

UFO

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NEWS-TRIBUNE, Duluth, MN - Jan. 22, 1998 CR: J. Trainor

'Missing' McPhersons are also alien

By Jason Skog
News-Tribune staff writer

No record in Lake County of supposedly abducted couple

If the skies are clear tonight, keep your eyes trained on the heavens and look for the McPhersons of Minnesota's Lake County.

Supposedly they've been carted off in a spacecraft by little green men.

A nationally televised show Tuesday night claimed to have videotape of the family's alien abduction a year ago Thanksgiving, and it had Lake County Sheriff's Department phones ringing off the hook Wednesday.

"The only person I haven't heard from are Mulder and Scully," said sheriff's dispatcher Tim Wittlief, joking about the Fox-TV network's fictional FBI

detectives assigned to investigate similar claims.

Wittlief said he'd taken calls from 20 to 25 "media" representatives, "all calling to find out where Lake County is so they can fly in here."

Wittlief did say there have been no reports of missing Lake County families and, more specifically, no McPhersons.

"Alien Abduction: Incident at Lake County," was presented by UPN, an independent television network with a Twin Cities affiliate, KMSP-TV Channel 9, carried on Northland cable systems.

A KMSP receptionist said she had taken dozens of phone requests for information and videotapes.

A spokeswoman at the Los Angeles-based network didn't return phone calls Wednesday.

The show was an apparent disappointment but a popular topic in certain World Wide Web chat rooms and bulletin boards.

Some chatters said they thought the videotape was convincing until they saw that the credits listed actors who played Alien 1 and Alien 2.

"I thought it to be, by far, the worst 'UFO' genre TV movie ever put forth," P. Brumley wrote in a Web newsgroup called alt.ufo.reports. "... You could tell it was rehearsed and the camera seemed to be in the right place at the right time. It just seemed like farcical nonsense."

The show led viewers to believe the Lake County McPherson family still is missing.

There are no McPhersons listed in the Two Harbors phone book from two years ago, and a search of a 1995 CD-ROM database showed no McPhersons or MacPhersons in any Lake County town.

Maybe the local cops are part of the conspiracy.

"Oh yeah, we're the Men in Black," Wittlief said. "I haven't the faintest idea of where this story came from. I've been here since 1975, and this hasn't happened."

Lake County Sheriff Andy Haugan said he has no idea who

the McPherson family is, but he knows nobody is missing from his county.

"And I haven't seen any aliens running around the streets up here," the sheriff said.

Haugan did have an interesting encounter on a cold winter night about 25 years ago.

"We saw four huge bright lights on a line, like on a wing," he said. "It was like it was flying, but there was no noise. Several people had seen the same phenomena."

He never could explain what he saw.

"I don't know — maybe it's because I'm the sheriff up here," he said, wryly referring to the paranormal activities of his county.

TRI-CITY HERALD, Kennewick, WA - Jan. 8, 1998

Fireball splashes into Columbia

By MIKE LEE
and DAVID CUILLIER
Herald staff writers

Tri-Citians reported seeing a fireball the size of a car splash into the Columbia River just west of the blue bridge at 10 p.m. Wednesday.

The ball of fire looked like a meteor — with orange and red flames trailing through the sky — as it crashed into the river about 100 yards upstream of the bridge, said Judy Smiley of Kennewick.

She was driving east through Columbia Park in Kennewick when she saw the object splash down at 9:55 p.m.

Smiley said it was nearly as big as her Chevy Cavalier.

"It was fast, real fast," the homemaker and mother of two, said. "It splashed the water up, and I thought surely there was someone on the blue bridge who must have seen it. I'm going, 'I can't believe this.'"

A dispatcher at the Franklin County 911 center said at least one person — maybe two — reported seeing the fireball Wednesday night, and Pasco police may investigate today.

No sightings were called into the Benton County 911 dispatch center, officials said.

A United Airlines pilot reported

seeing two or three meteors in Mid-Columbia skies Wednesday night, said Lee Fryer at the Federal Aviation Administration in Seattle.

He was doubtful, however, about the ground reports, saying most meteors burn up by the time they hit the ground, and usually are only seen several miles high. "They may have seen a meteor, but it was a long way away," he said after hearing sketchy details of the incident.

At the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, Director Peter Davenport said he had at least one similar report in Western Washington on Wednesday night. About 5 p.m., a woman in Federal Way sighted a red-orange cometlike

object falling from the sky.

"We are getting reports like that with some regularity and we have reason to believe they are not meteors," Davenport said. "Saying what they are is extremely hard to do."

Smiley said she was headed home from a friend's house Wednesday night, going east through the park from Columbia Center Boulevard. About a mile down the way — near the park campground — she saw a light in the sky to the east.

At first it looked like a bright airplane light, but it was headed toward the Tri-Cities too fast.

"I slowed down and watched it," Smiley said. "It started coming straight down. It was going right in

front of me almost."

After about a minute of watching the light get closer the ball came in fast. By then she was at about the park's duck pond. She saw the flames.

"I slammed on my brakes."

The object pounded into the river, coincidentally not too far from where Kennewick Man's 9,200-year-old bones were found.

"When I got home I told my family and my kids wanted to come back to the park to see if more would fall," she said. "I said 'no way.'"

Reporter Mike Lee can be reached at 582-1542 or via e-mail at mlee@tri-cityherald.com

JOURNAL SENTINEL, [City Unknown], WI
July 20, 1997 CR: C. Meiers

Wisconsinites no strangers to UFOs

Resort owner, others
gather at Long Lake to talk
about what they've seen

By MEG JONES
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Town of Osceola — It's not fair really. While Roswell, N.M., is getting tons of ink this summer on the 50th anniversary of the landing of its famous UFO encounter, not a peep has been heard of Wisconsin's extraterrestrial history.

Wisconsin has a long and rich tradition of UFO sightings. However, our brushes with aliens haven't exactly vaulted into national lore.

Many of the reports have come from the Long Lake area, east of Campbellsport in Fond

du Lac County. So many, in fact, that this spot could be considered Wisconsin's Area 51, the fabled spot in the Roswell incident.

"It could be perhaps (Wisconsin's) latitude or longitude," said Bill Benson, owner of Benson's Hide-a-Way on Long Lake, when asked to explain how come there have been so many UFO sightings there.

"I don't know the reason. Perhaps it's the magnetic forces of the limestone. We also have a lot of good water here," he said.

Benson has sponsored a get-together, dubbed UFO Daze, every summer for the last seven years for believers to congregate and talk about their experiences as alien abductees and to remi-

niscise about UFOs they've seen.

On Saturday, as a Chicago crew filmed an episode of "Strange Universe," about three dozen people listened to Joyce Murphy, author of a monthly publication called "Beyond Boundaries" speak about crop circles and chupacabras, a mythical beast that reportedly sucks the blood from animals and humans.

Many of the folks wore T-shirts bearing the likeness of aliens, the kind with big brown eyes and bald heads.

They swapped stories about seeing UFOs that looked like long glowing cigars or were boxy and blinking or were red and triangle-shaped. They hovered, they streaked against the sky, they followed humans and, in most cases, they disappeared just like that, the tellers said, snapping their fingers. One gentleman even allowed a reporter to touch the bump on his nose where he said aliens had planned a radio receiver.

The highlight each year is a trip up nearby Dundee Mountain, where people wait for any UFOs that might decide to come by.

Bob Kuehn, a Fond du Lac

resident who has attended every UFO Daze event, pulled out color photos of what he said were unexplained phenomena from last year's visit to Dundee Mountain. The grainy photos showed small dots of light that Kuehn said were UFOs.

"They're hard to discern unless you know what the hell you're looking for," said Kuehn as he pulled the photos from a rumpled padded envelope.

Kuehn said he had witnessed about 65 UFO sightings. The first one was when he was a 4-year-old tyke in Lomira.

"I thought it was a washtub flying by," he said.

Not surprisingly, Kuehn doesn't believe it was a weather balloon that crashed in Roswell. He thinks it was a big cover-up by the government.

Does anyone think you're nuts, Bob?

"I don't fear. I'm 67. I've got one foot in the grave, so who the hell cares? As long as there's a breath of life in me, I'll try to expose it," Kuehn said.

Benson said the first sighting of blinking lights in the Long Lake area happened in 1948, when a farmer noticed something unusual that followed him

as he plowed his field. Since then, others have witnessed the bright lights and unusual happenings.

UFO sightings in Wisconsin harken back to the spring of 1897 when scared citizens in Milwaukee, Green Bay and Appleton reported seeing a strange glowing object in the sky.

An Appleton farmer reported finding a typed letter attached to an iron rod that some speculated had been dropped from the spaceship. Even more strange was the fact that it was written in English and boasted that "the problem of aerial navigation has been solved," according to news reports. Alas, the letter writer didn't sign his name.

Since then, strange happenings have been noted in various spots throughout Wisconsin. Elmwood, a tiny village in western Wisconsin near Hudson, also sponsors a UFO festival to capitalize on alleged brushes with interplanetary visitors.

Benson said he plans to continue scheduling UFO gatherings at his resort. He is not afraid of people thinking he's a kook.

"I get that a lot. All I can say is what I've seen," he said.



Star Tribune Photo Illustration by Nancy Entwistle

ALIEN INVASION



Television
Noel Holston

Whether **extraterrestrials** have landed or not, they've thoroughly invaded our popular culture, thanks in large part to television.

Flying saucer? *What* flying saucer? That was no alien craft that crashed near Roswell, N.M., in 1947, according to a UFO-debunking report that the U.S. Air Force issued last summer. The debris that has inspired alien-seekers for half a century was really weather balloons and test dummies. And as for the alien creature who allegedly walked into an Air Force hospital in 1959, why, that was an officer whose noggin puffed up like "the classic science fiction alien head" after he bumped it on a balloon gondola. Small wonder that the report, wishfully titled "Case Closed," left UFO buffs rolling their eyes. Small wonder, too, that the Learning Channel (TLC), far from scrapping plans for a second annual "Alien Invasion Week" in the wake of the Air Force's "final" word, is expanding the event this year to 15 separate doc-

umentaries over eight days. Counting reruns, that's 37 hours of programming. "I don't think we have definitive proof yet that there has been an alien encounter on Earth — ever," said TLC senior vice president and general manager John Ford. "I don't think we've had definitive proof that it's never happened, either, because there are still too many events that remain unexplained. "I don't think there's any proof of a cover-up, either. We continue to talk to people who say they have proof. We work with them for a while and then we find out that whatever proof they do have is well-informed speculation. Nevertheless, I think viewers find 'the hunt' fascinating." *Endlessly* fascinating, he might have said. UFOs, flying saucers, extraterrestrial visitors — these manifestations of something beyond our world, and perhaps greater than us, may be as fundamental to our humanity as the concept of God. In 1957, psychoanalyst Carl Jung observed that the flying saucer was an archetypal fantasy object. "Our time is

characterized by fragmentation, confusion and perplexity," he wrote. "At such times men's eyes turn to heaven for help, and marvelous signs appear from on high." Considering how we now look upon the late '50s as a less complicated, happier time, it's hardly surprising that the UFO/space alien phenomenon is bigger than ever in the 1990s. Indeed, the phenomenon has a life of its own, breeding on itself like a nuclear reactor. Bad publicity and official denials are as likely to perpetuate interest in UFOs and extraterrestrial life forms as bona fide scientific findings, such as the Hubble space telescope's discovery of more galaxies than we ever imagined. "The government has *acted* like it was covering up important things," said Don Berliner, author of more than 20 books about aviation and acting director of the Fund for UFO Research, which exists to encourage serious scientific inquiry. "You can't go to court with that, but it does keep things interesting."

Serious films, such as "Contact," further the UFO mythology as surely as a comedy such as "Men in Black" or a shoot-'em-up such as "Independence Day" or a TV conspiracy drama such as "The X-Files." And such mainstream magazines as Time and U.S. News & World Report do as much to sustain interest as tabloids such as the Weekly World News, which is prone to doctored cover photographs of politicians rubbing shoulders with bulb-headed, almond-eyed aliens that have become pop-culture icons to rival Mickey Mouse.

The approach of the millennium may be a factor, as well. "It may be that in the year 2001 there will be a sharp decline in interest in this sort of thing, when people realize we're not on the precipice of a new age or that Michael Rennie [star of 1951's "The Day the Earth Stood Still"] doesn't land in the back yard of the White House," said Tim White, host of "Sightings," a six-year-old series now shown by the Sci-Fi Channel (SCI). "I don't know," White said. "But yes, there is a lot of interest in it. And it does grow. It has become, if not legitimized, more le-

gitimate to ask questions." According to TLC's Ford, "I think it speaks to something larger than just popularity. I think there's a human need — that many of us don't know how to express — to believe that we are not alone as a species with communicative intelligence in the universe." TLC's alien extravaganza starts Sunday, but it's not the only channel or network hitching its wagon to a UFO in the week ahead: "UFOs: The 100-Year Cover-up" (6 p.m. today, SCI), a two-hour edition of "Sightings," con-

siders whether the concealment of UFO evidence actually dates back to a mysterious crash in 1897, 50 years before Roswell and six years before the Wright brothers got off the ground. UPN stations, including KMSP-TV, Channel 9, on Tuesday will show "Alien Abduction: Incident in Lake County" (8 p.m.), which purports to be a teenager's home video of his family being abducted by aliens. At least two installments of the syndicated series "Strange Universe" (11 p.m., KMSP) next week will include alien-related segments.

All this, plus the continued ratings success of "X-Files" episodes new and old, points up how thoroughly the concept of extraterrestrial visitors has invaded our culture. At the rate we're going, our alien pal may supplant Abe Lincoln on the penny and give Garth Brooks a run for entertainer of the year at the People's Choice Awards. **Nonsense and sensibility** The ascendancy of the space alien in pop culture doesn't necessarily warm the hearts of (continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2 - STAR TRIBUNE,

Minneapolis, MN - Jan. 17, 1998)

utologists, as serious students of the phenomenon are known.

Dr. Steven Greer, a North Carolina emergency physician who heads the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI), says popular awareness of aliens and UFOs has been fed too much by "nonsense and non-science." He also worries that movies such as "Independence Day" and TV series such as "The X-Files" and "Dark Skies" foster a "fearsome and xenophobic" view of extraterrestrials. He doesn't believe we have anything to fear.

Greer is an unabashed believer who says he saw his first UFO when he was 9. He surmises that our alien visitors are "probably from different star systems and are working together on at least the observation of our society at this time."

Greer wants congressional hearings. "I have personally now identified about 150 top secret military and intelligence workers . . . who have firsthand information regarding covert programs related to the extraterrestrial and UFO phenomena," he said, add-

ing that he is meeting privately with congressmen to discuss hearings for which these people could be subpoenaed.

Berliner, of the Fund for UFO Research, is equally adamant about wanting UFOs studied more aggressively, although he makes no claim to having ever seen one.

"There's a great deal we could learn if only people with the proper training would take the subject seriously," Berliner said, citing such hard data as radar-tracking reports that could be analyzed to determine the speed and maneuverability of suspicious aircraft.

Scientists are reluctant to get involved, he said, because there "is and always has been a great fear of ridicule. I blame the tabloids for a lot of this. I blame the government for the rest of it. The government did a superb job of creating an atmosphere of nonsense around the subject."

At the Fund for UFO Research, he said, "We don't have any stake in any particular conclusion. We don't care what UFOs are. We'd just like to find out."

ARIZONA REPUBLIC, Phoenix, AZ - Jan. 13, 1998 CR: F. Kron

Barwood pushes UFOs in bid for state office

By Chris Fiscus
The Arizona Republic

When she pressed for an investigation into an apparent UFO sighting over Phoenix last March, then-Councilwoman Frances Emma Barwood drew her share of ridicule.

But Barwood will announce today that she is basing her run for Arizona secretary of state in part on a pledge to get answers to such seemingly paranormal events.

Her campaign will mark "the first time a viable candidate for high public office, state or national" has formally raised questions about the federal government's failure to investigate the V-shaped formation of lights that passed over Phoenix last March, and

other reports of unidentified flying objects, she said. The sightings sparked hundreds of calls to Luke Air Force Base and the media.

"I would have run anyway," Barwood said Monday. "but this made me realize we have a problem with the government's lack of openness."

As secretary of state, she added, she would be in the position to ask for investigations into incidents like the one March 13 involving the lights.

"What was the most astonishing thing to me was finding out all the times in the past people did ask, and all they got was



Frances Emma Barwood / The former councilwoman gained international attention after she asked for an investigation of mysterious lights seen over Phoenix.

ridicule," she said.

She will announce her candidacy at a noon press conference at the downtown Hyatt Regency hotel.

Her campaign team includes a Maryland man who specializes in dealing with unexplained events and incidents where the government reputedly ignored citizen inquiries, she said.

"This is a public safety issue of state and national significance which should not, in good conscience, be ignored by a responsible candidate for high office," Barwood wrote in a statement.

Another campaign manager will be on hand to help her deal with state issues.

Barwood grabbed international attention and was a regular on national television and radio shows when, as a city councilwoman, she called for an investigation into the lights.

UFO believers lauded her when she asked Phoenix to look into the sightings. When the city scoffed, she asked Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and the Air Force to investigate. The questions went unanswered, she said, even though there were "thousands of sightings of unidentified craft" in state and national airspace.

"Government has gotten so closed to the people it's become a 'them against us' attitude . . .

Nobody trusts government," Barwood said Monday.

When Barwood was on the City Council, though, the city approved a silicon-wafer plant for northeast Phoenix. That led to a recall, protests and legal challenges from furious neighbors who said the city rushed the plan through the process and duped the public.

Barwood survived the recall and finished her term in office last month, but did not run for re-election.

Several explanations have been offered for the lights. A Maryland Air National Guard unit has said several of its planes dropped flares while returning from a gunnery range in southern Arizona, which might account for the sighting.

