be a UFO in the night sky for more than a month.

They claim to have seen the strange moving brightly lit object on every clear night since June 6.

The couple, who do not wish to be named, are so intrigued by the object they have taken photographs of it and have sent the film away to be developed by one of the country's leading authorities on UFO sightings Omar Fowler in Derby.

According to the couple the object moves about the night sky appearing to change shape.

They borrowed a neighbour's powerful binoculars earlier this week and said the would be UFO looked like "an inverted crown".

But as they continued to watch throughout the night and early morning the object moved in the sky and seemed to change into a cigar shape with three bright lights.

**IT is exactly 50 years tomorrow since US pilot Kenneth Arnold spotted a formation of 'flying saucers' and gave birth to the world's biggest unsolved mystery. Sightings of strange objects in the sky have been made since the beginning of recorded history. But are we really being watched by little green men from outer space? The Star's own X-Files expert DAVID CLARKE investigates.**

IT'S been hailed as one of the best known photographs of UFOs in the world - and it was taken in a South Yorkshire mining village.

This picture of a fleet of three 'flying saucers' above Conisbrough, near Rotherham, was taken by teenager Stephen Pratt with a cheap instamatic camera back in 1966.

Since then the picture has appeared in hundreds of books and magazines and been splashed across newspapers as far away as Russia, Japan, Brazil and America.

But the worldwide fame the picture gained has brought nothing but hassle for Stephen.

Although mum Theresa and other members of his family still live in South Yorkshire, Stephen and brother Kevin have moved away to keep out of the limelight - until today. Now on the 50th anniversary of UFO mystery, Stephen, now 46, plans to submit his original negative to state-of-the-art computer analysis at NASA and a university laboratory to prove once and for all the photo is no fake.

Stephen was a 15-year-old schoolboy when a strange object in the sky as he returned from a visit to chip shop with his mum Theresa Pratt.

She sent Stephen to their home on Leslie Avenue to fetch brothers Kevin and Gary, and dad Walter to see the burning orange saucer-shaped object dancing in the sky.

Using his brother Malcolm's Kodak Instamatic 50 Stephen managed to take one picture before the UFO vanished in the direction of Rotherham.

And when it was developed, the family were astonished to find three dark saucer-shaped craft in the sky on the negative.

The mystery increased when Kodak experts checked the picture and pronounced it was "genuine and untouched".

# Photo that may hold key to UFO riddle

## New analysis is planned to test authenticity of classic snapshot



Stephen Pratt - faced years of abuse as a result of the original publicity

But today Stephen's brother Kevin, who lives in Tamworth, said the family had suffered years of abuse as a result of the publicity.

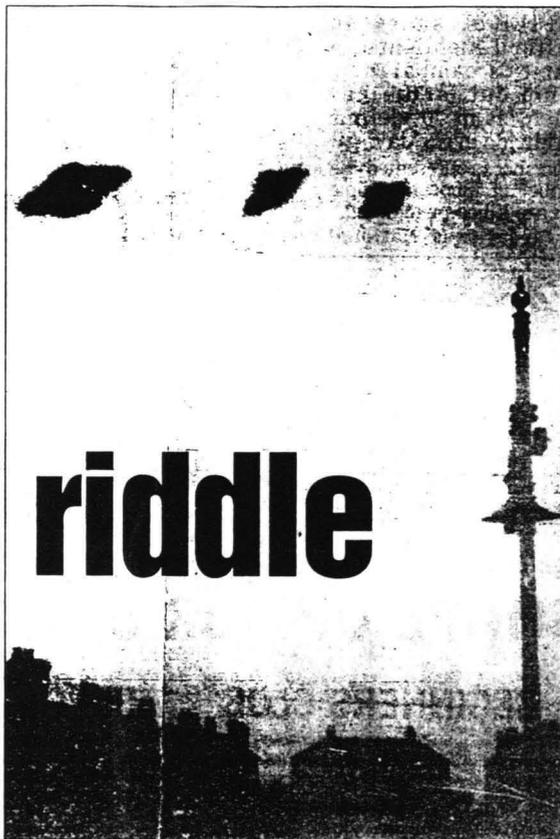
"When someone starts flinging muck in a small community like Conisbrough it is hard and we went through hell and back," he said.

"People have had a go at us in the street and it reached the point where it came to blows.

"On top of that people have said in books that Stephen admitted it was hoax and that we stuck cardboard shapes on glass to fake it.

"But it was a genuine sighting with more than five witnesses and I was there when the photo was taken. Stephen and I are convinced it will pass any test."

■ Another famous picture of five "flying saucers" over Mosborough Moor taken by schoolboy Alex Birch in 1962 bit the dust when ten years later he admitted it was just a "joke which got out of hand." The saucers were painted on a sheet of glass.



**BIRTH OF A 50-YEAR MYSTERY**

■ EXPERIENCED pilot Kenneth Arnold's sighting of UFOs above Mount Rainier in 1947 brought the mystery of "flying saucers" to the attention of the world's media.

■ He said the craft moved in formation "like saucers skipping across water" and at 1,700 mph travelled faster than any jet of the time.

■ Fifty years, and thousands of sightings later, sees a summer of UFO mania with dozens of TV specials, books and films all devoted to the subject.

■ ITV Thursday, 10.40 pm: We are Not Alone; ITV Friday, 8.30pm: Strange But True, live studio debate chaired by Michael Aspel.