"I really feel (secretary of state) is an office that is a pivotal point in state government," she said. "We need to get back to what's really important, like our constitutional rights and our state rights. We have to have someone who's willing to stick her neck out to protect our freedoms."

Former Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Chairman Betsy Bayless is the secretary of state, after Jane Hull moved into her new job as governor. Bayless is finishing Hull's term, which ends next January. If she wants to keep the job, Bayless will have to run.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Jan. 14, 1998

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

Almost Springlike weather allowed for two nights of good skywatching last weekend. Saturday night was very clear with temperatures in the 50s. Quite a relief from the cold temperatures and damp weather we have been experiencing recently along the Gulf coast. Shoreline Park was deserted, however, except for the skywatchers. Five of us settled in for a good evening of skywatching and were in the process of catching up on all the news, not having seen much of each other since the holiday season passed. Bill Ford, the chief investigator for the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON group spotted two unusual lights out over Santa Rosa Island at around 8:45 p.m. They appeared quite suddenly west of the toll booth on Fort Pickens Road. The lights appeared to be at a few degrees elevation above the horizon and initially appeared as two yellow colored lights in close horizontal proximity, spaced further apart than headlights would appear. They were stationary. We all began to observe these lights through binoculars and watched as they began to change configuration with other, smaller lights below. We watched as cars travelling along Fort Pickens Road passed below these lights and noted that the lights appeared considerably higher than the road. The only possible explanation was some kind of ship at anchor off the Beach or that we were having a spectacular sighting. We speculated that if it were a ship, the light configuration would probably have remained constant. We were all rather excited, hoping that this would be the first sighting to report in 1998. As we watched through binoculars, the whole light configuration appeared to revolve in an counter-clockwise motion away from us, leaving only a small configuration of four or five lights visible once this maneuver was completed. We decided that the only way to find out just what we were looking at was to drive over to the Beach to a closer vantage point. Four of us set off as quickly as possible over the Bob Sikes Bridge and down Fort Pickens Road. We stopped in a parking lot just east of the Fort Pickens toll booth and climbed onto a wooden walkway that led to the shore.

From that vantage point we could clearly see that we had been watching a large container ship with bright lights atop tall poles along its deck. The ship was undoubtedly at anchor awaiting tide or tug for safe passage through the pass into Pensacola Bay and its destination, the Port of Pensacola. No doubt the "rotation" we had witnessed was the ship coming to an anchor in the Gulf. The following evening we saw the same ship docked in the Port of Pensacola as we crossed the three mile bridge to Gulf Breeze on our way to skywatch. Even though this turned out not to be a UFO sighting, it certainly had us wondering for awhile and gave us some excitement!

Our experience on Saturday evening proves one thing. It is necessary to go to whatever lengths are possible in a given situation to gain as much information about a potential sighting as possible. Whether you are a trained investigator, or just a lay researcher, common sense should always prevail and obviously in this case, shifting the location of our observation proved valuable in discerning what we were viewing. Of course, this type of action is not always possible, but we always try to do everything possible in each situation to determine what we are viewing, whether it is chasing across the Bob Sikes Bridge, calling the local military establishments or approaching others who had the potential of seeing the same thing at the same time. These are not difficult things to achieve, and if for nothing other than our own peace of mind in determining the validity of a particular sighting, are valuable tools which are available to everyone.

The following evening, Sunday, was not as clear. The clouds were thickening with a light drizzle falling, and lightning flashing in the sky to the south by the time we decided to call it a night. Sunday evening was very uneventful and quiet with the exception of a good conversation, and the voice of a loon calling in the distance.

Those of you who read these columns while the construction was being carried out at Shoreline Park will recall my concern over the possible impact to the wildlife in the area. Well, I am pleased to report that during a daytime visit to

Shoreline recently, I was able to watch three wintering loons and we have heard them calling at night also. The owl is still in residence to the west of the park in the woods near the swamp and I have received two reports of people seeing coyotes in the parking lot recently. We also have a very large possum who lumbers across the parking lot occasionally or scoots along the Beach beneath the new boardwalk. We still hear the raccoons arguing in the woods and see them scavenging snacks from the garbage cans in the park. There used to be a healthy population of feral cats at Shoreline, that seems to have declined recently, no doubt due to the arrival of the coyotes. So I suppose, just like the skywatchers, the local wildlife has adapted itself to the new additions to Shoreline Park.

I received a report of a sighting during December from a friend in Fort Walton this weekend. Mr. Miller has had a long-term interest in the subject of UFOs and attends many of the local meetings and Conferences as well as travelling to the UFO Congress in Nevada on several occasions. He had never had a personal UFO sighting up until now, however. I was able to interview him by telephone and here is his account of his sighting. Mr. Miller states that he was outside watching a telephone company worker install a new telephone line into his house. He glanced at the sky because he heard the noise of an airplane engine, and identified the plane whose engine noise he could hear. At about a 45 degree angle in the sky from the plane and to the right of it, Mr. Miller saw a round black circle in the sky which he describes as being the size of an orange at arm's length. "I would guess it was about a mile away and maybe 6000 feet up," Mr. Miller told me. Of course, it is very difficult to estimate these distances and sizes. "I watched it for about a minute . . . it was moving very, very slowly, kind of floating along," the witness reports. He called to his wife to bring him his binoculars and as she was doing so, Mr. Miller maintained his observation of the object. "As I watched, it flipped over and the other side of it was silver, and really shiny," Mr. Miller told me. Then apparently,

the object flipped back to its black side. Mr. Miller's wife appeared with the binoculars. "As I looked away to get the binoculars out of the case, the thing disappeared! When I looked back at the sky where it was to focus it in my binoculars, it was gone!" The total duration of this sighting was approximately one and a half minutes and occurred at 11 a.m. on December 18, 1997.

For information about the Project Awareness Gulf Breeze UFO Conference to be held March 20, 21 and 22 on Pensacola Beach, you can hit their website at: <http://www.com>, write to Project Awareness, P. O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze FL 32561, telephone them at (850) 432-8888 or e-mail: vickilyons01@sprynet.com.

For information on the annual Ozark UFO Conference, 2 Caney Valley Drive, Plumerville AR 72127-8725, telephone (501) 354-2558.

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Cbakewd@aol.com or write to me at P. O. Box 17152, Pensacola FL 32522-7152, thank you. And remember - Keep Looking Up!

Carried away

What if you thought you were being abducted by aliens when you fell asleep?

Editor's note: The source of this story, who prefers to be anonymous, lives in the Kansas City area. Writer Allison Steele is a high school senior from Philadelphia.

As told to ALLISON STEELE
Special to TeenStar

When most people hear the phrase "alien abductions," they think of what they've seen in movies: drunken, ignorant hicks; weird, reclusive scientists; fanatics who dance around the rooftops of tall buildings, waving a sign and hoping for Elvis Presley's return.

I assure you, I am not a drunk, and I am not ignorant. I am not a fanatic, and I am not much of an Elvis fan.

And I hope to God that I am not crazy.

I'm writing this anonymously. It's hard enough for me to write as it is, but signing my name to it would be a social risk I'm not willing to take. Some of you who read this know who I am, but you'll never know that I wrote this. If you did, you'd ridicule me. Most of you are probably pretty skeptical about people who claim to have had close encounters.

I know how crazy it sounds. I know it sounds like something you'd find in a tabloid instead of a regular newspaper. Don't think for one minute that I don't feel the same way. I question it constantly. But if I can't believe my own eyes, then what can I believe?

So before you dismiss the subject, I ask you to keep an open mind. I have no intention of forcing you to change your opinion one way or the other. I just want to share what I have seen, and you can draw your own conclusions.

The incidents began in the summer of 1995. They come and go with no pattern; they can happen every night for a week or more, then not for months. However, no matter how inconsistent they are, I never go to sleep without wondering if I will be awakened in the night by something I can't see or hear.

Whenever I wake up, I always know instantly when something is there. It feels as if there's no air in the room, as if I am being suffocated, and a paralysis takes over my body. Each time it happens, I tell myself, "I'm going to stay awake this time. I'm going to keep my eyes open to see what happens." And each time, the helplessness I feel makes me too afraid and I have to close my eyes. In the morning, sometimes I can recall certain details about what happened in the night. I can remember listening once to someone talking to me, but I couldn't see who it was and it was not in a human voice. It sounded computer-generated, pieced

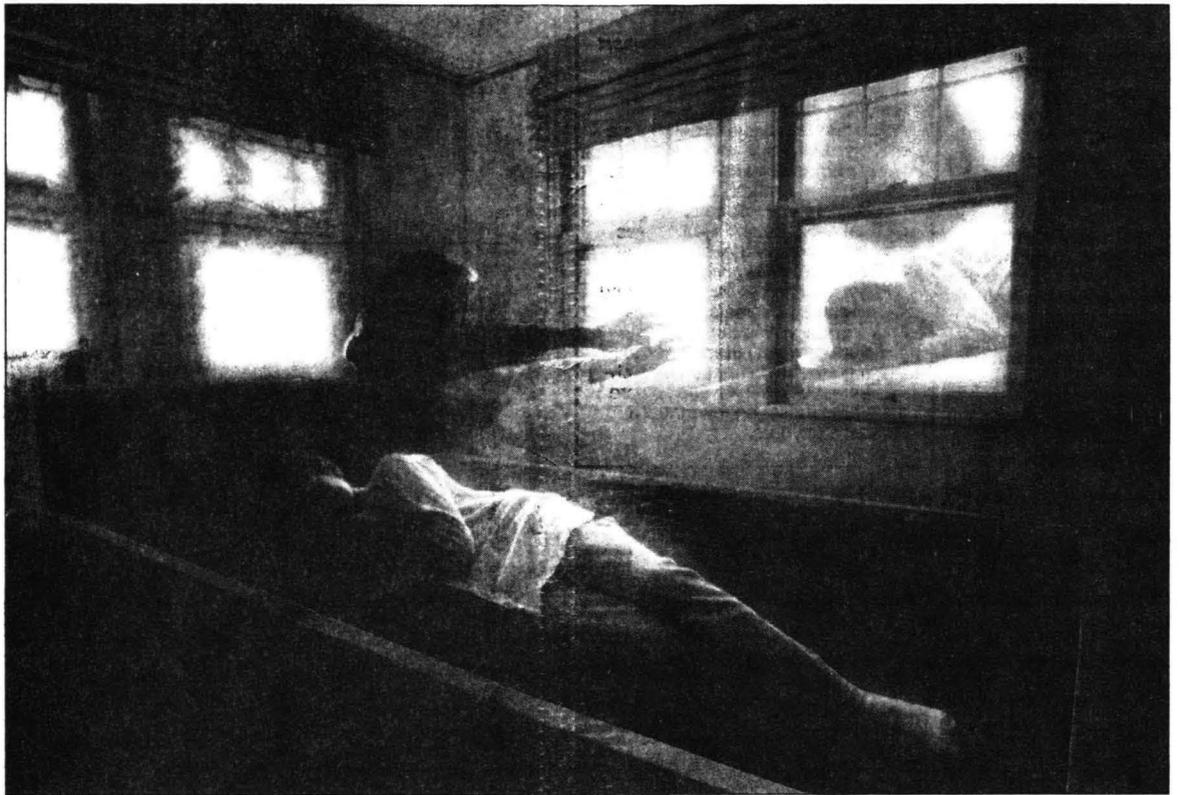


Photo illustration by JEANEL DRAKE/TeenStar

together somehow. And usually, except for this occasional type of dreamlike fragment, that's all I can remember.

But sometimes the "dream" is more than just the paralysis and the sense of a presence in the room. There are several particular incidents that stick out in my mind — incidents in which I am sure I was awake.

On Sept. 5, 1995, I awoke sometime in the night. I was in my bed, facing my window. I felt the presence of something, and I felt the oxygen slowly being sucked out of my room. With that came the familiar feeling of paralysis, slowly creeping up my legs. But that night, for the first and only time, I saw a little ball of red light outside in the sky, nearing my window. I watched as it entered my room, going straight through the window like a laser beam. But it was not simply a beam of light, it was a three-dimensional sphere that was solid in the center and whose light grew fainter at its edges.

My legs felt completely paralyzed by that time. The light from the sphere filled the room, blinding me. All I could see was red. I started to panic. Somehow I willed myself to move. I was only mobile enough to stand and stumble toward the door before the paralysis overwhelmed me. It was like wading into wet concrete. I lost all control of my movements, and I fell against the wall. I could hear the thud, and I felt the pain as my head hit the floor. My last memory is of long, clammy fingers grabbing my arms.

That was the only time I ever tried to move or get up, and it didn't work. It was also the closest I had ever come to actually seeing what had been coming into my room. I know it was not a dream because falling would not have hurt. I never feel any physical pain in dreams. In the morning, I could find no marks on my body, but I also knew something had been there because the blanket on my bed, which always has its green side up, had been reversed so that the white side was visible. When I asked, my parents said that neither of them had been in my room that night.

what it was like being visited and abducted by aliens.

Cook, who is with the sleep disorder lab at St. Luke's Hospital, wasn't disputing what the teen said. It was just that the girl's reports of feeling paralyzed, of desiring a good night's sleep, and the vivid description of seeing a speeding red light and feeling clammy fingers all sounded like someone who suffers a sleep disorder known as narcolepsy.

Narcoleptics crave sleep, Cook said. During the day they'll have sleep attacks, literally falling asleep even when they aren't trying. It's at its worst in puberty, he said, and often leads its victims to be labeled lazy.

But it's a disease, he said, and in all likelihood it's passed from one generation to the next.

In her story the teen said she knew an alien force was visiting her bedroom when she began to feel suffocated and unable to move her limbs.

If what she experienced were a sleep disorder, Cook said, that could be cataplexy, which is common in narcoleptics.

"It's a loss of muscle tone," he said, adding, "They feel they have been paralyzed. They still respond mentally to what's going on around them, but they can't do anything."

Usually, he said, narcoleptics feel a sense of being paralyzed

Another night, months later, the presence entered my room and filled me with the usual paralyzing sensation; shortly thereafter, I felt myself being lifted from my bed. As I lay on my stomach, eyes closed, I began to float, and then I felt cold air on my skin. When I finally got the courage to open my eyes, I was looking down on the roof of my house. I don't know how I got out of my room, but that is how I know that I have been taken from my house on at least one occasion.

My best friend, whom I have told about this, tries to remain as neutral as possible about what has been happening to me. Because it is a source of awkwardness between us, we bring up the subject as little as possible. However, three of my close relatives have experienced encounters that are similar or even identical to mine.

Aside from them, not many people I know like to talk about the presence that wakes me up at night, which is sad but understandable. Abduction — if that is in fact what has been happening to me — is a frightening concept. But people throughout the world are experiencing these "dreams," and nothing can be done about them because no one wants to talk about them. Most people just don't believe that anyone really has them.

This makes these incidents difficult to cope with, because I know I must keep them to myself. I have no choice. Every morning after I experience one, I have to get up and go to school and pretend like nothing happened. People pass me in the hallway and stand next to me in the lunch line, and they'll never know what I go through. I don't even know what I go through, and I don't know if I can believe it myself.

In any event, I know that something is happening to me. I don't care what it is. I just hate not knowing.

I have no hidden agenda in writing this article. I'm not trying to make money or get attention. I just want to sleep at night. I just want to be able to look at the stars and be sure that nothing's looking back.

Abductee may not be alone

Are reports of shared experiences too similar to dismiss?

By NICK BRATKOVIC
TeenStar Correspondent

The Kansas City teen-ager who believes she has been "visited" by an alien force is not alone.

TeenStar sent copies of her account to two people who research such phenomena. Both said her accounts sounded familiar.

Walter H. Andrews Jr., international director of MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, said the incidents described by the teen appear to be typical experiences of a person who has been abducted by aliens.

"She seems like a credible young lady," Andrews said from his office in Seguin, Texas. "She seems to be telling the truth."

Don Ecker, editor of *UFO Magazine* in California, said "many, many people have come forward with stories just like this ... She said nothing that is so outrageous that I haven't seen ... accounts very, very close to hers."

"She also said something very important, that several people in her family suffered from this. These things do run in families."

To know for sure whether the experience was "real," Andrews said the only way would be to have the teen undergo a process of regressive hypnosis and taken back to the dates and times.

Ecker advised caution in being too skeptical because "you're dealing with someone's psyche. ... Her experience should be dealt with from some standpoint. She should see a professional who is open-minded. There is something there."

The red light she described and the clammy hands are quite common in these encounters, Andrews said.

"They are taking these people somewhere and examining them," Andrews said.

Ecker did not speculate on what might have been happening during the encounter. He would say only, "It's not just affecting a couple of people. It crosses all class lines, all color lines, all gender lines."

"I've known everyone from police officers to executives to auto workers who have claimed to have had the same things happen to them."

Nick Bratkovic is a senior at Shawnee Mission North.

Dreams so real

Sleep disorders are one explanation for the alien-abduction experience.

TeenStar staff

Narcolepsy. Cataplexy. Hypnagogic hallucination.

Those are the medical terms that came to Eldon Cook's mind as he read an account of a Kansas City teen-ager's story of

after an extremely emotional event.

As for the clammy hands, the speeding red light, even the out-of-body experience the teen reported, Cook said those sounded similar to episodes of what doctors call hypnagogic hallucinations as "very vivid dreamlike occurrences. So vivid you would swear on a stack of Bibles this occurred." They can come during the night or in the day.

They, too, occur in people who suffer from narcolepsy.

A major problem in helping a narcoleptic accept that she or he has a disease is the hallucination, he said. "It seems so real to

them."

And the episodes are often so bizarre, narcoleptics fear telling people about them. One patient reported seeing a white elephant on a highway while driving.

"If they get up the courage to tell somebody about it, they're afraid they'll be seen as bizarre," he added.

"If she were to come in here (to the sleep disorder lab) today," he said, "those are the things that would rise up first."

Aliens Emerge on the Tube . . .

By DOROTHY RABINOWITZ

In tonight's "We Are Not Alone"—on the second night of a full week of programming devoted to aliens, alien sightings, and innumerable ramblings related thereto—The Learning Channel takes us overseas for a global view. Quite a relief it turns out to be, too, after a long night with our homegrown ufologists, abductees and assorted experts on the well-known government conspiracy to suppress word of the extraterrestrials landed among us in Roswell, N.M., and who knows where else.

To be sure, we now know where else, according to tonight's program, which beams us to Zimbabwe, where schoolgirls tell of a spaceship landing in a field, and of extraterrestrial creatures walking about, as one student tells it, the way a person might walk on the moon. Roughly nine or 10 years of age, the girls stand staring at their feet, or the ground, twisting hair, arms, fingers and other available parts of their anatomies, looking alternately tortured and giggly as the interview rolls on. One girl—evidently hoping to cut a deal between her rational self and the requirements of TV—testifies that there *was* a silvery ship, but that she herself saw no alien visitors as the others did. Poor girls. It was one thing to have fun with a spaceship story—quite another to be required to stand up before the world and give details of what never happened.

On, next, to Brazil where, once again, schoolgirls—evidently much more disposed to these things than schoolboys, for reasons one would prefer not to think about—encounter an alien visitor. In short order the whole town is involved, the fire department (which, we are told, gave chase) and inhabitants of the local zoo included—not to mention Vittorio, a local entrepreneur, who soon determines that there is a military conspiracy afoot to suppress news of its secret scientific experiments with aliens. An accusation without a doubt the most flattering ever to be directed at the Brazilian military. While the army is busy, presumably cloning new versions of the Boys From Brazil, there is ominous news from the zoo, whose inhabitants—so a zoo official informs us—became highly agitated just at the time the alien being arrived, and now several are dead. Another of the numerous dark mysteries issuing from the military's dealings with aliens, which remain to be solved.

Back in the U.S.—second to none in the production of military conspiracy theories, not to mention the number of citizens with aliens on the brain—we encounter Elise, whose adventures as an alien abductee are by now a familiar kind, certainly to any-



An earlier visitor

one who has been watching daytime TV. Which familiarity did not prevent their inclusion in The Learning Channel's "Alien Invasion Week" (airing nightly, 9-11 p.m. EST and concluding Sunday, 1-6 p.m.). What no one in this world of abductees ever explains is why, if the aliens are so smart and all-seeing, they keep picking so many dim-wits to breed with. We shall doubtless never know. Here, anyway, is Elise, agog with admiration for the creatures who had come through walls to ravish her—an act she wasn't disposed to hold against them. The alien creatures were, she had determined, interested only in her eggs, which they planned to cross-fertilize, etc. etc.—and Elise, for one, was not going to stand in their way. Needless to say, not every abductee is similarly serene; take, for instance, a man from Latin America, who tells a pitiable tale of an encounter with aliens who forced him to have sexual intercourse with a tall, beautiful blond Nordic woman.

Perhaps the most memorable comment comes from a person the film describes as a UFO researcher. This authority somberly explains that he has one serious concern about the aliens—i.e., their way of performing surgery without getting permission from the abductees. Performing operations without permission is, he stresses, highly unethical.

On and on goes this chronicle about aliens and related drivel, and about Area 51—site, everyone knows, of top secret government tests involving visitors from space. To raise the tone of this series—which is, after all, appearing on The Learning Channel—the producers have thrown in various guests, including the Dalai Lama, who looks amused, and a high NASA official, who must have had better things to do. All for nothing: The series, which comes complete with mood music and re-creations of aliens doing their stuff, is clearly what it is. And what it isn't

likely to induce many people not already afflicted with ufomania to sit around watching this for very long.

CR: V. White

All donations of clippings are always very welcome. Contributor credit will be given for all items used in the issues. Please give name of paper, city of publication and date. Thanks. -- L.F.

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - Feb. 4, 1998

SKYWATCH DIARY

Another week where skywatching has been limited by the weather. We did get one good night of skywatching in, and although it was pretty cold, as usual the chill was lessened by the beauty of the clear winter sky, unsoftened by the haze of humidity. The constellations obvious and bright, and stars and planets not usually visible apparent, down to the southern horizon.

When I arrived at Shoreline Park, there was a small group of skywatchers already assembled. Four of our more frequent watchers and two visitors, who I expected to encounter. The visitors were Maddy and Dave from Syracuse, N.Y. who are spending the winter months in Panama City. We have been in touch by e-mail and expected to run into each other this particular evening. We spent a while exchanging information about sightings, discussing the state of MUFON these days and watching the sky. Dave and a few of his companions in New York State plan to put together a web site in the near future where they will collect and report on sightings from central and eastern New York State. Keep an eye out for the address in a future Skywatch Diary. Wouldn't it be great if we could get a whole network across all 50 states (or even internationally) of grass roots individuals who are reporting sightings in their own particular area? Between myself, J. Michael Long in Mississippi and Dave and his friends in New York State, this may be a burgeoning reality. No one is passing judgment on what they report, they are simply reporting what is related to them, using plain old common sense as a yardstick. I think that this will be the "wave of the future" in ufology, as people move away from the big organizations and network via the Internet on the grass roots level.

World renowned writer and researcher, Whitley Strieber visited the Gulf Coast this past weekend. He was accompanied by a photographer from Life Magazine. Whitley is writing an article, which will appear in the April issue of Life Magazine, about five cities nationwide that have had an impact on the subject of ufology and people in those cities whose lives have been changed by their involvement with ufos. Members of the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON group participated with Whitley, and although I was invited to participate also, I declined. On March 30 however, I will be participating with a Compuserve On-Line Conference talking about the sightings in the Gulf Breeze area during the last three years or so, and how I became involved in ufo research. I have not received details of this yet from the organizers but as soon as I know more, I will let everyone know how to hook up with their site.

News again this week from Russ, my webmaster and companion Kelly on vacation in Brazil. Actually, it has turned into more of a research trip than a vacation as they have made their interest in ufos a main topic of their trip and are keeping up a punishing schedule. One interesting point relayed by Russ on the telephone this week is that a man in Brazil (I am not sure what city but will find out more once Russ and Kelly return) showed them a picture of a ufo that bore a resounding resemblance to that witnessed by Ray and Elise Pollock, among others, at Shoreline Park at the beginning of September last year.

For information about the Project Awareness Gulf Breeze UFO Conference to be held March 20-22 on Pensacola Beach, you can hit their

By CAROL BAKER

website at: <http://www.projectawareness.com>, write to Project Awareness, P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze FL 32561, telephone them at (850) 432-8888 or e-mail: vickilyons01@sprynet.com. Speakers at this event include David Jacobs, Dr. Scott Mandelker, Budd Hopkins, Linda Moulton-Howe, Donald Ware, Jim Marrs, William Hamilton, Forest Crawford and Jaime Maussion. The Beachside Resort, site of the Conference is now completely sold out and they are referring potential attendees to the nearby Best Western for accommodations. The hotels are running a special rate for Conference attendees, and it is only a short walk from the Best Western to the Beachside Resort. As usual this is shaping up to be a big, exciting weekend and all of the local skywatchers are hoping for a repeat performance of last year, when we had a great sighting on the Beach!

For information on the annual Ozark UFO Conference to be held April 10-12, 1998 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, contact: Ozark UFO Conference, 2 Caney Valley Drive, Plumerville AR 72127-8725, telephone (501) 354-2558. This will be another outstanding weekend. Those who attend this Conference regularly have only wonderful things to say about it, so it would be a good bet if you can make it.

If you wish to contact me, please e-mail me at Cbakewd@aol.com or write to me at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152. Thank you. And remember, keep looking up!

For information about the Project Awareness Gulf Breeze UFO Conference to be held March 20-22 on Pensacola Beach, you can hit their

... And on Your Shelf

By JOE QUEENAN

Investors are always complaining that when the stock market goes into a free fall, it is impossible to get their broker on the phone. Now, a Temple University professor has written a book that may go a long way toward explaining the sudden, utterly inexplicable disappearances of stockbrokers, department store clerks, telephone operators, customer service reps, plumbers and the entire Buffalo Bills football team come Super Bowl time.

Perhaps they have been temporarily abducted by aliens.

Although David M. Jacobs, an associate professor of history at Temple University, does not specifically mention stockbrokers or the Buffalo Bills in "The Threat" (Simon & Schuster, 288 pages, \$23), he believes that as many as five million Americans have already been abducted at least once in their lives by aliens. And some of them work in retail. Mr. Jacobs, who has conducted interviews with more than 700 victims of alien kidnap, says that one Midwestern woman who "works in retail sales . . . had as many as 100 abductions during a one-year period, or an average one every three days."

The fact that a salesperson could disappear from view this often, yet still hold onto her job, is stunning testimony to the strength of the U.S. economy, where the labor pool is now so thin that a retail establishment would be willing to ignore 100 unexcused absences in a single year. It also explains why service is so bad in some Midwestern stores.

Why have aliens abducted 2% of the population? Mr. Jacobs says that the abductees' virtually unanimous accounts of sexual molestation, sperm taking and gynecological procedures prove that the aliens are creating a new race of alien-human hybrids who will eventually take over

the planet. In some cases, human "hosts" give birth to hybrids; in others, the aliens use humans to "incubate" fetuses. Although alien gang rape is not unheard of, he believes that most of the sexual activity practiced by these elusive creatures has a reproductive motive. These are not just a bunch of aliens out on a joy ride.

"The extensive use of women as hosts for hybrid babies brings into sharp relief the importance of the breeding program," Mr. Jacobs contends. "In theory, the aliens have produced hundreds, if not millions, of offspring."

Mr. Jacobs is aware that his theories make him sound like a fruitcake. In a recent interview with Philadelphia maga-



Bookshelf

"The Threat"

By David M. Jacobs

zine, he conceded that his colleagues at Temple think he dwells "in the land of fantasy," adding: "When you get outside of the history department, with people who don't know me, I think that my credibility is pretty close to zero." This is especially true in the grim North Philadelphia neighborhood where Mr. Jacobs teaches, a slum where the average alien hybrid wouldn't survive five minutes on the street.

But in "The Threat," Mr. Jacobs deftly deflects the allegation that he is a chucklehead by attacking people who are ostensibly even nuttier than he is. Again and again, he faults the methodology of investigators of the paranormal, singling out Harvard Prof. John Mack as an overly credulous researcher. Mr. Jacobs has also arranged for the letters "Ph.D." to appear next to his name at the top of each facing page, as if the showcasing of this increas-

ingly dubious credential might make him seem less barmy to his critics.

If so many alien offspring are already among us, why haven't the rest of us noticed? Mr. Jacobs says that aliens are adept at eluding video surveillance and that alien hybrid males usually wear jeans or khakis with T-shirts, so they tend to look like people who shop at the Gap. But aliens have also mastered the art of making abductees seem like idiots once they are released from captivity. They do this by planting "instilled memories" in the abductees' heads.

"During visualization procedures," Mr. Jacobs writes, "the aliens might show an abductee a multitude of images: atomic explosions, meteorites striking Earth, the world cracking in half, environmental degradation, dead people bathed in blood, strewn about the landscape. Or the aliens might show abductees images of Jesus, Mary or other religious figures. These images have the effect of being so vivid that abductees think the events 'really happened' or they 'really saw' the religious figure." Thus, when sexually traumatized victims inform the cops that they have been raped by aliens and have also seen St. Theresa of Avila chatting with Abraham Lincoln, their reports are dismissed as the ravings of lunatics.

If "The Threat" has any shortcoming, it is its failure to explain why aliens always seem to abduct people that no one has ever heard of, and never go after somebody important like Alan Greenspan or Kathie Lee Gifford. Nor does he inform the reader why these seemingly omnipotent creatures have never nabbed him. Perhaps Mr. Jacobs has in fact been abducted, brainwashed and tricked into writing this book—with the specific purpose of making a reputable publisher appear inane and UFO hunters seem even more laughable. If so, the aliens' sinister plot has been a smashing success.

JOURNAL, Alexandria, VA
Feb. 2, 1998 CR: L. Bryant

UFO stonewalling will hurt government

Army freedom-of-information officials have fallen on their sword of silence as regards my seven-month-old Freedom of Information Act request for access to the alien-autopsy report cited in Lt. Col. (Ret.) Philip J. Corso's book "The Day After Roswell."

By choosing to ignore my initial request and a follow-up appeal letter to the Army secretary, these officials have set the stage for the ultimate FOIA lawsuit, which I plan to file in several weeks.

This stonewalling should signal other UFO-coverup whistleblowers that they have perhaps a final opportunity to present any corroborative testimony and other evidence (such as "leaked" documentation). What form other than U.S. District Court would better suit the gravity of such evidence?

Keep in mind that my victory in this suit would end 50 years of official deception as to what happened to Roswellian artifacts and records. It also will help restore the strength of the U.S. Freedom of Information Act.

LARRY W. BRYANT
Alexandria

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

I received a note from a friend this week who lives over in Grand Bay, Alabama between Mobile and the Mississippi border. She had a sighting with her husband back on August 26 at about 8:30 p.m. Sitting outside on her deck, which faces west, her yard is surrounded by trees. She noticed an unusual looking orange pulsating light moving north to south very slowly across the clearing in the trees. She called her husband and they watched it for about five minutes until it disappeared behind the trees. It seemed to be about the size of a quarter or half dollar from where they viewed it. They heard no sound in connection with this light and there were no indications that this was a conventional aircraft. She did not think too much about it until she read the September 16 edition of the *Mobile Press Register*. In the "Sound Off" column was a description of a similar sighting from a Mobile resident on September 9. This witness describes seeing a large red, glowing object at around 8 p.m. The object floated south to north over Ladd Stadium in Mobile. Two days later another Mobile resident reported seeing the "large, red glowing object" in the Mobile skies.

These reports are interesting in light of events on the evening of

Wednesday, October 1. It seems that people in many different places around the southeastern United States were witnessing anomalous lights in the sky. Here locally, there were reports from four witnesses at Shoreline Park of some unusual looking lights streaking around in the western sky. I was driving west along Gulf Breeze Parkway in the area by Naval Live Oaks at 9:25 p.m. when off to my southwest, right at the tree line, I saw two large amber lights in close proximity to each other. They only appeared for a few seconds but each one was about the size of a dime at arm's length and they blinked off suddenly. As I drove further west, there were some unusual looking reflections on clouds in the western sky, west of NAS Pensacola. It did not appear as lightning would. Later the next day, I learned that friends Betty and Pat in Franklin, North Carolina had also witnessed some anomalous light activity in their skies overlooking the Smoky Mountain National Park.

I also heard from witnesses in Mobile of some activity in their skies the same evening and another friend, Larry, who lives in Tallahassee, Florida, also called to say that they have been seeing "orange balls of light floating around in the sky." I wonder what all this activity means? It was a

new moon on October 1, and maybe the darkness of the skies resulted in so many people being able to view these anomalous lights. Any other reports from that night out there?

I received an interesting e-mail recently from W.R. Smith in Alberta, Canada. He and his wife saw what they determined must be a UFO in the western sky at Taber, Alberta on the evening of September 24, 1997. While skywatching they noticed an object that looked round on top with a wide comet-like tail coming from the object toward the earth. Every once in a while the tail would brighten and come more from one end of the object. They watched the object for about an hour as it kept getting lower to the earth until they could no longer see it. The whole object was glowing. Mr. Smith is anxious to find an explanation for what he saw. Could it have been a meteor or the space shuttle firing booster rockets? Did anyone else in that area see this object? If anyone out there has any ideas or information, please let me know and I will gladly pass it along to Mr. Smith.

Shoreline Park has been quiet this week. The sky on Saturday night was particularly clear and beautiful. These nights with lower humidity levels are so great for skywatching — every star was

clearly visible and you could see the white swath of the Milky Way almost directly overhead from the southwest to the northeast. We continue to watch satellites more closely since Jaime Mausson's visit. He speculates that after a certain time after sunset, what we are seeing and assuming are satellites may not be. They seem to act as satellites normally do, but we're watching just in case one does a quick right angle turn or some such maneuver.

They have taken the fence down around the new bathroom building at Shoreline Park, but the bathroom doors are locked so we are still not able to use them. Perhaps they are putting the finishing touches to everything inside. I hope that they will not keep them locked at night (you could understand that this may be in consideration of possible vandalism!) The colder weather is coming and we certainly will need to use them more than we do in warmer weather!!!

This week says goodbye to a dear friend and fellow skywatcher, Marie Arredondo, and her daughter Lisa. Marie has returned to her native Oklahoma and will be living with her family in Granite. A member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she will be rekindling her Native American connections there. Marie's hometown is in the southwestern part of the state and some of you may

remember she reported a sighting there last year while on vacation. Marie and I have spent many hours skywatching together and she will be deeply missed. I can remember when Marie first came skywatching at Gulf Breeze, she was very anxious to have a sighting. She would so often ask "Carole! What's that?" and it would be a plane or helicopter and I would say, "Oh Marie—that's just a plane," and it got to be quite a joke until one night Marie said "Carole! What's that?" I was just about to respond with my usual plane or helicopter explanation when I turned to see what she was looking at. This time it really was a UFO!!! In fact, it was quite a spectacular sighting of a curved row of red lights out over Santa Rosa Island. Marie's patience was rewarded and we have shared many sightings since then. She will be keeping in touch and keeping me up to date on UFO activity in Oklahoma, so we will wish her Bon Voyage and look forward to reports from Granite in the near future.