BRADFORD STAR, Yorkshire, England - Feb. 6, 1997

# The truth is out here!

**The Bradford district is a hot-spot of alien activity, a UFO investigator is claiming today.**

Russell Kellett, 33, who runs the Bradford branch of the worldwide UFO Research Network, claims that more than 30 people have witnessed strange phenomena in the skies above the city over the past year.

And he is now mounting a personal crusade to draw attention to the sightings by planning an international UFO fair in Bradford, which

by ISOBEL FOX  
Star Reporter

he hopes to put on next year. Mr Kellett, from Lidget Green, claims that Wyke, Baildon and Shipley are the most popular places for the occurrence of inexplicable alien activity.

Mr Kellett said: "You would be amazed by how many people see things in this area they cannot explain.

"Some have a rational explanation, but not all do."

Using evidence from independent imaging experts, Mr Kellett attempts to get to the bottom of his out-of-this-world experiences.

He sends pictures of them to Dr Roger Green, who works at Bradford University's Electronic Imaging and Media Communications Unit.

Dr Green enlarges the photographs to determine whether or not the pictures are genuine.

And in one incident over

Ilkley Moor last November, Dr Green concluded that, although he couldn't say what the object was, it was "certainly something very unusual".

Mr Kellett's latest X-File experience occurred on January 28, when he was driving with a friend from Haworth to Denholme.

"We were deep in conversation when I suddenly saw big, bright lights moving very slowly across the sky.

"They were much bigger than an aeroplane's lights

and when the car moved away from them, I could still see them, as if they were going right around whatever it was that was flying about.

"Then, all of a sudden, they were gone."

Mr Kellett, who holds monthly meetings of the Bradford UFO Research Network, would now like to hear from anyone who witnessed the same strange phenomena that night.

☎ The UFO hotline number is (01274) 412512.

## Middleton UFO claim

A DELIVERY man visiting the Dales had a strange sight on Tuesday afternoon - a black object moving around the sky.

Steven Dyche from Burton upon Trent works for Thackers pet products and was on a delivery in the Middleton-by-Wirksworth area.

"At first I thought it was a balloon, but it was jet black, shaped like a skip and moved very quickly," he said.

The UFO moved to the left and then to his right and Steve was approaching the village from Cromford Hill. It was in sight for about 16 seconds.

MATLOCK MERCURY, Derbyshire, England - June 5, 1997

DAILY MAIL, London, England - June 13, 1997

# Jet 'buzzed by UFO'

By ANDREW LOUDON

THE pilots had just emerged from heavy cloud when it flashed towards them.

The streak of red, white and blue seemed to be on a collision course. But within two seconds it had vanished.

Was it a military aircraft? Or perhaps a Red Arrow which had strayed from its path?

Both the captain and first officer of the Aer Lingus BAe 146 passenger jet saw it as they flew at 9,000ft over Stevenage, Hertfordshire, on the descent into Stansted Airport on a flight from Dublin last June.

But despite exhaustive investigations, no-one has been able to

## Mystery of airliner's near-miss in clear skies

establish what it was. The 146 had flown down a 'canyon' of huge, towering clouds and was just emerging into clear weather when the object came hurtling towards them, passing down their right-hand side 100ft below and less than 300 yards away.

Both men described it as red



STAR TREK diehards are hooked like drug addicts, says a psychologist. The most passionate five to ten per cent 'meet the psychological criteria of addiction, showing withdrawal symptoms such as agitation and frustration if they miss an episode and developing higher tolerance levels so they need increasing doses', said Dr Sandy Wolfson who made a four-year study of Trekkies. 'One woman couldn't relax on holiday because she was worried she had not set the video properly,' said Dr Wolfson.

with blue and white stripes. They thought it might have been a Hawk jet and noticed engine intakes on the fuselage.

The captain radioed air traffic control and asked: 'Did we have a Red Arrow pass quite close there?' Nothing could be seen on radar. Investigators

established that none of the Red Arrows had flown that day and all other RAF and BAe Hawks could be accounted for.

The livery suggested it might have been a Folland Gnat, the aircraft formerly flown by the Red Arrows, but none were found to have been airborne.

Operators of ex-military jets including MiGs and even old Sabres were checked and eliminated.

An air proximity or 'near miss' report was filed and a lengthy investigation by the Joint Airprox Working Group made up of civil and military flight professionals has concluded that what the pilots saw was 'an unknown object'.

"There is no doubt that both BAe 146 pilots clearly saw something and agreed in some detail in their descriptions.

"Regrettably it has not been possible to trace any aircraft that were in the area at the time."

"An Aer Lingus spokesman said: 'We really have no explanation and the incident is likely forever to remain a mystery.'"



# IN TOUCH WITH BIGFOOT

## Biologist defends legend as metaphor for the wild

HERALD, Bellingham, WA - June 4, 1997

BY ERNEST A. JASMIN  
THE BELLINGHAM HERALD

"Scientists bag 7-foot creature in Montana!"

"Proof in Bible: Bigfoot Exists."

"I Am the Mother of Bigfoot Baby."

Sasquatch makes checkout-lane headlines almost as often as Michael Jackson. And Jackson exists. Right?

Given the barrage of tacky press, is it any wonder that many rational-minded individuals take so-called sightings of the creature with a Bigfoot-sized grain of salt?

Robert Michael Pyle, author of "Where Bigfoot Walks: Crossing the Dark Divide," says he is disappointed to see the legend reduced to a parody.