If you have a sighting or encounter to report, or wish to contact the local Experienter Support Group, I can be contacted by e-mail at Cbakrswd@aol.com or at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152, or you can call the hotline at (850) 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

Some further investigation this week has revealed that a recent visitor to Shoreline Park, John Horrigan, may not have been all he purported to be. I was a little concerned that he had told some of our group that he worked for the *Boston Herald*, and others that he worked for the *Boston Globe*. He also mentioned writing for some UFO magazine. No problem, I thought, the guy is probably a freelance writer. It kind of piqued my interest though, and I discussed the situation during the week with a friend on the West Coast. Turns out, through further investigation that the *Boston Herald* has never heard of John Horrigan and it was discovered that John has a web site. Unfortunately, it seems that John has a less than positive bent on the results of his research, and actually may fall comfortably into that category known as "debuter." Now, everyone must understand that those of us who are regulars at Shoreline Park expect that people will come along once in a while with the intention of gathering information and then reporting it in a less than favorable light. That goes with the territory. All we can do is treat everyone who approaches us, regardless of our knowledge of or suspicion of their intentions, in the same way. All we can do is relate the truth to them as best we know it. What they choose to do with the infor-

mation they hear, is beyond our control. We go out of our way to be friendly to visitors at Shoreline Park and to share as much information as possible with those who are interested. It is a shame that sometimes we run into people who are less than honest in their approach. The subjects that we are dealing with require an open mind. We go to great lengths to check out the facts as far as possible on all information we are given before making a determination of the event in question. Quite often making a determination is not possible. However, if people with whom we share information have already made up their mind that they are on the negative side of the fence, then that information can obviously be slanted to prove their cause. It will be interesting to see if anything about Gulf Breeze shows up on John's website and just how he deals with the information that we shared with him.

Another situation that required further investigation this week, is the power outage on Santa Rosa Island, that I mentioned last week. I called Gulf Power, the power provider responsible for the area in question this week and inquired regarding the outage. I was told that the high winds blowing the wires caused a transformer to explode. A logical explanation, and one that we will have to accept. However, it is a little over two miles from the north shore of

Santa Rosa Island to the south shore of Gulf Breeze across the Sound, in the vicinity of Shoreline Park. I am wondering if the intensity of light produced from the exploding transformer would have been bright enough at that distance to cause the sensors on the lights at Shoreline to trigger and turn off?

It looks as though we'll be getting a "double dip" at the November Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Meeting. The meeting will be held on November 16, that's the *third* Sunday instead of the usual second Sunday of the month. Marc Davenport and Leah Haley will be travelling to Gulf Breeze along with our speaker for the month, Jeanne Robinson. So, not only will we have a fascinating speaker, we will be able to have the opportunity to purchase books and tapes from Marc and Leah in the guise of Greenleaf Publications. Of course, it will be great to be able to visit with them also.

Jeanne Robinson is an experienter who has just written a book about her experiences. The book is entitled *Alienated: A Quest to Understand Contact*. Jeanne is, like many, an ordinary woman to whom extraordinary experiences have become common place. She speaks of the concurrent good/bad experiences, both intriguing and terrifying, involving interdimensionality and having

religious/spiritual overtones. This describes a state of affairs with which many experiencers can identify. Jeanne hopes, through her personal search for understanding, and the process of writing her book, that she will reach some conclusions she can live with. She hopes that in sharing this therapeutic endeavor with others, she may help them in their quest for understanding also. As usual the meeting will be held in the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive in Gulf Breeze and proceedings will begin at 2:30 p.m. If you need any further information you can call the hotline number shown below.

The inauguration of the New Shoreline Park took place this week. The Mayor was responsible for the official ribbon cutting. The City of Gulf Breeze is obviously very proud of the improvements to the park. As well as the fantastic new bathrooms, we now have two Coca-Cola machines (your choice of bottles of cans — let's hope they'll provide recycling bins for both!) Now if only they'd turn those darned lights off at night, skywatching would be about as comfortable as it can get out there!! They are spoiling us — all we need is a hot dog vendor and we'll be set! Maybe a Gulf Breeze UFO souvenir booth? There's an idea! But, now, we must not let our imagination run away with us! The new bathroom is great and the addition of the Coke machines will stop us hav-

ing to make runs to the nearest store when thirst strikes. Imagine missing a sighting in favor of buying a Coke! "Just how thirsty was I, anyhow?" Now we won't have to remember to bring a drink with us or worry about driving off during prime skywatching time. We often joke about the amount of equipment necessary to go on a skywatch. Opening our car trunk, especially in colder weather, it looks like a cross between a survival kit and a spy kit! Sleeping bag, lawn chair, extra clothing, camera, binoculars, tape recorder, flashlight, pen and paper, photocopied information to share, snacks, drinks, bug spray, tissues, first aid kit, star chart/book, etc. etc.

This coming weekend, a lot of folks will be heading off to Tampa for the Project Awareness Conference. As for myself and my family, we will be heading north, out of the flatlands to the quiet beauty of the Smoky Mountains for a long weekend of cool weather, fall leaves, good company and PEACE AND QUIET!!! Maybe even a UFO sighting — who knows?

If you have a sighting or encounter to report, or wish to contact the local Experienter Support Group, I can be contacted by e-mail at Cbakrswd@aol.com or at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola FL 32522-7152, or you can call the hotline at (950) 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

Well, between Labor Day Weekend, when it is very busy with fishermen and tourists and Shoreline Park, to preparing for the visit of Jaime Mousson and his crew, I have to admit for the first time in a long while I have not been to Shoreline Park this week. I have been busy with things like press releases and arranging television coverage of the Mexican crew's visit to the Gulf Breeze area. I will include all the details of what looks like a very hectic and interesting weekend. My sources tell me that there was not much going on at Shoreline this week, and certainly no sightings to report. I always hope that when an out of town film crew makes a visit to Gulf Breeze and comes out on skywatches with us that they will be lucky, as have film crews in the past, to get some live UFO footage during their visit. Hope springs eternal, as they say.

I received a letter back from Rhonda Engler, the tourist from Kentucky who had a sighting, along with several other witnesses who reported seeing unusual lights in our skies, on July 30th this year. Her original report left out some pertinent information and now she has kindly filled in the blanks, so to speak. She states that she feels, after discussion with others who were traveling in her vehicle with her at the time

that the time of the sighting was closer to 8:15 p.m., not 7:30 p.m. as originally thought. This would put Rhonda's sighting closer as regards time to the other reports we have received from the July 30th event. As regards the other information she has shared, I quote directly from her letter: "The lights were observed at an elevation of approximately 30 to 35 degrees. They continued at the same elevation the whole time that I observed them. I would say that the lights were about the size of my thumb nail at arm's length, or little smaller. The individual lights were approximately three fingers (at arm's length) apart, except the space between the seventh and eighth. I would say they were about five fingers apart. The intensity of the lights remained constant during the time that I observed them. I did not observe the lights going out. I guess I was a little scared and now I wish that I would have observed them until they were gone. I would say they (the lights) were in the south-south west from our position between Destin and Ft. Walton. (She was traveling west). I would estimate that the lights were maybe five miles away. They were in the direction of Navarre. I did not observe any aircraft of any kind in the area at the time of the sightings. I would say that their lights were a pale amber color."

My sincere thanks to Rhonda for taking the time to share this additional information with us.

It should be noted that this witness had no equipment available with which to observe these lights (binoculars etc.). We know, however, from Rhonda's initial report that several other people were pulling off the road to observe this phenomenon, and if any other witnesses are reading this, please contact us, so that we can piece together more information.

I am still attempting to contact the other July 30th event witness, who faxed *The Islander Newspaper* asking them to contact me. Again, if you are reading this, please contact me again, I have been calling the telephone number provided to no avail.

An interesting article appeared in the *Pensacola News Journal* on September 4th. The story was also covered by the Ft. Walton newspapers and I am awaiting receipt of copies of those newspapers to see if any additional information was provided. The *Pensacola News Journal* headline reads "Object seen at Eglin; search finds nothing." On Tuesday night, September 2nd, around 8:00 p.m. several people called the Eglin AFB command post to report an aircraft or some strange flying object streaking across the sky and going down about three miles north of State Road 20 near

Portland. Eglin Air Force Base officials were quick to state that it was nothing. However, Hurlburt Field immediately sent a C-130 transport plane out to search the area, but the crew could find nothing in the densely wooded area. Air Force Security Police also sent out search parties into the area, but they too searched "with no success." On the following day, Wednesday, Eglin crews and the Walton County Sheriff's Office also searched the area, but found nothing. Both the Air Force and Sheriff's Office have called off their search. An Eglin spokesman, Maj. Matt Durham stated "We've had a lot of phone calls . . . we understand how people feel, but we have no idea what it may have been. We went out and checked, searched and nothing was found." It is reported that Eglin AFB picked up this "disappearing object" on radar and at one point had it on radar as being on the ground.

No further comment or information regarding this situation are available. Personally I am surprised there was any press coverage at all. Once I get the Fort Walton newspaper reports, I will share any additional information regarding this incident.

This story kind of makes you think of "Left at East Gate" - the Rendlesham Forest event, and

leads me to wonder just how many of these types of events occur on a regular basis without anyone noticing or without any reporting being done. Maybe Eglin or Hurlburt are hosting some unexpected visitors this week and doing some interesting analysis and back engineering. Maybe it was a meteor or some other natural phenomenon. Maybe a secret test when haywire and the object being tested "crashed and burned." Or maybe another "routine" recovery was made and we will never be the wiser. Kind of makes you wonder, though, huh?

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 UMRB73A@PRODIGY.COM. The Conference will be held October 31st, November 1st and 2nd, 1997 at the Camberley Plaza Hotel, Sabal Palms, in Tampa, Florida.

If you have a sighting or encounter to report, or wish to contact the local Experienter Support Group, I can be contacted by e-mail at Cbakerswd@aol.com, (please note that this is a new e-mail address) or at P. O. Box 17152, Pensacola FL 32522-7152, or you can call the hotline at (850) 438-3261. Keep Looking Up!

SKYWATCH DIARY

BY CAROLE BAKER

"That's exactly what I saw!!!"

This was Kim's reaction when her mother showed her the computer graphic of a recent sighting from Shoreline Park reproduced in *The Islander Newspaper*. "My family had been telling me I was crazy," Kim states, "but I know what I saw, and I got goosebumps all over me when my mother showed me the picture in the paper." The picture Kim is referring to is from the two sightings recorded on the evening of September 7, 1997 at Shoreline Park, from which Ray Pollock generated the computer graphic.

Kim was fishing that evening at around 10:00 p.m., with her husband, in a boat just south of the Hwy. 90 bridge over the Escambia River, east of Pensacola. "I looked up into the west and there it was—like a row of windshields in the sky!" Kim told me. "I could not believe it, it was like nothing I have ever seen before. There were seven or eight of them in a row and they were very bright, like spotlights, so bright I could see nothing around them." Kim says that she was awestruck and watched for a moment or two in amazement before turning around to get her husband's attention. "By the time we looked back around, they were

gone," Kim told me. "It was like they just went out and there was nothing there in the sky, no planes or anything, just the sky and stars where they had been. My husband said I was crazy, but now at least I know someone else saw the same thing too." Kim, a resident of Pace, Florida had never seen anything strange in the sky before. Kim told me that the "row of windshields" was about an inch to an inch and a half long at arm's length and at an elevation of about thirty or forty degrees. She also states that they were slanted at a steep angle, maybe forty-five degrees in the sky. Kim also mentioned that there was no noise at all from them. "When we looked back around they were just gone—there was nothing there at all!!!" Kim says she was very relieved when her mother showed her *The Islander*, and now she says that she can prove to her family that she really saw something.

I received two interesting reports of sightings from other parts of the country this week also. One from Steve Doherty, a friend from the Boston area. His mother-in-law had a daylight sighting recently, and it is very unusual. I am wondering if anyone has any information about other similar sightings. The wit-

ness was driving North on Rte. 93 towards the New Hampshire border when she saw "a cardboard colored rectangle" in the sky. Searching the sky for a plane, she believed what she was seeing must be some sort of banner being towed by a plane. No planes were visible though, and as she approached the junction of Rte. 93 and Rte. 495 near the New Hampshire border, the rectangular shape the color of brown cardboard "shrank to a line and then that line collapsed into itself." She said it was just as if someone turned the rectangle to a flat side then the flat side just compressed from top to bottom until it was gone. Steve and I would love to hear if anyone else had seen the same thing, or if anyone has any information about similar sightings elsewhere.

Tom from California is interested to know if anyone else had a sighting over the city of Los Angeles, California on the night of August 22, 1997. He was driving with his wife and son at 11:54 p.m. when they saw a long flaming streak traverse the sky above the city. At first they thought it could be a meteor, but changed their minds when suddenly the flame trail stopped and all that was visible was a round reddish speck. You can imagine

their surprise when this "speck" suddenly took a turn and headed south until it was out of sight. No further flaming trail was observed coming from the "speck," and the sighting lasted over a minute. Tom wondered if it could have been a test of the shuttle or something and he contacted local law enforcement, the FBI and the media, but no one had any information nor had any other reports come in. Tom and his wife both have worked in the aerospace industry for years and have seen meteors in the sky before. "This was no meteor," Tom states. If anyone has information to add regarding this sighting, we would welcome it.

Things remain quiet at Shoreline Park. We are still having hot humid days, with temperatures in the nineties and very warm humid evenings, with temperatures around eighty, that are not characteristic of this time of the year. By the end of September, things are usually cooling down, at least in the evenings, but this year the weather seems to be paying no attention whatsoever to the calendar. The weather people keep threatening us with cold fronts, but these never materialize. They don't make it far enough south to clear out the mass of warm humid air that hangs over us. I keep watching with envy as the northern states like Montana and Michigan register night time lows in the forties. Soon, though, one of those arctic fronts will sweep through and it will be wonderful skywatching weather again—until

it gets too cold that is! Are we ever satisfied? Before long I will be hunting up my sleeping bag and thermal underwear before leaving for Shoreline Park. Whoever thought you'd need thermal underwear in Florida? Let me tell you, on a winter skywatch you wish you owned more than two pairs—worn at once of course, and thank the Creator for Polartec! The fall constellations are just now making their appearance in our evening skies, so we know that cooler weather is just around the corner, and the wheel of the year is turning toward the winter solstice. The Pleiades are visible now before 11 p.m. and soon Orion will be marking our eastern sky.

Some friends are making a trip to Huntsville, Alabama to visit Speaking Wind and hear his Red Path teachings, so when they get back next week and give me all the details, I will share any interesting information with you. Until then . . .

If you need information on the Project Awareness Tampa UFO Conference, it is to be held October 31-November 2. Contact Project Awareness at (850) 432-8888 or by e-mail at: crumbley@zebra.net. (Note that this is a new e-mail address.)

If you have a sighting or encounter to report, or wish to contact the local Experienter Support Group, I can be contacted by e-mail at Cbakerswd@aol.com or at P.O. Box 17152, Pensacola, FL 32522-7152, or you can call the hotline at (850) 438-3261. 7

SKYWATCH DIARY

Many people are familiar with what has become known as the classic Gulf Breeze "Red Light" UFO. Observed many times in the Gulf Breeze area at the beginning of this decade, it is featured in several video segments which are often aired in "UFO Specials" on the Learning and Discovery Channels.

It appears that this "Red Light" type UFO is not specific to the Gulf Breeze area as evidenced of this in these two following reports.

The first report is from the microfilm of Project Blue Book in the National Archives. It is dated 19 June 1952 and I reproduce the report here in its entirety:

"Ground Radar and Ground Visual Combined Sightings"
1. Goose Air Base, Labrador - 19 June 1952

At 0607Z on 19 June 52 an object was sighted East of this base traveling from NE to SW. Manner of observation visual from the ground. The object was described by the Air Force 2/Lt who observed it as "a red light, moving in a wobbly fashion, which turned white and disappeared."

GCA was contacted and reported a target on their scope in the same area where the visual observation was made. Object appeared stationary on the scope at no more than 4000' height due to the limitation of the radar set. The blip would enlarge momentarily then return to its original size.

Solution: Possibly light reflection and radar return from snow clouds in the area."

An interesting conclusion!

The next report is from a witness who contacted us in the last few days, detailing a sighting that occurred on the night of July 21st of this year.

The sighting took place at 11:40 p.m. PT on the night of July 21st, 1997 in Eureka, California. The witness, Jeff, was coming home from work at the time, and parked his car in the alley adjacent to his apartment complex. Retrieving the groceries he had purchased from his car, he proceeded to his apartment. As he walked he chanced to look up at the sky, whereupon he noticed an intense red light floating towards him from the east. Jeff states that the light was traveling very fast,

but appeared to be floating, unlike any aircraft he had ever seen. The red color of the light also struck Jeff as unusual. It appeared more intense than any red color Jeff had ever seen. The light slowed down as Jeff watched it, and hovered above his head at a height of approximately one hundred feet. The diameter of the light appeared to be between twenty and thirty feet. At this time, two other witnesses saw the light hovering above Jeff's head. While hovering over him, Jeff states that the light would burst, or flare up into an even more intense red color three times. With each burst of intensified light, the whole area under the light, and around Jeff would be bathed in the red colored light. This prompted one of the other witnesses observing to state to Jeff that it looked "as though it was taking your picture!" After hovering above Jeff's head for approximately five minutes, the light floated off southward. As it neared the southern horizon, the light appeared to stop. It then turned bright white and blended in with the surrounding stars. The witness stated that at this point you could not distinguish the light from the stars in the sky.

The weather conditions on the night of this sighting in Eureka were clear skies with a moon a day past full, and unlimited visibility.

Jeff went directly to his apartment and called the local police to report the sighting, but the officer taking the call just laughed it off. Then after calming down somewhat, Jeff called his sister to tell her what he had seen. His sister works at a local convenience store and listened in amazement to Jeff's story. She then told him that during the evening while she was at work in the store, three uniformed police officers had come in and asked her if the store carried film. She directed them to the section where the film was kept and the officers purchased all the film that the store had on hand. When the officers were leaving the store, Jeff's sister asked them why they needed all that film. One of the officers turned to her and said "Who knows, maybe we'll get lucky tonight and take a picture of a UFO!" She thought that was a rather odd thing for a police officer to say, and you can imagine her amazement when Jeff

called to relay his story!