"I would just ask people to look at Bigfoot with an open mind," he says, "and not just dismiss it as a tabloid joke."

Pyle will discuss his book, which explores Sasquatch lore, at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Village Books, 1210 11th St.

The biologist, who lives in Grays River (it's about 35 miles west of Longview), does not make any definitive claim that a giant, ape-like creature roams the woods of Washington.

But at the same time, Pyle refuses to reject the possibility. He says Bigfoot's true importance lies in its symbolism rather than in cognitive proof that the species exists.

"If we get to the point where the landscape is so tamed and so well-known that people can no longer imagine that there are giants out there, we will have lost something," says Pyle, 49.

Bigfoot exists in the legends of some Native American tribes, he says, and is sometimes considered in the same light as distinctly real-world creatures such as bears and deer.

For those not ready to accept Bigfoot in literal terms, the creature serves as a metaphor for "something very wild, much like ourselves" — a lost link to the untamed wilderness, Pyle says.

Pyle — whose other books generally have a natural theme, such as "The Handbook for Butterfly Watchers" — says he learned a lot about the lay of the land by assuming the existence of Bigfoot and imagining how it survives.

"By going into the land where it is said to live, I learned at least as much



ALLEN PETERSON HERALD ILLUSTRATION

about the land as by pursuing (more conventional) topics," says Pyle.

In the book, he visits places like Willow Creek, Calif., a.k.a. "Sasquatch City," near which the "Zapruder film of the Bigfoot world" was shot in 1967. (This, arguably the most familiar footage of Bigfoot, features what is supposed to be a female creature strolling the woods near a stream.)

Closer to home, there is Carson,

### Bigfoot bonanza

- **AUTHOR:** Robert Michael Pyle reads from his new book, "Where Bigfoot Walks: Crossing the Dark Divide," at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Village Books, 1210 11th St.
- **CONFAB:** The International Sasquatch Symposium will take place Friday through Sunday at the MacMillan Planetarium, 1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver, B.C. Tickets are \$5 to \$20. Call (604) 321-0410.
- **FESTIVAL:** The annual Bigfoot at Baker Festival runs Sept. 20-21 at Maple Falls, Glacier and Kendall. Call 599-2594.

## Bigfoot seekers in a Daze

► Believers and non-believers gather for Bigfoot Daze in Carson

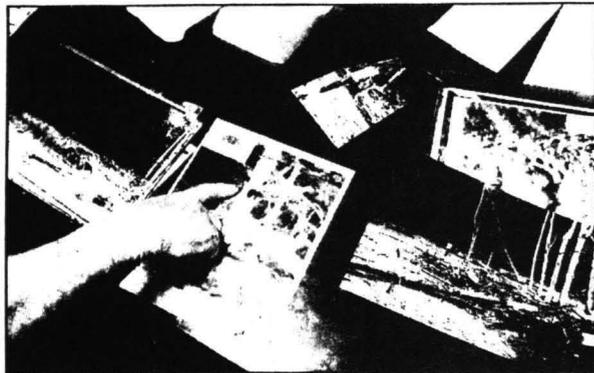
CARSON — A big, hairy body has been found in Skamania County. Bigfoot or not. The debate continues.

Bigfoot believers and non-believers will gather in Carson this weekend for Bigfoot Daze. The highlight of the sixth annual event will come at 11 a.m.

Sunday, when organizers conduct a coroner's inquest over a possible Bigfoot "body," with former Superior Court Judge Bernard Heavey presiding. People on both sides of the existence debate will argue their cases.

Festivities will begin at noon Saturday with a screening of the film "Local Lore of Bigfoot" at the Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center, just west of Stevenson. At 1 p.m., the group will hike around the county's petrified forest.

Speakers such as footprint ex-



FILES/The Columbian

Peter Byrne displays some of his research into the famous film that allegedly shows a bigfoot creature in Northern California.

pert Barbara Wasson-Butler, writer Dr. Robert Pyle and Bigfoot hunter Peter Byrne are scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. at Bigfoot Park in Carson, followed by a chili dinner at 6 p.m. and dance from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

On Sunday, Bigfoot Daze will offer a magic show at 9 a.m. and

local speaker Datus Perry at 10 a.m. at the Carson park.

After the inquest, the group will cook burgers, spaghetti and potato salad for lunch.

For more information, telephone Ray Crowe of the Western Bigfoot Society at (503) 640-6581.

Wash., the former home of Bigfoot Daze. The annual event has grown into the International Sasquatch Symposium, to be held in Vancouver, B.C., on Friday through Sunday.

Carson sits about 50 miles east of Portland, just south of Skamania County, where local officials passed a law on April 1, 1969, protecting Bigfoot within county borders.

Stephen Harvey, a spokesman for the Sasquatch Symposium, is among those who claim to have had a close encounter of the stinky kind.

Harvey says he encountered a "very pungent odor," as many Bigfoot sighters report, lingering in an area near Carson Hot Springs. "This was right at the water and there was nothing else around ... just right beside the road," says Harvey, 48.

He doubts that anything else could have left the odor, which he describes as a magnified locker room smell.

The Vancouver, B.C., event will include about 30 speakers "who range between scientists, investigators and witnesses," videos, pictures and, of course, casts of big footprints.

Pyle will depart for the event immediately following his Bellingham visit.