This is a very interesting sighting, not only since it closely correlates with sightings in the Gulf Breeze area, and that from Goose AFB in 1952, but the police officers purchasing film to get a picture of a UFO is particularly interesting. If anyone else in the Eureka area has seen this "Red Light" UFO, or anyone anywhere has a report of a similar sighting, we would be very interested to hear about it.

The Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Monthly meeting will be held on Sunday, August 9th, 1997 at 2:30 p.m. in the Gulf Breeze Recreation Center on Shoreline Drive in Gulf Breeze. The program will be given by one of the members, Rick Bos, who will regale us with stories and slides concerning his recent trip to the Roswell 50th Anniversary Celebration. Refreshments and a social hour will be offered before the program begins. We will be using the room across the hall from the auditorium for this meeting.

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.73@PRODIGY.COM. The Conference will be held October 31st, November 1st and 2nd, 1997 at the Camberly Plaza Hotel, Sabal Palms, in Tampa, Florida.

As a footnote to last week's comments in regard to the "Contact" movie- we have now had a chance to peruse Mr. Sagan's original treatise and it appears that the involvement of Pensacola was a product of the imagination of someone other than Mr. Sagan himself. Perhaps one of the producers or writers of the script for the movie decided upon using Pensacola. It seems that not a few liberties were taken with Mr. Sagan's original work, but as they say- that's Hollywood! It is still a damn good movie, though.

If you have a sighting or encounter to report, or wish to contact the local Experienter 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!

Meteor lights sky over Noorvik

By Alberto Cagliano

Arctic Sounder

The green flare some Noorvik residents saw in the sky the morning of Dec. 22 was most probably a meteor, Alaska State Troopers said.

A few hours after Noorvik residents issued a citizens band radio alarm, troopers were able to exclude any air incident as all airlines serving the Kotzebue and Kobuk valley area were able to locate their pilots.

Amil Carter of Noorvik said he was working on a bulldozer by the Kobuk river, hauling gravel for the new airport, when he saw the flare. "I saw it at 10:30. It was a yellowish ball of fire, then it turned blue. It was fairly low, we thought it was a plane that had just taken off. The light was going sideways, low below the mountain," he said.

Carter said other residents confirmed his observation and timing. Troopers also reported the flight service station at the airport here received a call from a pilot in Buckland who had observed the same phenomenon.

Snowmachiners and pilots who have surveyed the area between Kiana and Noorvik where the light was observed found no sign of impact on the ground.

Astronomers call those pieces of matter flying through the space that create luminous streaks in the sky as they enter the earth's atmosphere meteors. Their friction with air molecules at altitudes between 50 and 75 miles makes them incandescent and creates the phenomenon known as shooting or falling stars.

Meteors are quite small and heat disintegrates most of them before they reach the ground. It is estimated that billions of meteors a day enter the atmosphere and that they account for tons of pulverized matter falling to earth. Their composition is usually stone and iron.

Meteors that survive atmospheric friction and hit the earth's surface are called meteorites. Some of them weigh several tons. The conical Willamette meteorite found in 1902 near Portland, Ore., weighed about 14 tons. One estimated to weigh 60 tons in South West Africa rests where it was discovered.

Area 51 — it's really there

Tales of alien landings on Earth are hardly ever complete without a reference to "Area 51," the super-secret federal base in Nevada where stealth fighter planes were tested.

Extraterrestrial lore usually connects the site with the supposed crash of an alien space vessel near Roswell, N. M., 50 years ago. Various parts of the vessel, including aliens themselves — either alive or dead — are believed by some people to have been taken to Area 51.

If UFO buffs had hopes that a recent lawsuit concerning toxic materials and injuries to workers at the site would shed light on the base, they had to be disappointed in an appeals court ruling that the base is too secret to allow information about materials there to be used in the suit.

The decision is likely to be appealed further. It would, however, seem to confirm existence of the site, which federal officials have been loathe to do, no matter how much people believed in it

and speculated on its "true" purposes.

While people who don't buy into UFO scenarios view such things tongue in cheek, there's a serious side to this, and that's the lawsuit itself. Five workers and the widows of two others are suing for injuries they claimed were due to the toxic wastes at the facility.

We don't know anything about the merits of the suit. We do know, however, that this is the same federal government that in the past made employees, military personnel and patients

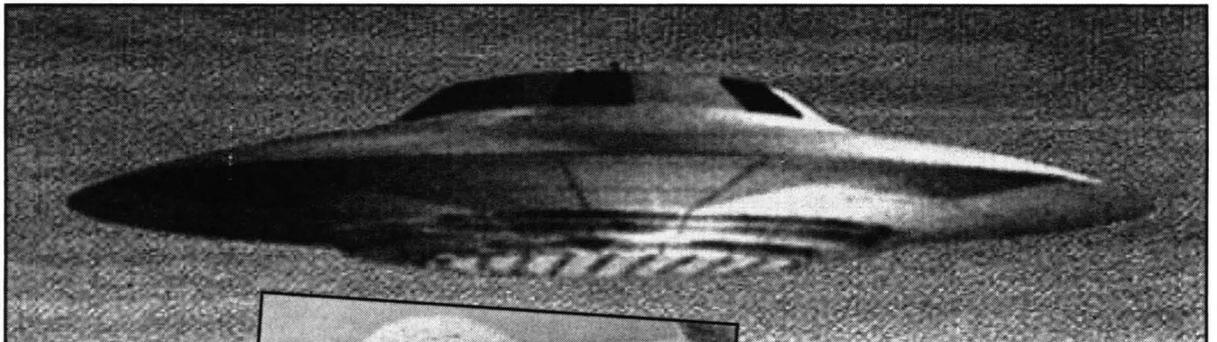
unwitting guinea pigs in various experiments, and lied about it. Let's not assume that federal decisions made in the guise of national interests are always fair, moral or ethical.

As for Area 51, obviously there is one in some form, but what exactly goes on there, it appears, will continue to be the basis of lore, speculation and various talk shows. The truth may be out there, but we haven't found it yet.



AS THE CIA CLAIMS TO COME CLEAN ABOUT THE UFO PHENOMENON, THE MYSTERY STILL REMAINS

If spy planes are behind UFO sightings, what could possibly explain the five vast objects that hovered over Britain?



Will we one day prove the existence of alien craft?

TAKEN at face value, it was an attempt by the CIA to clear up a perplexing mystery. The agency admitted, albeit reluctantly, that more than half the sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects recorded in the Fifties and Sixties could be explained after all.

The darting silver objects seen in the sky and assiduously reported by members of the public were not flying saucers or alien space ships of any kind.

They were U.S. military spy planes flying top-secret reconnaissance missions from bases in Nevada and California to the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War.

The aircraft, the Lockheed U-2 and the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, flew at very high altitudes — the latter capable of more than 2,000mph at up to 85,000ft. No wonder people squinting into the heavens thought they'd seen strange objects.

Duplicity had been necessary, the CIA reasoned, in the interests of 'national security'.

The air force had made 'misleading and deceptive statements in order to allay fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive project', the agency said. So the public had been fobbed off with half-hearted explanations of the sightings — weather balloons which had gone astray and atmospheric phenomena were the favoured white lies.

The optimists in the CIA hoped that this belated admission in documents published on the Internet would be another nail in the coffin of the UFO 'believers' who have been a thorn in their side for 50 years. But the realists acknowledged that far from defusing the issue, it has only added to the intrigue.

After so many years of fooling the public, why should anyone believe the CIA now? And why has the CIA suddenly come clean about a subject in which it always maintained it had no involvement?

EVEN if the report were true, what about the other UFO sightings which the CIA cannot explain? There is a strong body of respected opinion on both sides of the Atlantic that believes the CIA has panicked in the face of an enormous surge of interest in all things extra-terrestrial.

While the number of UFO sightings rises every year, the vacuous explanations and stonewalling have remained the same.

'The old cover-up stories just don't wash any more,' said John E. Pike, head of space policy at the Federation of American Scientists, based in Washington. 'The flying saucer community is definitely onto something.'

The UFO 'believers' who have dissected the report are in two camps: the radicals who don't believe a word the agency is



from NICK HOPKINS

IN NEW YORK

saying; and the moderates who accept the CIA is probably telling the truth — but not the whole truth.

Walter Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network, is in the radical camp. 'The public are not stupid,' he said. 'They've been lied to by the government so often over the years that they are not going to believe it.'

There are Britons, though, who are less dismissive. They think the CIA is boxing clever to try to assuage the thousands of people who believe they have seen a UFO but are still inherently sceptical.

OBVIOUSLY there is a problem of admission here,' said Nick Pope, who studied UFO sightings for the Ministry of Defence between 1991 and 1994, and still works there.

'The CIA hardly inspires confidence in what it is saying by admitting that everything it has said in the past was all lies. But even if you do believe that many of these sightings were spy planes, it does not amount to very much.'

'The report does not help to explain the numerous low-altitude sightings of UFOs, or the photographs of circular-shaped objects in the sky. Hundreds of them have not been accounted for properly.'

Some of the most outstanding come from Britain and date back to the Fifties.

On April 4, 1957, three separate radar operators at West Freugh, near Stranraer in Scotland, picked up five objects at 70,000ft. The operators knew immediately they were not aircraft. First, they were stationary. More intriguingly, they were the size of 'battleships'.

The incident was filed away in a confidential report — Air 20/9321/DDTech.D. — which has only recently seen the light of day. It concluded that the objects were not weather balloons or aircraft, and the radar



Fact or fiction: An image alleged to depict an alien from the Roswell crash

soundings could not be explained by freak weather conditions either.

In the same year, personnel at the RAF base in Church Lawford, Warwickshire, saw a spherical craft accelerate from a standing start to 1,400mph. Again, the incident was filed and forgotten.

There have been other more recent developments which have stirred the imagination.

Earlier this year, an archaeologist called Jerry Freeman embarked on a 700-mile trek through restricted U.S. Air Force property in the Nevada desert looking for inscriptions made in 1849 by members of a pioneering wagon train.

Mr Freeman had badgered the military unsuccessfully for five years to allow him onto the land and, having tired of their refusals, decided to go anyway.

AFTER several days of trekking across barren landscape, he was astonished by what he found. Not the inscriptions he had sought, but a military base tucked between two valleys. He saw cars and lights, and a hangar door. But the installation was not marked on any maps, and when he returned home the military denied the base existed.

Later, he discovered he had come across what many UFO buffs have come to see as the holy grail. For years they have maintained that there is an underground hangar in the desert where an alien spacecraft is being stored.

Though Mr Freeman's

discovery was hardly conclusive, at least a reliable source had confirmed there was 'something out there'.

The most enduring of UFO stories was the Roswell incident, which has confused and confounded since 1947. Onlookers claimed they saw alien bodies being taken from a craft which had crashed into the desert in New Mexico. At first military sources denied everything, then they said a secret weather balloon had plunged to ground.

Finally this summer, on Roswell's 50th anniversary, the U.S. Air Force said the conspiracy theorists were wrong. Yes, they had seen bodies, but they were not aliens. They were flight-test dummies dropped from high altitude as part of an experiment. The Air Force said this was the 'final word on Roswell'. But it wasn't.

'How anyone in the U.S. military expected people to believe that explanation is beyond me,' said Dr Colin Ridyard, of the British UFO Research Organisation. 'If that was all that Roswell amounted to, they could have told us years ago.'

Nick Pope has his own theory. Governments are under more scrutiny than ever over UFOs, and they are under pressure to come up with answers. The intelligence community is being brow-beaten because it is inexorably losing the battle for 'believability'.

'There seems to be a concerted strategy to debunk the phenomenon. The problem is that the agenda is so obvious, people don't believe the authorities. What are they trying to hide?'

COURIER & ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland - Nov. 17, 1997

Women mystified by close encounter

TWO ALLOA women are investigating their own X-Files mystery after spotting a strange object in the skies above their town.

Celia Roach (44) and her friend Jean Cassidy were amazed when they saw a cigar-shaped craft hurtling through the air last Thursday.

The women, who both work as care workers for Clackmannanshire Council, gave chase and followed the UFO towards Kincardine.

But after the unearthly object suddenly accelerated and disappeared from sight, they enlisted the help of a top UFO researcher to explain the mystery.

And now the women both think they might have witnessed one of dozens of UFO encounters around central Scotland in recent years.

Speaking from her home in Stanton Avenue, Alloa, Mrs Roach said she saw the object when she went to pick her friend up for work.

The mother of three said, 'It was cigar-shaped and bright orange. It was almost as if something was entering the atmosphere and burning up.'

'We tried to follow it

in the car. It was very high up and going really slowly in the sky towards Kincardine Bridge.

'Then all of a sudden it seemed to go quickly and disappeared behind some smoke.'

'It certainly was not an aeroplane and it was not a helicopter. It wasn't anything I have seen before.'

Mrs Roach, who says she is not a sceptic and believes there is something out there, said the close encounter made them both late for work in Tillicoultry.

She added, 'They never believed our excuse for being late.'

Mrs Cassidy commented, 'About six months ago I saw a similar thing but this time it was moving faster.'

The women enlisted the help of top UFO researcher Ron Halliday, of Stirling-based Scottish Earth Mysteries Research.

Mr Halliday, who works at Stirling University, is well known for investigating possible alien encounters and UFO sightings.

He has appealed from anyone else who saw the strange object on Thursday to come forward.

feature

UFOs have also been spotted in North Delta and White Rock

Here's a list of the 1997 sightings, compiled by UFO*BC:

■ **AUG. 18, DELTA**
A large tubular-shaped craft was spotted high in the sky, heading northeast to southwest on a horizontal path, with no detectable noise.

■ **NOV. 3, DELTA**
A small white light was spotted over the Fraser River, moving erratically up and down like an insect, at 11:25 p.m. Then a second light joined it and they moved in tandem. The lights faded after 15 minutes.

■ **NOV. 20, DELTA**
Four workers took a smoke break outside at 6 p.m. when they spotted a flickering and pulsing yellow/orange light at tree top height to the west, above the Massey tunnel.

■ **DEC. 14, WHITE ROCK**

Seven people heading up from the beach near the pier, between 12:30 a.m. and 1 a.m., saw an object the size of a match-head zooming toward them from the southwest. It came to an abrupt halt about 1,000 yards directly in front of them and 1,500 feet up. It was shaped like a slightly rounded reverse six, had a very dense reddish orange color, and had a silver pyramid shape on top of it. It hovered, moved like a "wimpy yo-yo," then went still again for about five seconds, with the silver pyramid on the bottom of the reverse six. Then it was gone. Total viewing time: five to 10 minutes.

1997: Bumper year for UFOs

According to a Lower Mainland organization, an episode of the science fiction X-files television show could be made about Surrey and North Delta. UFO*BC claims there were 19 sightings of unidentified flying objects in the area last year.

Stories by Tom Zytaruk

It appears that more than just Santa has been zipping around our skies last year.

UFO*BC, which tracks reports of strange and unexplainable craft above, logged 19 sightings in Surrey, North Delta and White Rock in 1997.

"I would say it was as busy as it ever has been," says UFO*BC president Graham Conway.

"Maybe more this year than I have previously known."

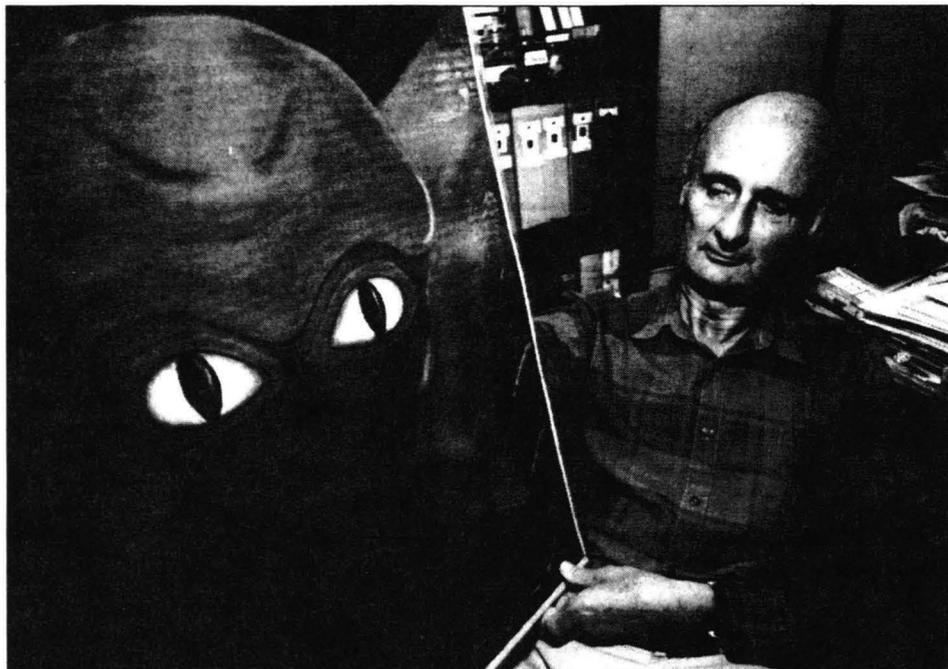
The 'Surrey-Delta UFO corridor' has been a hotbed for sightings for many years now.

Why? Who knows?

"Your theory is as good as mine," Conway says. It might be the proliferation of power lines here.

"These powerlines seem to attract them," he notes. While the corridor includes North Delta, there are no reported sightings in Tsawwassen or Ladner. This perplexes Conway because there are hydro lines down there, too.

Guildford resident Bill Oliver, who manages the UFO*BC Internet web site, and edits the UFO*BC Quarterly, says April (with the Hale-Bopp comet) and



now file photo

UFO*BC president Graham Conway holds a depiction of a 'grey', what some people say is commanding those unidentified flying objects. UFO*BC has its own Internet web site with a database of sightings, plus it publishes a newsletter.

December were busy, but Nov. 14 took the cake.

"That's when the phone went nuts," Oliver says. That's the day a piece of a Russian rocket fell out of orbit and crossed the night sky of the Pacific Northwest.

Norad said the rocket, which was seen as far east as Idaho, crashed in the Pacific Ocean.

Oliver figures this accounts for some 20 sighting calls that night.

"I'm pretty sure it was space junk," he says.

But what about sightings during the other 364 days of the year?

You decide...

Seen a UFO lately? Contact the UFO*BC Hotline at 878-6511, or visit the Internet web site at <http://www.ufobc.org>.

Unidentified flying objects are no strangers to local skies

There were 13 recorded UFO sightings last year in Surrey.

■ MARCH 14

A seven-year-old boy spotted a "swarm" around the top of a building as he and his family left the Guildford Library at about 6:30 p.m. His parents saw a dark spherical object that appeared to be circling the building. It rose above the building then disappeared. At arm's length, it was about the size of a baseball, and was seen for about 15 seconds.

■ APRIL 2

A husband and wife watching the eclipse of the moon at about 9 p.m. saw three bright lights move away from the left side of the moon then rapidly to the south. They were in triangular formation and moved together. The man told his wife to look and she watched them until they were obscured by a building to the south.

■ APRIL 18

A man, wife and two friends spotted a very bright orange light in the southern evening sky, smaller than a dime at arm's length, moving slowly north. It stopped, moved slightly up and down, and side to side. Suddenly, a very bright white light shot straight down out of the bottom at "incredible" speed, then made an abrupt change of direction to the right. The orange object remained fixed and would fade or flicker, then return to its original magnitude, then fade again, and finally disappear. The sighting lasted about five minutes, from the area of 96th Avenue and 128th Street, looking toward Newton.

■ APRIL 21

A man on his balcony, near 96th Avenue and King George Highway, at about 10 p.m., saw an orange sphere in the eastern sky. It was about a quarter-inch in diameter at arm's length, about 2,000 feet away and 500 feet above the ground. It continued east,

stopped, dropped down, stopped, then curved in an arc, rising about 700 feet before "winking out." No sound was heard. The man's wife also saw it. About 10 minutes later, another man looked out his upstairs window and saw a triangular object with a round white light in each corner and a rectangular white light in the centre. The object seemed close and moved quickly.

■ MAY 17

A woman saw a bright object in the sky from the stands of the Cloverdale Rodeo. She nudged her husband, glanced away for a few seconds, looked back and it was gone. She looked all over the sky but couldn't spot it again.

■ JULY 12

A man at 82nd Avenue and 126th Street noticed a large flock of birds flying high in a westerly direction at 5:30 p.m. Far above them, he spotted a white object zooming east. It appeared round, or maybe shaped like a tear drop. Then it headed north, at maybe 20,000 feet, then disappeared.

■ JULY 28

A woman near 68th Avenue and King George Highway saw a brilliant white light hovering in the southeast sky, at about 12:05 a.m. She thought it was over Cloverdale. It pulsed and faded, from extremely bright to the size of a small star. It also moved in an 'unconventional' manner while she watched it for about 30 minutes.

■ AUGUST 24

A 15-year-old boy sitting outside with his mom saw a silent gray ball as big as a basketball pass low over the house, then change into a seagull with flapping wings. This family has a long history of sightings.

■ SEPTEMBER 3

A man and wife were driving north on Scott Road at about 7 p.m. when they spotted a brief reflection high in the sky. A dark small ball(?) could

be seen against wispy cloud cover, then again a bright reflective light. The circular object travelled slowly on a horizontal path, northwest to southeast, for three minutes. The witnesses insist it wasn't an airplane or the "FIDO" blimp.

■ SEPTEMBER 18

A young man and his mom looking west at 7 p.m. saw a brilliant silver-white lemon shaped object. It appeared to flash and pulse while it moved south before disappearing after less than a minute.

■ NOVEMBER 8

A pilot and friend outside Wal-Mart in Guildford at 3:30 p.m. saw a white cylindrical object with a metallic glint. They couldn't see any wings or hear any sound. The pilot figured it was about the size of a small aircraft. The sighting lasted five minutes.

■ DECEMBER 8

A man and woman saw a bright object, as big as a nickel at arm's length, in the east from their cul-de-sac. Then the man spotted another. The third — the "Granddaddy" — followed on the path. It was disc-shaped, pewter in color with a row of white lights around the centre. The woman said it was like something "out of a '50s movie." It was as big as two \$2 coins at arm's length, about a mile from them and two inches above the trees, which were about 60 feet tall. It was spinning and seemed to dip, and began to grow very bright, and moved up and down. They decided to pursue it in their car, to Crescent Beach, but lost it.

■ DECEMBER 14

A motorist heading down King George Highway shortly after 9 p.m. saw a bright yellow-white light zooming southwest, below the 2,000-foot cloud cover. The sighting lasted about six seconds.

Four minutes later, two other motorists heading south on King George Highway saw a small gold white light with flashing red travelling at high speed below the clouds for about three seconds.

Why not let readers make up their own minds?

FAR from being narrow minded and convinced of the origin of what we experienced, we would actually welcome any possible theories or reasoned explanations.

However, to use what we reported to you in all seriousness in a gimmicky lead story is both highly patronising and personally insulting.

By the response we have received from many members of the public, you should credit your readers with more intelligence

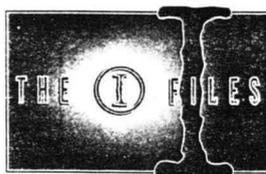
than to expect them to believe what you purported to be "the truth" on Friday's front page.

We did not say that what we saw was an alien craft or anything else for that matter, because the facts we have do not offer a specific explanation even with the knowledge and experience accumulated by Ron West over 40 years of investigating sightings.

We are astounded that you can presume to call your theory "The Truth" with even less information and without even checking what

information you did have on record. Let us set the record straight. If you really do wish to be seen to be pursuing the truth, then printing this letter and accompanying map which explains the geography of events should allow your readers to make up their own minds as opposed to having it made up for them.

JONATHAN MARSDEN AND DERMOT CURRAN, on behalf of the Suffolk & Essex UFO Research Groups.



Do you have anything for the I Files team to investigate. Call the Star newsdesk on Ipswich 01473 282257

■ Edgar Mitchell, an Apollo astronaut who became the sixth man to walk on the moon in 1971, believes aliens have crash-landed on earth and that the United States government is covering it up. He told a conference in Phoenix that technology from the crashed spaceships was being used in military aircraft and that congressional hearings should be held into the cover-up. David Sapsted, New York

THE INVASION IS OVER-NOW WE'RE WAITING FOR THE SCREAMING!

GEORGE and Maria have a daughter who is almost two. One day she brought out her doll and asked her Mum to open its head.

Maria asked her where she had seen something like that and the little girl told her mother: "They do it to Daddy at night."

George and Maria are not alone. Thousands claim to have been abducted by aliens.

When scientific researcher Philip Imbrogno began to talk to the worried couple he discovered a chain of events that he believes will stun the world.

Imbrogno served with US Special Forces in Cambodia on a secret CIA operation called Shadow. He used his CIA contacts to verify George and Maria's story.

Then he followed up more people who claimed to have been kidnapped by aliens.

Imbrogno discovered several chilling similarities. Most terrifying of all was that almost every one of these people shared the same rare blood group.

Imbrogno placed the abductions on a map and found they all formed straight lines that pointed to the Hudson Valley outside New York. A

THE silent invasion has begun. Former military intelligence operative Philip Imbrogno claims he has the evidence. Drawing on his contacts in the CIA and US Air Force he has built up a terrifying dossier of alien abductions. He has researched the claims of thousands of people. Today MATTHEW BENNS presents their terrifying testimony.

CIA former colleague told him: "The invasion is over. All we are waiting for is the screaming."

Imbrogno believes those screams will start where the UFOs were first spotted in the towns along the Hudson Valley.

The alien invasion had begun quietly. Middle school head Douglas Harlow arrived at his office to find that every clock in the school was 10 minutes fast.

"I couldn't figure it out," said Harlow.

But it was not just the school clocks. Every electric clock in the town

had gained 10 minutes. A spokesman for the Connecticut Light and Power Company blamed a power surge - even though shift supervisor Philip Gervais said there had been no surge.

Then the witnesses came forward. Mrs Diane Duont, 40, was driving her car when she saw a large boomerang pattern of lights slowly moving through the night sky.

She said: "I watched as these lights approached and I was surprised that I heard no sound at all."

"The object then passed directly over my car and

as I looked up I saw a dark mass blocking out the brighter night sky."

Police and the local radio station were deluged with reports of the slow-moving flying wing with white and red lights.

Arnold Sprinster said the giant triangular ship was the size of a football pitch and took 10 minutes to pass over his car.

"It looked like one of the spaceships in the science fiction movies but this was real."

Local police chief Herbert Peterson said: "If this thing can come here

and do this, I want to know where the hell are our country's defences?"

But Imbrogno believes it is too late to worry about defences - the aliens are already here.

Imbrogno began his search for evidence by calling a general meeting in a valley town called Pine Bush.

He asked people to write down any experience they had with UFOs.

He was stunned. Forty per cent of the people in the room had been in contact with aliens.

George and Maria are so used to the night time visits from alien creatures that when they appear Maria tells her husband: "Your friends are here."

Bill, a 32-year-old computer programmer who would not give his surname, saw the giant UFO in the Hudson Valley as he drove home from work late at night.

He saw the space ship

pass over his car but remembered nothing else about the incident until he had hypnosis.

Bill relived the ordeal. "There is someone standing in the road and he's walking towards the car. Who are you?"

The alien replied: "Do not be fearful. We need you. You have been selected."

Bill said: "I feel strange, like I am floating in air. It's all dark. I am now on this table and these guys are all around me."

"They have large heads with long black eyes, the eyes are so black I can't see any pupils. They look like shark eyes."

"The one that is near my head is moving some type of thing up and down the side of my head. It looks like a portable vacuum cleaner."

"He is moving it closer and it is making my head vibrate, it feels like a drill going through my

head. STOP, STOP, IT HURTS.

"They are looking for something and they've found it. I can't hear them speak, but I know what they are saying."

"He is telling me that they come from a place which is very ugly in comparison to ours and they would like to live here but they cannot."

The next thing Bill recalls is finding himself back in his car one hour later than the last time he looked at his clock.

A CIA source told Imbrogno that an alien craft landed at a US military base shortly after the Second World War.

The aliens were dying out and needed humans to infuse fresh genetic material into their species. They offered new technology in return.

The US Government allowed the grey aliens to abduct people for genetic experiments.

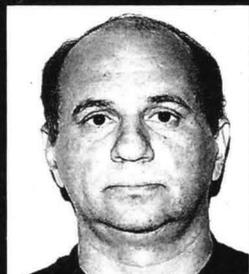
Imbrogno took blood tests from people who claim to have been abducted.

The outcome astonished him - 95 per cent had the rare B-negative blood type.

He said: "People with B-negative blood may be off-shoots of the hybrid race that the aliens are trying to create."

If that is true, the silent invasion has begun.

● Contact Of The 5th Kind by Philip J Imbrogno and Marianne Horrigan published by Llewellyn at £7.99.



EERIE: Artist's impression (left) of the aliens. Police chief Herbert Peterson (above) discusses the sightings with colleagues. Researcher Philip Imbrogno (right) has uncovered thousands of kidnappings



UFO attacked our nukes

BRITAIN'S former military supremo is asking the Government to investigate whether aliens fired LASER BEAMS at our nuclear arsenal.

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, retired chief of the defence staff, wants the probe to be launched into the sighting of a UFO hovering over RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk. He has now tabled questions to the Ministry of

Defence asking whether nuclear weapons stored at Woodbridge were struck by light beams fired from an unidentified craft.

He claims that US air force personnel who saw the "attack" filed reports which are being covered up by the MoD.

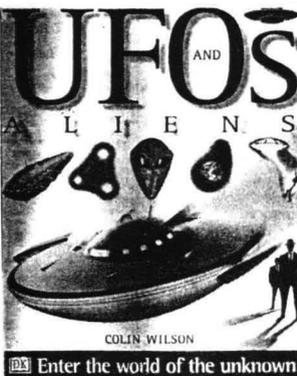
He said: "The Ministry has doggedly denied that anything untoward happened and I simply don't believe them." Defence minister Lord Gilbert refused to confirm

or deny whether the base was equipped with nuclear missiles.

He added: "There is no evidence to suggest that the Ministry of Defence received any such reports."

The mysterious sighting happened in December 1980 and was picked up on RAF radar. Phantom jets were scrambled and pilots reported intense, bright lights in the sky.

EVENING NEWS, Worcester, England - Oct. 10, 1997



The Unexplained - UFOs and Aliens, by Colin Wilson (Dorling Kindersley, £7.99).

JUST one glance at the stars will immediately answer that age-old question of whether or not we are alone in the Universe.

Of course we are not. It's a mathematical impossibility for a start - only one planet out of billions inhabited with intelligent life? Cosmic forces could never be as quirkily random as that.

But the question is, do aliens visit this earth in any numbers, and if that is the

Earth to Cosmos... is there anybody out there?

case, where is the proof and what is their purpose?

Colin Wilson has produced a superb collection of vivid eye-witness acc-ounts and

amazing images of the bizarre world of unidentified flying objects. The fascinating facts are followed by expert analysis so that readers can draw their own conclusions.

For me, the most tantalising conundrum is: if an unknown race of beings decided to set up shop on Starship Earth, would we be their equals or slaves? Partners in the cosmos - or exhibits in some sort of inter-galactic zoo?

Now that's one to sleep on - or not.

John Phillpott.

SHROPSHIRE STAR, Wellington, England - Nov. 11, 1997

UFOs checked by Ministry

Reports of UFO sightings in British airspace are only examined by the Defence Ministry to establish whether there is any defence significance.

Junior minister John Spellar said: "Unless there is evidence of a potential military threat, and to date no 'unidentified flying object' sighting has revealed such evidence, we do not attempt to identify the precise nature of each reported incident."

Mr Spellar said his department examined any reports of "unexplained aerial sightings" sent to it "solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance, namely whether there was any evidence that the UK Air Defence Region might have been breached by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity".

Is it a bird, plane, or UFO? The truth is out there...

Visit Daniele Mandelli's Wimbledon home and it is obvious that here is a man who lives and breathes his hobbies.

Initially, your eye is drawn to the large collection of military books which line the shelves.

Below are numerous videos cataloguing the footballing fortunes of The Dons.

But this is nothing to the countless photographs which line the walls and vast library of books, tapes, magazines and files you discover in another cabinet dedicated to his first love — UFOs.

Surrounded by pictures of his heroes Fox Mulder and Dana Scully from the sci-fi television series The X-Files — one of his cats is even named Dana after Gillian Anderson's TV character — you could be forgiven for thinking that Daniele is slightly obsessive about the subject.

But the 25-year-old postman has done his homework.

Documents

For seven years he has devoured as many documents and recordings relating to unidentified flying objects as he can and he is a member of two UK UFO organisations, the Society for Paranormal and UFO Research (SPUR) and London UFO Studies (LUFOS).

His involvement with LUFOS has now led to him work as a UFO investigator for south-west London and, in particular, Merton.

As for people thinking he's strange, well he's used to that. At work, colleagues regularly rib him about his out-of-this-world passtime.

"I realise that it's a subject with something of a crank, nutcase image, but if people were prepared to open their minds a little and take a closer look, they would see there's a lot more to it," he says.

"My fascination came from an interest in the military, especially aviation and stealth secret projects, which led me to hear rumours about various crashed UFOs.

"Then I read a couple of articles in the tabloids which although were probably a load of rubbish, really intrigued me.

"I did some research and found there was quite a lot to it. I'm a fairly open-

Twenty separate UFO sightings have been reported in Wimbledon in the last month.

Natalie Ward has a close encounter with a UFO investigator to find out more...

mind person and just feel that it's daft to assume that we are the only life form in the universe," he adds. Two personal sightings of UFOs have also fired his interest.

"I was only about 13 when I saw the first one," he explains. "I was walking along a footbridge in Wimbledon with my Dad when we spotted a pinkish-

unidentified flying object."

Just a few months ago, Daniele and a friend were at Avebury, in Wiltshire when they witnessed an even stranger sight in the night sky. It was an orange light this time, much larger than a star, and it was moving upwards.

"At first we thought it might be a flare but then it started to move left and then right, dancing around like a fairground wheel.

"It careered all over the sky and then vanished," he recalls.

Cover up

Daniele has his own theory on UFOs. "The mere fact that things are seen in the sky but cannot be identified means that they are UFOs," he says. "About 95 per cent of all UFO sightings tend to be quite mundane things — aeroplanes are most common — but if just one per cent turn out to be genuine that would be enough.

"I personally believe, though, that various governments around the world are involved in cover-ups.

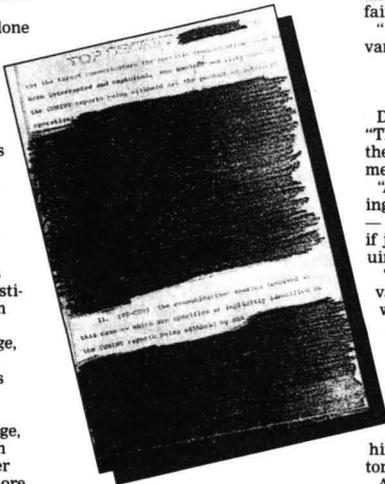
"They say that UFOs are no threat because they don't exist but thousands of documents have been released which show that information is being collected."

Daniele's ever-increasing interest in the subject has now led to him branching out as a UFO investigator.

And if reports of three recent UFO sightings in Wimbledon are to be given credibility, he could be kept fairly busy.

"A lot of people don't report sightings because of the fear of being ridiculed," he says. "But anyone who sees anything can contact me in the strictest confidence."

□ Daniele Mandelli can be contacted on 0181 879 0945.



Official UFO documentation. Chris Matuszek

white object like a star. It was stationary but then suddenly it moved across the sky at high speed. There were no flashing lights so we knew it wasn't a plane.