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA - Aug. 21, 1997

# Mystery surrounds spontaneous human combustion

Author offers insights from hundreds of cases

BY KATHY CHAFFIN

FOR THE SALISBURY POST

It wasn't what meter man Don Gosnell found at the home of a beloved physician that seared the morning of Dec. 5, 1966, forever in his memory. It was what he didn't find.

Five inches of new snow had fallen on the town of Coudersport, Pa., when Gosnell started on his rounds. Gosnell shouted out his customary greeting of "Gas Man" as he opened the door that led past Dr. John Irving Bentley's apartment to the basement stairway. When he didn't hear

Bentley's usual reply, Gosnell assumed he was still asleep and started on down to the basement.

He noticed a light-blue smoke with what he would later describe as a "strange, sickening sweet odor" when he opened the door. Gosnell used a flashlight to read the meter and record the amount of gas used. As he turned to leave, he noticed a large pile of ashes in the far corner and walked over to investigate.

A hole in the floor above him caught Gosnell's attention, and he discovered that three 9-inch oak beams had been burned from above. Gosnell decided to go back up and check on Bentley.

The same light-blue smoke

and sweet smell greeted him when he opened the apartment door. Looking around for the retired doctor, Gosnell noticed a hole in the bathroom floor. Beside it lay a browned leg from the knee down, a bedroom slipper still on it.

Twelve years later, on the evening of Nov. 11, 1974, Georgia salesman Jack Bundy Angel arrived in Savannah where he planned to meet a buyer.

He went to sleep in his motor home that he'd converted into a showroom. Four days later, he awoke to find his right hand and forearm burned crisp. He discovered several more burns on his body, but neither his pajamas nor the sheets were harmed.

The medical team that exam-

ined Angel diagnosed the burns as internal in origin. The tissue damage was so severe that doctors had to amputate his arm at the elbow.

Pennsylvania author and lecturer Larry E. Arnold said he will never forget Angel recounting the story for him.

"He was waving that stump of a right arm in the air," Arnold said, "as if pounding his nonexistent fist, declaring, 'This is what happened. I was not smoking. I was not scalded by water. I was burned from the inside out, and I don't know why it happened.'"

Arnold has spent the past 25 years investigating cases like these. He visited Davie County



WAYNE HINSHAW/SALISBURY POST

**DOCUMENTING:** Larry Arnold believes the phenomenon.



WAYNE HINSHAW/SALISBURY POST

**IN WRITING:** Larry Arnold details events about survivors.

recently after speaking to the Southeastern Conference in Greensboro, an annual week-long conference devoted to metaphysics.

Twelve years ago at the conference, formerly known as Spiritual Frontiers, he befriended Davie County resident Gay Roberts. He visits Roberts occasionally and together they investigate paranormal phenomena in the surrounding area.

"Larry is a very meticulous, objective and professional investigator," Roberts said. "His work pushes the boundaries of the mainstream scientific mindset."

Arnold said there are several theories about the cause of spontaneous human combustion. "In the broadest context," he said, "spontaneous human combustion occurs because energies within the body dramatically and abruptly change."

Why that happens, according to Arnold, "is one of the great scientific questions and medical mysteries for the end of this century."

Arnold said his research has shown that the cases are cyclical, with the numbers peaking every 33 years. The current 33-year cycle will end in 2004, he said.

Arnold believes Bentley and Angel were victims of spontaneous human combustion, a controversial phenomenon where people become human fireballs without an identifiable source of ignition. Unfortunately, only a few live to tell about it.

There are four characteristics of spontaneous human combustion, according to Arnold. One is the ferocity of the blaze. As in the case of Dr. Bentley, victims can be reduced to ashes, he said, their bodies destroyed more completely than if they were cremated.

"These victims are literally shoveled out of the fire scenes," he said.

The second characteristic is the localization of the fire, Arnold said. In repeated cases, nearby flammable objects, such as clothing, bed linens and newspapers, are not burned.

The third clue is the usual absence of noxious odor that normally accompanies death by fire. In most cases of spontaneous human combustion, Arnold said investigators detect no odor, and when they do, it's sweet, almost like perfume or incense.

The fourth characteristic is the direction of the flame. Arnold said victims of spontaneous human combustion burn downward, sometimes through chairs on which they are sitting or the flooring beneath them.

"They literally burn themselves down," he said. "All of these characteristics defy the conventional fire scenes."

Arnold's years of researching cases of these mysterious fires is chronicled in his book, "Ablaze," published by M. Evans and Co., of New York in 1995. Arnold, who has a background in electrical engineering, said the 478 pages evolved over two decades. The book traces cases back to the 1600s and recounts the battles that have ensued in the scientific community for decades over whether these mysterious fires were the result of spontaneous human combustion or some other natural cause.

The controversy even spilled over into the literary world, according to Arnold's book. Charles Dickens wrote about spontaneous human combustion in his magazine serial, "Bleak House," sparking continued attacks by rationalist George Henry Lewes. Dickens, in the first bound printing of "Bleak House" in 1853, defended himself in the preface. "I have no need to observe that I do not willfully or negligently mislead my readers," he wrote, "and that before I wrote that description I took pains to investigate the subject."

Arnold's book reads much like a transcript of segments from the popular television series "Unsolved Mysteries." He appeared on the show this spring and again last month when the program aired again.

Arnold has also appeared on "That's Incredible," "The Other Side," "The Unexplained," "Sightings," "The Extraordinary," "Extremely Weird" and "The Maury Povich Show."

Arnold will appear on two television shows this fall. The Arts and Entertainment (A&E) Network has just completed post-production work on an hour-long episode of "The Unexplained" devoted to spontaneous human combustion.

"It will be an astonishing 60 minutes," Arnold said. "If this doesn't spark the public's interest in spontaneous human combustion, nothing can."

A second show "Beyond Bizarre," which just finished filming in Reno, will air on the Discovery Channel.

His publisher is also discussing a paperback version of "Ablaze," and a Japanese version has already come out. Arnold said he is considering a sequel to "Ablaze" compiling all the cases that have come up since the book was published.

Arnold spoke last month at the gathering of people interested in metaphysics and the paranormal.

His public appearances often prompt calls from victims, eyewitnesses or investigators of other possible cases of spontaneous human combustion. The caller always starts out the same way, he said: "You're going to laugh at this, but ..."

"It's like seeing a flying saucer," Arnold said. "They're

reluctant to talk about it for fear of ridicule. But once they're encouraged to confide their experience, they find again and again that what they think is unique historically, there have been dozens, if not scores, of parallels."

Arnold hopes his continued research will help to answer the slew of questions surrounding the phenomenon. "The challenge is to understand how it happens, when it happens, where it will happen and to whom it might happen," he said.

"Ablaze" is Arnold's third book. He is also the author of "The Reiki Handbook," a guide to a form of hands-on healing, and "The Parapsychological Impact of the Accident at Three Mile Island." In this book, Arnold recounts interviews of dozens of people in the Harrisburg, Pa., area who dreamed about or had psychic premonitions about an accident at the nuclear power plant before it happened.

Nine months before the accident, Arnold wrote an article for The Harrisburg Independent Press describing a Class 9 meltdown at the Unit 2 Reactor. The article, which Arnold said was 90 percent correct in predicting what would happen, attracted national attention after the real thing on March 28, 1979. The New York Times did a story about it, and the article was added to the Rare Documents Collection of the Pennsylvania State Library in Harrisburg.

Arnold's interest in the paranormal extends beyond spontaneous human combustion. He was in Davie County to interview three residents who reported to have come in contact with a Bigfoot-like creature.

Last year, he visited Davie to interview an individual whose vehicle was pelted with a shower of tiny frogs "about the size of a thumb" on U.S. 601 in Rowan County near the Rowan-Davie line.

Arnold also predicts the weather based on patterns in jet streams combined with what he described as an "intuitive right-brain sensing." Though he normally doesn't predict winter weather until Thanksgiving, Arnold, when asked, said he believes the South will have a warm winter this year.

"The words that come to mind are that it will be the winterless winter," he said.

Arnold is interested in hearing about any suspected cases of possible spontaneous human combustion or other strange occurrences and encourages readers to write him at Parascience International, 1025 Miller Lane, Harrisburg, PA 17110-2899 or on the Internet at psinet@voicenet.com.

GLOBE, Boston, MA - Aug. 15, 1997

## TGIF

ALEX BEAM

## Believer returns to Loch Ness

**R**OBERT RINES OF BOSTON AND Concord, N.H., is a man of many parts. He has a BS in physics from MIT, a law degree from Georgetown, and a PhD in electrical engineering from Chiao Tung University in China. A pianist and composer - he wrote the music for an Emmy Award-winning television show - he also founded the Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, an independent law school.

The holder of more than 60 patents, Rines was inducted into the Inventors Hall of Fame for his work on sonar and radar technologies. He has taught at both Harvard and MIT.

And there's one other thing, an associate explains: "He's an avid believer in Bigfoot and the Loch Ness monster."

It's true. The Academy of Applied Science, which Rines founded, sponsored the recently concluded, five-year-long Bigfoot Research Project. No sasquatch sightings reported. In 1972, Rines "saw" Nessie for 10 minutes, frolicking on the surface of the Scottish loch. Much hubbub, including a parliamentary inquiry and mocking "Doonesbury" cartoons, ensued.

In 1975, collaborating with MIT's famous photography expert, Harold "Doc" Edgerton, Rines produced a photo of Nessie that, according to one scientist, removed the "crackpot stigma" from the Ness quest. One subsequent trip was to feature reconnaissance by trained dolphins - that never came off. Another was sponsored by The New York Times.

Now, 25 years after his first sighting, Rines has just returned from a three-week, super-high-tech investigation of the loch. Because the trip was partly funded by WGBH's "Nova" science program, he and his longtime partner,

Charles Wyckoff, are supposed to keep mum until the show airs. But when I told them my mother was a firm believer in the "monster" - wrong word! "Even a kindergarten kid knows it's a plesiosaur," huffs Rines - they agreed to talk.

Bottom line: Not much to report. (Great television!) Even though the team had the latest hydro-acoustic equipment, "we didn't get the large number of contacts with big targets, as we did 20 years ago," says Rines. "We did get two or three contacts that were very interesting, but unfortunately we weren't able to be any more definitive about the meaning of those contacts. We did more science with less spectacular things to talk about."

Wyckoff elaborates: "I'm not sure we really got anything this year. We did learn that Loch Ness is becoming polluted. There was a definite absence of fish and plankton, compared with our last official trip in 1989."

So where does that leave "Nova"? "They found interesting things relating to the geology and ecology of the loch," a spokesman gamely insists. "You'll have to tune in." And by the way, who paid for Sheldon Apsell, husband of "Nova" supervising producer Paula Apsell, to join the expedition? "It was very separate," I am told. "She knew nothing about her husband being asked to go" while negotiating the deal, the spokesman says, adding: "Sheldon paid his own way."