"I'm not saying that what we saw was definitely a flying saucer but it was certainly an



Daniele Mandelli with one of his vast collection of UFO books. Chris Matuszek



CORNISHMAN, Penzance, England - Oct. 16, 1997

Madron UFO?

An unidentified Flying Object was spotted over Madron on Friday morning and reported to the Cornwall UFO Research Group by three local people.

David Gillham of the research group said that a father and daughter at Madron spotted a bright light in the sky, which they first thought was an unusual aeroplane.

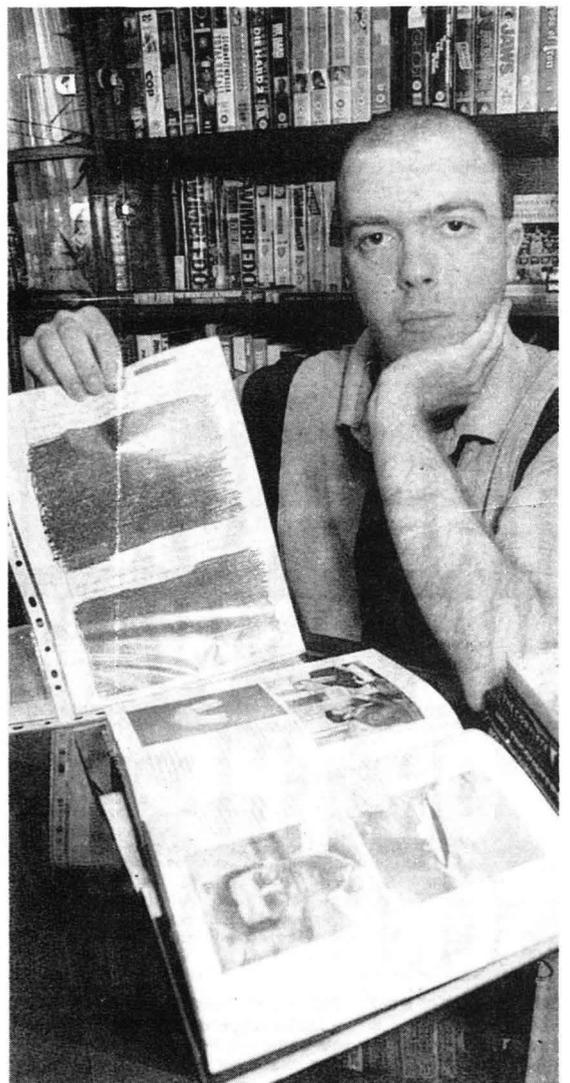
"The gentleman, who doesn't want to be named, noticed it when he was collecting the milk from his doorstep," said Mr. Gillham.

"He then looked at this bright light through binoculars and said that it was a tear shaped object with black lines through it moving very slowly," said Mr. Gillham.

A woman in Penzance also reported seeing the same object flying through the sky at around 8.30am last Friday, which she said flew over the sea from the Madron direction and over St. Michael's Mount.

Said Mr Gillham: "When the sightings were reported to me, I contacted RNAS Culdrose, who said they had no aircraft flying at 8.30 that morning and knew of no aircraft in the area at the time."

Mr. Gillham would like to hear from anyone else who might have seen a bright object in the skies over Madron and Mount's Bay, last Friday. He can be contacted on 01872 276381.



NEWS, Wimbledon, England - Oct. 24, 1997

"95 per cent of all UFO sightings are quite mundane": Daniele Mandelli with some of his UFO research. Chris Matuszek

ASHBY ECHO, Tamworth, Staffs., England - Sept. 17, 1997

Fishermen net UFO

A MYSTERIOUS bright object which appeared in the sky during the summer months has been caught on camera by a Measham man and his son.

The strange light appeared high in the sky above Measham in July and was spotted by Mark Doran and his son Mark.

The pair were in the garden of their house in Bosworth Road after returning home from a fishing trip when they noticed the bright light hovering in the sky above them.

They quickly took photographs of the object before it suddenly and silently disappeared.

Mark (12), a pupil at Ashby's Ivanhoe High School, believes that the strange object is a UFO and he told the Ashby Echo: "It was a very bright light in the sky. I was looking at it and it was in the middle of the sky when it just moved really quickly.

"It was very bright and when it moved it didn't make any noise at all."

Mark added that the bright object took on a Saturn like appearance before suddenly moving at great speed across the sky.

His mum Marie said: "Mark came running into the house saying that they had seen a UFO. They took the pictures but they didn't expect them to come out."

Kirk Hargreave-Parsons from the Charnwood UFO Research Group (CURG) said that the group had been flooded with calls concerning a bright light over the Ashby and Measham area during the July and August period.

He said: "We have had a lot of reports of a bright object above Ashby and Measham during July and August. There were no visible comets in the sky at around that time but sometimes the sighting are often no more than aircraft from East Midlands' Airport."

"Ninety-nine out of hundred sighting tend to have fairly mundane explanations but that 1 per cent of unexplained sightings have tended to be over the area between Burton and Ashby which is quite a hotbed."



The bright object blazes across the night sky.

Mark Doran spotted the strange object after coming home from a fishing trip.

Crop circles continue to generate interest

Some people may have long forgotten about the crop circles that showed up in a Rocanville-area field in the fall of 1996, but I haven't been able to.

It has been 18 months since the circles appeared, and I continue to get a lot of calls, e-mails, and letters about the circles.

When I received a call at the office from the people who discovered the circles back in September of 1996, and I jumped in the car with my camera and notebook, I had no idea how long this story would remain of interest to people.

I don't know how many copies of the article I have sent out since it originally ran, and I can't keep track of how many people have contacted the newspaper looking for more information on the circles, but last week alone, I heard from three different people about the crop circles.

The Saskatchewan Government Correspondence School wants to include the article I wrote on the crop circles as part of the Grade 10 English Language Arts curriculum. The correspondence school provides courses to students in isolated areas where specific classes are not available, and to adults who are completing



Kevin Weedmark

their education later in life. The correspondence school is trying to include as much Saskatchewan content as possible in the new curriculum, and is trying to hold students' interest by focusing on topics a lot of people are interested in. The crop circle story will be included in a unit titled "The Unknown."

I heard from a man named Martin Hussey from Vermont, U.S.A., who works with a man named Colin Andrewes (who people who know more about crop circles than I do say is a well-known crop circle investigator). Hussey came into possession of a photograph, taken from an airliner on Sept. 3, 1996 — one day before the crop circles were discovered at Rocanville. A passenger aboard the airliner, on its way between Minneapolis and Calgary, took a photo of what Hussey and

Andrewes believe may be a crop circle formation. According to Andrewes, "if this proves to be a true formation it will, without a doubt, be the largest formation in North America, if not the world." Hussey contacted me after doing a search of the internet and finding my story on the crop circles that were found a day after his photo was taken. He wants to know if anyone recognizes the area the photo shows — the airliner was over North Dakota or southern Saskatchewan when the picture was taken. The photo appears in this issue, just in case anyone does recognize the area. It shows some dark circles and lines in what appears to be a marshy area, but for all we know the photo may show work under way on developing waterfowl habitat by creating artificial islands for nesting.

And I got a call from a woman named Nancy Talbot, who works with a Cambridge, Mass. lab, where material from the crop circles at Rocanville was analyzed. Samples of grain and soil from within the crop circles at Rocanville were sent to the lab. The lab has completed germination tests and other analysis of the plant material recovered from the site, and has analyzed the content of the soil in the site. The actual report arrived Friday, and includes some interesting results. This lab actually does serious scientific work on crop circles, and Talbot gets quite annoyed at reporters who ask "what do you think — is it little green men, or what?" so I had to end our conversation by asking "what do you think — is it little green men or what?"

Obviously crop circles are something people are interested in.

The Rocanville Economic Development Organization has done a wonderful job of promoting and developing business in their community.

But if I were a member of that committee, I think I would be designing a sign for the Trans-Canada highway, pointing the way to "Rocanville — home of the crop circles."

EVENING NEWS, Bolton, England - Oct. 23, 1997

UFO MYSTERY OF THE BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE SKY



By Beverly Greenberg

MYSTERY surrounding an unusual bright white light spotted in the sky by residents in Markland Hill has deepened.

Further sightings of the dazzling light have been reported — leaving bewildered eyewitnesses yet further in the dark.

The light was spotted at about 9pm on Saturday night and a Bolton Evening News article outlining the sighting has prompted further calls.

A second resident on Markland Hill said: "I also saw the light in the sky. I put

my glasses on, which are tinted, to get a better look. Once I had them on it stopped the dazzle and allowed me to see it properly.

"It was oblong in shape and flat, but the strangest part was that it had shoots of light coming out of it on either side, similar in shape to cats' whiskers. They were only either side of the main body of light.

"As the evening progressed, it did move further around, but, when I looked out at about 1.15am it then seemed to just vanish.

"I have never seen anything like it before in my life. It certainly did not look anything like a star.

"It frightened me a little and certainly made me feel unsettled particularly as I could not explain what it was.

"I do not believe in UFOs, but this has certainly intrigued me."

Eyewitnesses baffled after 'craft' spotted over Markland Hill

Julie Barker, of Sharples, was driving through Darwen Moors with her husband, stepson and daughter, when she believes she could have spotted the same light.

She said: "I saw a very bright light above the moon. It was far too big and too bright to be a plane. We were watching it when it suddenly disappeared. It was like someone switching off a light.

"The light was very strange and very unusual. We could not come up with an explanation of what it could be."

Stephen Balon, North West Sighting Coordinator for the Direct Investigations Group on Aerial Phenomenon, is asking

anyone who can shed some light on the sighting to contact him.

He said: "I have contacted Greater Manchester Police and Greater Manchester Air Traffic Control to see if they had a helicopter in the area on the night. Neither did, and both could not explain what the light was.

"Over the years, Bolton has been an active place for strange sightings, and anyone with any further information can contact me."

Stephen is at 10 Woodlands Avenue, Pennington, Leigh WN7 3HL, or telephone 0831 702394. All information will be dealt with confidentially.

THE YES! FILES

'WE ARE BEING FOLLOWED BY ALIEN SPACESHIPS'

While most people never get to see a UFO, it seems that one couple have seen more than their fair share of alien craft. Dave and Lesley Strudwick have seen FOUR spaceships between them and, as they told JOHN EARLS, they're looking forward to seeing more...

to south. I yelled in surprise and Lesley saw it as well. She has flown light aircraft and we both knew that whatever we were looking at was no plane."

But Dave said that he wasn't frightened. "Because of my job I was intrigued at what the craft looked like and how it was constructed more than anything," he added.

When Dave saw his next UFO two years later he realised that the ships were made of a material

far in advance of Earth's technology. "It was identical to the previous one I'd seen," he said.

"As I saw it I thought I'd get a proper look at it. But, as I watched, it faded into nothingness like a firework. I'd guess that's about 400 years in advance of our technology!"

Lesley, a council worker, saw the last of the couple's alien sightings early last year.

"I'd been looking after our grandchildren in Chatham," she



PICTURE: PAUL REED

said. "I was on their patio, dozing off, when there was a bright light overhead. It was brighter than anything I'd ever seen and was about 40,000 feet above me.

"Amazingly there was then another bright light which stopped to let the first one catch up. They then merged and vanished together."

Dave said the couple now want to see another craft so they can warn air traffic control.

"We want to see what the authorities' response is," he said.

"I've worked out our position to identify us to air traffic control. The only problem is waiting for another UFO to turn up!"

PEOPLE, London, England - Nov. 2, 1997

HE'S now a confirmed believer in UFOs but retired engineer Dave Strudwick said the first time he came across alien reports he thought: "What a load of trash."

He said: "I was working in a London power station when I found a UFO book called something like They're Already Here. There was a picture of a ship and I burst out laughing — it was a photo of a lighting unit from a 1900s power station!"

But Dave, 63, saw what he believes was his first UFO a few months later in 1964.

"I lived in East London and was walking home when I saw a great big blob of light overhead. It sped off just as I was thinking, 'What the hell's that!' At the time I thought nothing more of it."

It wasn't until Dave and his wife Lesley, 55, were sitting in their back garden in Meopham, Kent, one summer evening in 1993 that they became convinced of the existence of aliens.

"I was admiring the garden, looking up at our trees," he said.

"To my amazement I saw what looked like a classic flying saucer about 2,000 feet overhead. It was metallic, and travelling from north

WESTERN DAILY PRESS, Bristol, England - Oct. 16, 1997

Multiple sightings of UFOs

A SERIES of UFO sightings has excited West experts after strange craft were spotted by four separate groups of people in the same evening in Somerset.

A 19-year-old man was driving to Wellington with his girlfriend last Tuesday when they spotted a jet black triangular aircraft.

The couple pulled into a service station and saw a second craft hovering which then shot off at tremendous speed.

There were three similar sightings in the area during the course of the evening.

Mystery on the moor

By DAVID CLARKE

THE X-files style mystery surrounding an "aircrash" on moors near Sheffield is to be recreated for a television special on the unexplained.

Hundreds of police and mountain rescue volunteers combed the Peak District moors near Bolsterstone in March this year after a light plane was spotted crash-landing.

Startled witnesses including a police special constable phoned 999 when they saw a "long dark object", with lights on its wing and tail, on a collision course with the hills.

And emergency services feared the worst when a gamekeeper at Strines reported a "loud explosion" and a plume of smoke was seen rising from the moors.

Experts from Edinburgh University later revealed they recorded a sonic boom on their sensitive equipment at the same time - suggesting something had crashed to earth.

But despite scouring 40 square miles of moors rescue teams drew a blank and the search was called off after 18 hours, leaving experts baffled.

The events of that night have been reconstructed by a BBC film using information supplied by the police and the film is to go out in a new series of

Plane crash riddle to be filmed for TV

Mysteries hosted by Carol Vorderman next month.

The programme reveals how more than 60 people stretching from Barnsley to Dronfield rang police that night to report seeing low-flying aircraft and other flying objects.

Two groups of people claim they spotted a large black triangular object being chased by what looked like two Tornado fighter jets.

Denied

But both the RAF and Ministry of Defence in London have denied there was any military activity over the Peak District on the night of the crash.

They also denied claims made by a Leeds-based UFO magazine that a top secret Remotely Piloted Vehicle or RPV, used on spying missions, had crashed on the moors and been recovered in an undercover operation.

Detectives from Hammerton Road who investigated the crash also examined footage of a plane filmed by two teenagers from Parson Cross which was never identified.

CHORLEY GUARDIAN, Lancs., England - Oct. 22, 1997

Mystery of UFO craft hots up!

By Jon Bamber

SPACE experts are investigating claims of sightings of UFOs over Chorley.

Leaders of a Lancashire UFO club claim that they have been inundated with calls from people who have spotted things in the sky above the town.

Some have reported seeing triangular or disc shaped craft and all claim that what they have spotted are not planes.

One man says he has seen two V-shaped objects, each made up of seven red lights, fly parallel to each other and then merge into one.

The witness, from the Eaves Lane area of Chorley, spotted the objects just after midnight one evening and watched them for around 15 seconds until they passed out of sight.

He claims that the objects were too big to be aircraft and were flying too close together. They made no noise.

As he watched the two objects, they merged together and he says he is convinced that what he saw were UFOs.

Rory Lushman, chairman of Pendle, Hyndburn UFO Network, said today: "This sighting is the

best ever reported over Chorley. "It is different from all the others and there is no logical explanation."

Mr Lushman said that there had been other sightings of what are described as 'UFO triangles' across Lancashire.

He added that although there had been other interesting reports from the Chorley area, the sighting over Eaves Lane was different as it involved two triangles.

Daylight

Philip Catterall who runs Bolton UFO Society, said that although he had had a number of reports of daylight sightings from people in the Chorley area, he believed that the object seen over the Eaves Lane area was probably a man-made craft which had come from the British Aerospace plant at Warton, near Preston and may have had something to do with the Ministry of Defence.

But a spokesman for British Aerospace at Warton said: "Whatever was seen has not come out of Warton."

"We are not responsible for any of these sightings. It is very rare for us to fly at night.

"The most advanced plane we have is the Eurofighter, which is seen regularly in the sky and is an easily recognisable aeroplane."

And RAF spokesman, Ken Gunning, said: "All aircraft owned by the Government are standard fighter aircraft."

"We have no unmanned airborne vehicle or anything like that at all."

Tony Dudd, Investigations Officer for Quest International and a writer for The UFO Magazine, one of the world's best selling UFO publications, has been involved with researching and investigating UFO sightings for more than 20 years.

He said: "We get these sightings all the time. We are getting a lot from coastal areas all over the UK at the moment."

■ Is there life out there? Do you believe in UFOs and aliens or do you think that they are just products of the over-vidid imaginations of enthusiasts? Have you ever seen a UFO?

Write to us at the usual address.

WEST LANCASHIRE EVENING GAZETTE, England - Oct. 14, 1997

Late night sightings are out of this world

IS there somebody out there?

Callers to a late night radio phone-in feared a close encounter of the third kind after they spotted a UFO hovering off the coast of Blackpool.

Thirty-five skygazers bombarded the Tony Newman talk show on Red Rose Gold on Thursday after spotting mysterious red and blue lights in the night sky.

Among them was someone who claimed to be phoning from a navy ship moored off the Fylde coast and who described spotting a huge object with lights on the underside hovering overhead.

Four others who live in the South Shore area said they had seen a red spinning disc-shaped object.

The UFO sighting came as a new book was published which alleges that BAe Warton has been developing a top secret pilotless aircraft.

"Robot Warriors", by Hugh McDaid and David Oliver, claims that the futuristic triangular aircraft have been spotted over the west coast but aerospace chiefs say there is absolutely no truth in the allegations.

Explain

Now Tim Matthews, of the Lancashire UFO Society, has launched an investigation into Thursday night's sighting and has written to his MP in an effort to explain the phenomenon.

"We are not coming to any conclusion as to what the object might have been," he said.