But back to Rines. Here is a serious scientist in his early 70s, who cherishes the memory of standing next to his late wife, watching the sea creature wend its way through the waves. "It looked like the back of an elephant," he recalls. "I know there was a big unknown thing in that lake. That's why I haven't let go." Is he still a believer? "Is there still something big floating around underwater there?" he asks. "After this trip, I can come back and say, 'Maybe.'"

# Bigfoot tales disclosed in California

Folder yields stories, bids for endangered status

BY STEVEN A. CAPPS  
SACRAMENTO BEE

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — On the 12th floor of a nondescript state office building in downtown Sacramento, a dusty red loose-leaf binder lies on a gun-metal gray bottom shelf. The label reads "Bigfoot (Sasquatch)," and within it lies all the official state correspondence on the elusive humanlike animal some believe — fervently — roams the forested wilds of Northern California, the greater Pacific Northwest and Canada in general.

There are a few first-hand accounts of sightings of the hairy creature, newspaper clippings from around the region, reports from scientific journals and a couple of applications to have Bigfoot listed as an endangered, or at least threatened, species.

Move over, spotted owl. "Like any good scientist, we compile the data," said Lorna Bernard of the California Department of Fish and Game's wildlife management division.

"These people are serious about it, so we have to take it seriously," she said.

There's the 1991 phone message from a man in Los Angeles, who reported that during a hiking trip with friends in northwest California they stumbled upon a Bigfoot "and followed him for three days." They returned without any evidence.

There are requests from a Sacramento man who says he has seen Sasquatch and could prove its existence — for \$17,900.

The proposal was rejected. The file is peppered with requests from the past 25 years or so from schoolchildren, particularly from the East Coast, who plan to write science papers on the mysterious creature.

One girl asks for information on "the most recent sightings, possibly any maps of areas where this creature was supposed to have surfaced over the past five years, and/or any material such as photography of the creature or its tracks or habits." Polite letters are always sent in reply.

A polite letter also was sent in 1981 to a woman in Redwood City who reported seeing what could only have been a Bigfoot.

"From your letter, it appears you and your family saw something none of you can explain," replied a department biologist. "Whether this may be so, many times sightings such as yours are sightings of bears."

"However," he said, hedging his bet, "we would be interested in any verifiable proof that you might have or may gather in the future on the identity of the animal you have seen."

There have been at least two formal applications to have Sasquatch listed as endangered or threatened. One made in 1973 by a Yuba City man was remarkable in its detail. He even professed to know Bigfoot's sexual habits ("same as humans," he wrote).

On the "Data Form" required by the Department of Fish and Game, the applicant was asked to list the animal's "distinguishing characteristics."

"Adults are approximately 8 feet to 9 feet in height" and are "shy, gentle, harmless but very powerful," he wrote in longhand.

"Present distribution?" the form asked. "Known to extend from Yosemite to Alaska in family groups by sightings by many people of the West Coast," he wrote. Population: "several thousand."

In arguing for listing Bigfoot as endangered or threatened, the man concluded, "These people should be given full protection as soon as possible, for they are human. I know because I've seen them close up many times. They are as human as you or I, just hairy."

# Inside Report

## This bigfoot raises big stink

Legendary swamp thing is Skunk Ape, if you can believe it

By TOM BAYLES  
Associated Press

**OCHOPEE, Fla.** — It's big, hairy and smells like a mix of rotten eggs, moldy cheese and dung. It avoids detection by living in muddy, abandoned alligator caves, and it loves to steal pots of lima beans left out to soak.

So goes the legend of the Skunk Ape, the Everglades' own Sasquatch.

Stories about the burly creature have circulated for decades: It stands more than 7 feet tall, weighs more than 300 pounds and is the color of brown swamp mud. It has a mostly vegetarian diet, but it once killed a deer, split open the belly and ate only the liver.

Now, believers point to a tiny brown spot in the middle of a photo as new evidence that the bigfoot exists. Detractors aren't convinced.

The photo, with the spot barely visible at a distance among trees and high grass, was taken by Vince Doerr in July. Doerr, the fire chief in tiny Ochopee, about 75 miles west of Miami, said at the time that he saw something large and hairy running on two legs across a gravel road leading into the Everglades.

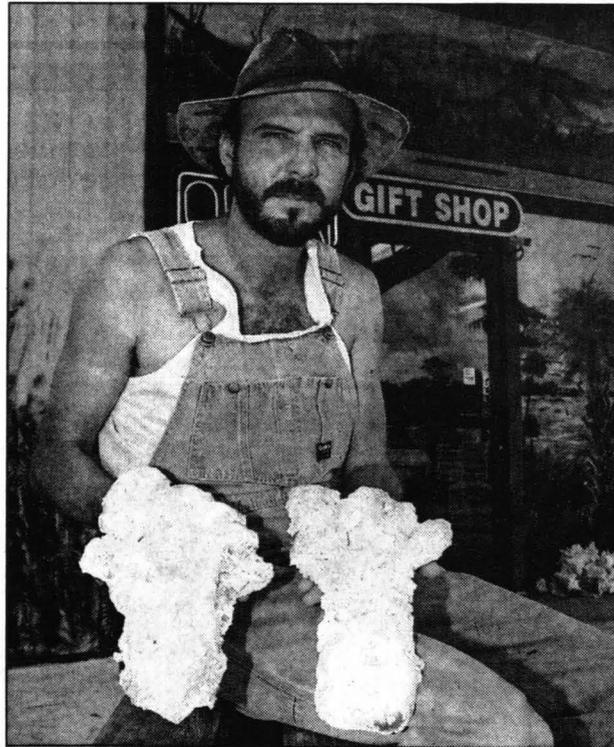
Doerr didn't return telephone calls seeking further comment, but the photo has revved up the Skunk Ape stories.

"There are a lot of things people don't know about out here," said David Shealy, a lifelong Everglades resident and owner of a gift shop and campground. "I saw it one time when we were going out to hunt."

As with any myth, second- and thirdhand accounts abound. A man calling himself Scotty in the Swamp tells of an incident involving a friend in the 1950s.

"It was getting dark and he saw a shadowy figure in the approaching darkness. In those days you'd stop for people," said Scotty, who sells photographs along a trail. "He immediately noticed a rotten odor. Then through the window came a big, hairy arm and he just floored it."

Shealy said a group of hunters told him about the night the Skunk Ape fell through the roof of their



GREGORY SMITH/Associated Press

**David Shealy of Ochopee, Fla., claims these plaster impressions are of tracks made by the Everglades Skunk Ape. "There are a lot of things people don't know about out here," said Shealy, a lifelong Everglades resident and owner of a gift shop and campground. "I saw it one time when we were going out to hunt."**

cabin, its eyes glowing red. As the men scrambled for their guns, it ripped a window from the wall and disappeared into the 'Glades.

Bill Carroll said he spent the last eight years as chief ranger of the Big Cypress National Preserve. In all that time, neither he nor any of his 70 park rangers and firefighters — who annually cover the three-quarters of a million acres by helicopter, airboat, swamp buggy, and foot — have seen the creature.

"We're not giving it much credence," Carroll said of the new photo. "But the Skunk Ape thing is

fun."

The Skunk Ape, also called the Swamp Ape, is akin to the legends of the yeti and bigfoot. There are numerous Internet sites dedicated to them, including the Global Bigfoot Encyclopedia, which reports "confirmed" sightings in five south Florida counties.

No bigfoot has ever been killed or captured, and no carcass or bones have ever been found.

The number of sightings in Florida is the greatest number outside of the Pacific Northwest, said Grover Krantz, a Washington State

*One man says he had a Skunk Ape hair sample, plucked from a broken branch seven feet high. But he said two men in dark suits with dark sunglasses, driving a dark car, burst in on him in the middle of the night and took the hair.*

University anthropologist and big-foot expert.

Five sightings this summer occurred in Collier County, in the 729,000-acre Big Cypress preserve. All of the sightings have been near Ochopee. Shealy said he has two large plaster of paris footprints from the beast. He keeps them in a glass-topped box.

Shealy also said he once had a reddish hair sample from the Skunk Ape, plucked from a broken branch seven feet high. He said two men in dark suits with dark wraparound sunglasses, driving a dark car, burst in on him in the middle of the night and took the hair.

Last month, Shealy took Doerr's photo to the Collier County Commission. When the commission chairman, Tim Hancock, was handed the photo, the other commissioners huddled around and started to poke fun.

"Mr. Chairman, in the interest of tourist dollars, we should release the picture immediately," said commissioner Tim Constantine.

"We could sell it to 'Inside Edition,'" Hancock said. "We could subsidize the general fund next year."

PIONEER PRESS, St. Paul, MN - Sept. 8, 1997 CR: R. PanLener

## Out-of-this world searches hitting Internet

KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWS SERVICE

If you're tired of solitaire and can't bear the thought of one more game of Quake, here's another use for your home computer: searching for life in outer space.

Folks at the SETI Institute are giving anyone connected to the Internet the opportunity to make a significant contribution to finding radio signals from space.

Starting with beta testing this fall and set to launch in the spring of 1998, SETIHome will debut on the Internet, available to anyone who wants to help professional astronomers search the radio waves for signals from outer space.

SETIHome is an experiment that organizers say will "harness the power of hundreds of thousands of Internet-connected computers in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence" or SETI.

Basically SETIHome works like a screen saver. When it is active, the program automatically will download a small bit of radio-telescope data from the Arecibo Radio Telescope in Puerto Rico, the one featured in this summer's movie "Contact." After processing the information for a few hours or days, the program on your computer will return the results to the server at SETIHome.

You can see the progress of the processing several ways, from the easy-to-understand Science Mode to the Earth Progress Mode, which will show how many personal computers, in real time, are helping to process the radio signals around the world.

The best part about this experiment is that anyone with a computer will have a chance, small though it may be, to be the first to detect a signal from another world.

Why are SETI and other astronomers

endorsing this unique project? For one thing, the federal government canceled financing for this kind of scientific research earlier in the decade, so SETI is relying on private citizens and corporations to keep it going. Also, the data to be processed are backlogged, so the project needs all the help it can get.

The project demonstrates that real science can be done on private computers; people around the world can be inspired to learn about the universe; and maybe someone will be lucky enough to discover a signal from other beings.

To find out how any person or organization with a computer can get involved, go to the Web site <http://www.bigscience.com/setiathome.html>.

To learn about the SETI project, and for information about the movie "Contact," plus hundreds of educational and entertaining astronomy links, visit <http://www.seti.org>.



A bronze statue of Bigfoot, the likeness based on supposed film footage, was for sale at the conference.

# Probing legend of Bigfoot

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR  
Sept. 14, 1997

## Virgin Mary atop steeple in Egypt?

As believers flock, Muslims vent anger

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SHENTENA EL-HAGAR, Egypt** — First came flashes of red light around the steeple of the Virgin Mary Church. Then silver-white doves flew overhead. And finally, residents of this small village said, the Virgin Mary herself alighted atop the steeple, a vision to the faithful.

But what should have been a holy encounter soon turned into a religious riot when Muslims, angered by tens of thousands of pilgrims packing the village, attacked Christian homes and shops.

For three nights last week, hundreds of Islamic militants from Shentena el-Hagar and nearby villages smashed windows and chanted slogans praising Islam and cursing Christianity.

No one was hurt, but the broken windows and smashed shutters are testament to the centuries of tense relations between Egypt's majority Muslims and minority Coptic Christians, who number 6 million in a nation of 60 million.

Although Muslims revere the Virgin Mary as the mother of Jesus Christ — a prophet in the Islamic faith — their religion prohibits venerating images of people.

Twice before — in 1968 and 1986 — there have been reported sightings of the Virgin Mary in Egypt, both in the capital, Cairo.

This time it was in a village of a few thousand residents, 44 miles north of Cairo.

Since the virgin first reportedly appeared in a white robe and blue veil Aug. 13, about 150,000 pilgrims have visited, said the village priest, Father Youanis Rateb Abdel-Nour.

Abdel-Nour explained that town youths saw the first sign of the virgin in the red lights and silver-white objects swirling around the church steeple. He joined the young people and said he saw "a dove and a strong white light."

"And then illuminated objects flew above the church, ... spiritual images."

After sending two committees to investigate, Egypt's Coptic patriarch, Pope Shenouda III, issued a statement saying, "an unnatural light" appeared in the church. He hailed it as a "spiritual appearance" but did not refer to the Virgin Mary.

The statement did nothing to dissuade the faithful, who poured into the village's narrow streets and burst into villagers' homes. They climbed walls and rooftops in hopes of catching a glimpse of the luminous image and perhaps reaping a miracle.

The numbers dwindled after the violence. Also, scores of riot police armed with bamboo canes sealed off the village and prohibited outsiders from entering between 4 p.m. and 7 a.m.



ALAN BERNER / SEATTLE TIMES

John Bindernagel of Courtenay, B.C., displays the plaster castings he made on Vancouver Island of what he believes to be the footprints of Bigfoot.

## Curious gather at Sasquatch conference

BY MURRAY WHYTE  
Seattle Times staff reporter

VANCOUVER, B.C. — John Bindernagel, Ph.D., has just completed his opening presentation for the fifth annual International Sasquatch Symposium, a gathering of believers and skeptics devoted to the Northwest's most famous mystery beast.

Everything has gone smoothly. His slides of native carvings depicting the Dzunoqua, a wild woman of the woods who, legend has it, would steal children from native villages, show clear human traits.

Bindernagel has explained at length the striking similarities between the carvings and primates like chimpanzees: the rounded mouth, the prominent lips, the receding brow, all of them leading him to his hypothesis that a great ape, commonly known as Bigfoot, lurks in the dense forests of the Pacific Northwest.

Bindernagel has examined scores of reports of its behavioral and eating habits and has compiled

sightings, descriptions, footprints, photographs, videotapes, and tufts of hair. He has observed mounds of excrement that he says could not have been produced by any known beast.

Bindernagel, a wildlife biologist with more than 30 years of field experience, believes.

But now, the question period.

"I wonder if the reason we have such a hard time finding a Sasquatch is because of its shape-changing abilities?"

Giggles. Bindernagel looks like a deer caught in the high beams. "Well, maybe ..." he says, cocking his head to the side, looking for another question.

Later, as the opening presentation of the Sasquatch Symposium comes to a close, Bindernagel reflects.

"I try to remain open, but I'm an old-time biologist. I think mythology can be very strong



Nils Zettergren of Vancouver, Wash., sells tickets at the Bigfoot gathering.

metaphorically, but I don't think we have to take it quite so literally. We can take a conservative approach that this really is just an ape."

But it's not easy taking a pragmatic approach to so heavily mythologized a creature as the Sasquatch.

The general public regards it with the same bemused skepticism as the Loch Ness Monster and UFOs. And legends of ape-like creatures that walk like a man through the wild are common worldwide.

Add in the reality that there is no evidence of any primate — except for man, of course — ever having lived in North America, and the

road to credibility becomes a very steep uphill slope indeed.

But then, a researcher would point to the sightings, dozens of which continue to roll in each year.

Heavily blurred photographs are common, as are hoaxes, and even the famous film, taken by Roger Patterson on Oct. 20, 1967, is subject to scrutiny, despite countless experts unable to explain away the nearly two minutes of clear footage of an upright, ape-like creature striding like a human through a clearing.

"There's an enormous ridicule factor," said Todd Neiss, who reported seeing ape-like creatures near Seaside, Oregon in 1993.

"The question I was posing to

myself was this: 'Are you willing to have people question your very sanity just for the risk of telling what you saw?' But then I realized that I couldn't lie to myself. I saw what I saw. I shouldn't be ashamed of that. If people are so shallow that they'll write me off because of it, then so be it."