"We may well find that a lot of other people saw it. But we need to hear from them so that we can get on with our job of investigating."

And he added: "My own views is these sightings are not alien spacecraft."

"That is just a popular myth although that is not say that there are no aliens."

"There is a good possibility that some UFOs spotted in the North West are in some cases related to advanced military prototypes."

"Natural phenomena also play a part in these sightings."

"There are things that defy explanation."

Anyone who spotted the UFO at midnight on Thursday can ring Tim Matthews on 01704 549322.

SUNDAY TIMES, London, England - Nov. 23, 1997

What the aliens told the equerry about Prince Philip

by Hugh McManners and Walter Ellis

WHAT would you do if you were an alien observer keen to establish contact at the highest level with the British Establishment?

You might attempt to reach the prime minister — but it's so hard to get through. The same would apply to the Foreign Office, the defence ministry and the intelligence services. Most likely, they would have you thrown out or locked up.

Janus, an interstellar emissary assigned to the British beat, decided to go for broke: he would arrange an audience with the Duke of Edinburgh.

Thus it was, on a damp and misty evening, in the winter of 1954, that Squadron Leader Peter Horsley, equerry to Prince Philip, found himself driving out of the main gates of Buckingham Palace on his way to the strangest, and most unearthly, encounter of his life.

A meeting had been arranged by a general for him to meet a Mrs Markham in a flat in Smith Street, Chelsea. The squadron leader was expecting little more than sherry and biscuits.

What he got, he said last week, was an introduction to man's destiny in the stars and a briefing on the supreme being, the Great Force, who commands the universe.

Had such a claim appeared in the National Enquirer or the Daily Sport, it could readily have been dismissed. In fact, it came from Air Marshal Sir Peter Horsley, former deputy commander-in-chief of Strike Command, whose memoirs, Sounds From Another Room,



All in a day's work: Horsley, left, as a high-flying official

are published this month.

Other top military types have also claimed stellar acquaintance. In 1988 a retired admiral caused a stir when he claimed to have met an alien called Alan. Horsley, however, was a mere squadron leader, and, according to his story, it was the duke who was the object of Janus's attention.

"Prince Philip," said the stranger, "is a man of great vision, a person of world renown and a leader in the realm of wildlife and the environment. He is a man who believes strongly in the proper relationship between man and nature, which will prove of great importance in future galactic harmony."

Horsley — destined to be in charge of sending British nuclear bombers on missions deep inside the former Soviet Union in the event of war — realised he had to tread warily. Janus, fortunately, understood this as well.

"Where would you like to start?" he asked.

Many would have wished to begin by taking a better look at this mysterious stranger from the other side of the galaxy. Not Horsley.

"It is difficult," he writes, "to describe him with any accuracy; the room was poorly lit by two standard lamps and for the most part he sat in a deep chair by the side of a not very generous fire."

"In fact, I never really got any physical impression of him."

Tall, thin, short, fat, grey, white or green: Horsley does not recall. Instead, no doubt aware that such an opportunity might not come again, he pressed straight in with his questions.

"As an airman," he began, "one of the difficulties I have with the idea that UFOs fly here from another planet is the vast distances involved." Quite so. "That's a good

start," his visitor replied, before launching into a long disquisition on the reality of interstellar travel.

Apparently, in the next century or so, mankind will become bored with its exploration of the solar system and press on into deep space, employing technology that bends the time-space continuum and enables us to travel 1,000 light years in (relatively speaking) just 30 Earth years.

The future air marshal was understandably intrigued — not least by his realisation that Janus was telepathic and could read his thoughts.

The conversation ranged far and wide, ranging from Genesis and the Pyramids to the prospect of a universe teeming with life forms, all owing allegiance to the Great Force.

Horsley remembers the encounter with total recall and noted it down in a report to his superiors. What they made of his tale is not known.

But ever since, the retired air marshal, author of the Journal of a Stamp Collector and holder of the Portuguese Order of Christ, has been "at intellectual peace with the concept of God as a universal spiritual force without shape or habitat, a cosmic battery, if you like".

As for Prince Philip, Horsley left the Smith Square flat and made no attempt to pass on the extra-terrestrial invitation to his royal master.

When he later returned to the flat it was empty, and he never saw Janus again.

He thought no more about it — until now. "I was aged 33, very busy and had to get on with my job. So that's what I did."

Is black triangle spotted in our skies a secret new aircraft?

DID STEALTH TRIGGER UFO ALARM?

Exclusive by TIM NIXON

UFO experts think a top secret 'Stealth' aircraft is behind a spate of strange night-sky sightings over Burnley and Pendle at the weekend.

There were three separate reports of unidentified flying objects within hours.

In Brierfield at 9.30pm on Saturday, three teenage girls nervously reported seeing a triangular craft and disc flying together towards Burnley.

An hour later a man in Padiham also claimed to see a triangle overhead.

And on Sunday night a UFO spotter stationed on the Nick of Pendle saw a ball of light above Trawden.

Saucer spotters doubt the craft came from another world — they think it is an unmanned spy plane, being tested under cover of darkness.

"It is very unusual for there to be so many sightings in one weekend," said Rory Lushman, chairman of Pendle and Hyndburn UFO Network.

The group logs all reported UFOs and interviews everyone who phones in with a sighting. Mr Lushman believes most UFOs are Stealth planes on training runs.

"We receive very many reports of triangles in the sky, and I would say 90 per cent are Stealth aircraft, which we believe are being developed by British Aerospace at Warton in Preston."

Mr Lushman describes himself as a 'sceptical believer' in visitors from other planets, but says the authorities rely on the little-green-men theory to discredit people who have seen UFOs.

"They know no one will take it seriously then," he said.

The UFO group will be interviewing the witnesses over the next few days.

"We try get an impression of the people, to see whether they're just trying to con us," explained Mr Lushman. "We ask them to fill in a form and draw what they saw."

"Most people are quite frightened and emotional after a sighting. They know they're open to ridicule, even from their families, so it can help them to talk to someone who takes them seriously."

Prototype

Matt Birdsell of UFO Magazine said: "You can't ignore the sheer volume of reports that come from the Burnley area, and the UFO group there are a good investigative team."

"I suspect BAe are developing a prototype aircraft, but they are unlikely to test it over the Pennines, which is a relatively highly populated area — if it came down they would find it impossible to deny."

"But all the witnesses can't be wrong. There is enough to suggest that something is going on."

British Aerospace told the Citizen: "Any sightings of UFOs are not linked to any activities here at BAe."

EVENING POST, Yorkshire, England - Sept. 26, 1997

LETTERS

Don't dismiss UFO watchers

I WAS present at the UFO conference in Leeds at the weekend, where on the Sunday, your Comment from Saturday's paper was read out.

The reaction was one of mainly anger, and it was summed up rather well by one woman who said "What a load of tripe." The people who attend these UFO gatherings are not stupid and gullible, as you imply, but are on the whole intelligent and open-minded, but not blindly so.

You refer to the UFO phenomenon as a "lucrative industry" — well this can be said of a lot of things and should not detract from the study (mostly scientific) of Ufology.

Your statement that UFOs are "strange projections of the human mind. Fantasy, wishful thinking and millennial paranoia" ...shows that you obviously know nothing about the subject and didn't stay long at the conference — if indeed you attended at all.

As someone who has been involved with the UFO phenomenon for 14 years, I can say the evidence for their existence is overwhelming, such as the "rock" which you refer to brought by Barry Chamish from Israel, which when analysed turned out to be 99 per cent silicon, which does not occur naturally on Earth, yet was found at an alleged UFO landing site.

G GALLAGHER, Norrithorpe Lane, Liversedge.

MID SUSSEX TIMES, Haywards Heath, England Sept. 11, 1997

UFO seen ANOTHER UFO sighting has been reported in Lindfield.

Beauty therapist Helen Massey, 35, saw a dome-shaped object make a rocking motion as it crossed the sky outside her home in Gravellye Lane on Monday, September 1, at 4.10pm.

EXMOUTH JOURNAL, Devon, England - Oct. 16, 1997

Lights above, lights below, lights wherever we go

THE seemingly never-ending variations of UFO reports in this area continues.

I have now received three more sightings of different types of "lights". These include a possible pursuit of an erratic flashing red light over the River Exe by conventional aircraft.

On September 1 this year, at approximately 10.30pm, a gentleman was standing on the corner of Ashleigh Road and Chichester Close: He observed, at very low level, a flashing red light coming from Exeter, which moved erratically. It flashed three times, then remained constant. It then moved towards Haldon.

Behind this "light" came a conventional aircraft showing ordinary navigation lights. This aircraft appeared to be following the red "light" as it continued over the estuary toward Haldon Hill. The informant commented "It was like the plane was chasing the weird light".

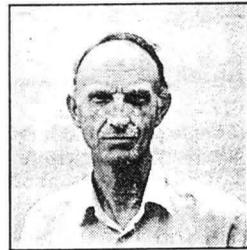
Another very interesting report has come to my attention. It is all the more important as it is the first USO (Unidentified Submersible Object) report in this current wave of sightings.

RISING

Approximately three weeks ago, two young men were bathing at Otter Cove at Devon Cliff Holiday Park. As it was getting late, they decided to change on the shore and make for home. As they changed, one of the young men looked out to sea and noticed a strange green "light" under the surface. It appeared to be rising upwards.

He called to his friend and they both watched it rise. The next thing they knew was that a very bright light was shining directly into their faces. At this point, they turned and fled the scene.

My next report dates from the same evening as the previous one and, funnily enough, also comes from Devon Cliff Holiday Park. A



By Nigel Wright

lady was driving her car on to the site just after dark. As she passed under the archway, something "lit up", raced across the road in front of her car and into the hedge on the other side of the road. The lady was so shaken by the event that she had to stop the car and compose herself before continuing.

Unfortunately, no precise date can be placed on the eve when a fishing boat encountered light over Lyme Bay, but since this was told to myself by the fishing skipper concerned, I can vouch for its authenticity.

The vessel in question was five miles off Budleigh Salterton. The crew became aware of a bright white/blue light which hovered some distance from the boat. At first, they thought it was a helicopter, but they heard no engine sound or saw any navigation lights.

The light remained stationary for about one and a half hours. Judging by the mast of their vessel, which is 28 feet high, the crew estimate that it was not much higher off the water. It then very suddenly disappeared.

I have also had rather vague reports of a brightly lit airship over Lymington at night. I suspect this to be the rather poorly kept "secret research airship" being evaluated by the Armed

Forces over this area and last seen by many witnesses, including myself, in broad daylight over Lymington.

If anyone has seen this night-time airship, please let me know. After the wave of UFO reports locally, now comes a wave of Big Cat reports.

Following my last article, I have now been told of two more sightings of the mystery cat. The first being at the Avon Youth camp at Sandy Bay. Apparently, since this animal was sighted, the indigenous population of foxes and badgers have ceased to be seen in that area (they obviously know something we don't!).

The second sighting was at the top of Hulham Road. The descriptions for these cats were as before, which obviously lead one to think that all these sightings are the same species of animal whatever that may be.

Just enough time and space again to mention a few of the forthcoming topics in future articles.

REGRESSION

I have just undergone a session of hypnotic regression to try and establish what happened when my parents and I had a "close encounter" with a UFO when I was a child. Also, our research group has a Ghost Watch coming up on Hallow'een and I will, of course, be writing a full report of the night's events for future publication.

There will also be more on the archaeology of Woodbury Common and does a strange beast roam the Common at night? So, keep watching.

In the meantime, if you have a strange event happen to you or see anything weird, then please give me a ring on Exmouth (01395) 276358.

Oh! By the way, anyone out there know why the British Railways Board, in 1970, took out a patent for a design for a flying saucer? Bye for now!!

PRESS & JOURNAL, Aberdeen, Scotland - Oct. 6, 1997

UFO town calls for explanation

PRIME Minister Tony Blair has been urged to open an investigation into the Scottish town dubbed Europe's UFO capital.

UFO enthusiasts have been drawn to Bonnybridge, near Falkirk, after years of residents reporting strange lights which appear in the sky.

Now Labour is in power, community leaders have renewed calls for a formal investigation into signs of extra-terrestrial life.

Councillor Billy Buchanan has written again to 10 Downing Street to demand answers into the sightings.

He said: "We demand that Tony Blair gets in here and gives us explanations."

"I don't care if the answers we get are perfectly reasonable

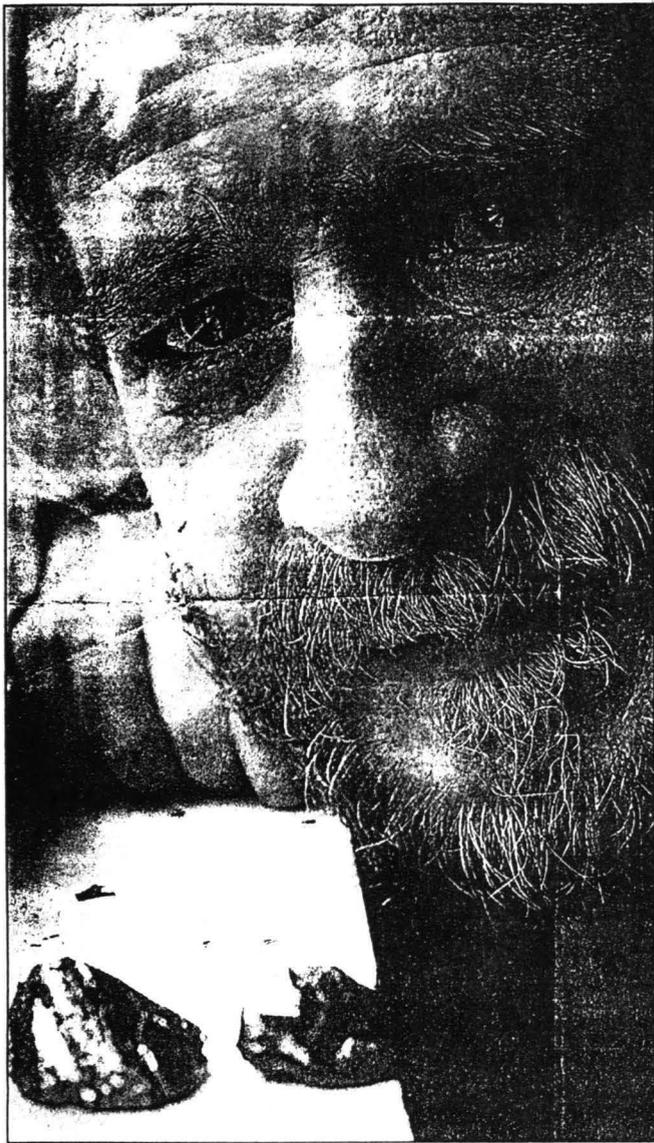
— we just want to know what has been happening."

The Bonnybridge sightings were featured on the TV programme Strange But True, hosted by Michael Aspel, at the weekend.

The programme also recounted the tale of two men who claimed a journey along a country road near Bonnybridge which should only have taken 30 minutes took them two hours, although they have no memory of what happened during that time.

During hypnosis one of the men said a strange figure emerged from the light surrounding the car and pushed a probe through his eye.

Mr Buchanan said there have been almost 500 reports of sightings since November 1992.



DAN OXTOBY

● **ROCK QUIZ:** Israeli journalist and UFO enthusiast Barry Chamish with two mysterious rocks taken from an alleged UFO landing site in Israel.

When UFOs aren't just an alien concept

HUNDREDS of UFO enthusiasts are invading Leeds this weekend for a close encounter with some of the world's leading experts on all things extraterrestrial.

Up to 1,500 people are expected to attend the three-day 16th Leeds International UFO conference at Leeds University.

Audiences will vary from the dyed-in-the-wool flying saucer buffs to the mildly curious, whose interest has been sparked by films and television programmes, like *Independence Day* and *The X Files*.

This year marks an important anniversary for the conference, coming 50 years after the coining of the terms UFO and flying saucers.

Guests

Among the guests is Barry Chamish, an Israeli journalist and UFO researcher, who has brought some mysterious rocks discovered at an alleged spacecraft landing site near Tel Aviv.

Conference organiser Graham Birdsall, from Otley, says geologists in Israel and America have been unable to identify the rocks, which have extraordinary properties and will melt ice.

It is hoped that geologists in Leeds will be able to shed light on their nature and origin.

Another of the speakers, Carlos Diaz, is a Mexican farmer who took some of the most convincing video

footage ever taken of a UFO, which he claims was flying near to his home.

Former NASA scientist and astronaut Brian O'Leary will talk about the strong evidence he has found for the existence of UFOs and a conspiracy of secrecy by the American Government, military and intelligence agencies.

Dr Richard Sauder, an American scientist, claims to have unearthed evidence of dozens of secret underground facilities in areas which have been centres of UFO sightings.

Mr Birdsall says: "The Leeds conference is the biggest in the UK and probably the biggest conference of this type anywhere in the world."

The conference continues at Leeds University today and tomorrow. Entry is £10 per day or £15 for both days.

Landlady baffled by mystery sky lights

A DUNSFORD woman dazzled by bright lights in the night sky wants to hear from other witnesses to the unidentified phenomenon.

Chef Cheryl Thorrington, landlady Judy Harrison and three other stargazers saw the brilliant light-show above the Royal Oak Hotel at about 9.20pm.

Mrs Thorrington, 28, said the lights were part of an object moving silently through the sky. "It was big and black and had lots of bright lights," she said.

"It moved very slowly and was so quiet. We were all literally gob-smacked and couldn't work out what it was."

Mrs Harrison added: "It just seems strange but we've tried to be very sceptical about it and to think what it could logically be."

"It certainly wasn't a plane or a helicopter because it was silent and it wasn't a balloon because there was no flame."

The Aviation Authority said it had no reports of objects flying in the sky in the Dunsford area.

The Ministry of Defence also has no knowledge of a craft hovering over Dunsford.

Mrs Thorrington has contacted the British UFO Research Association, which is interested in her sighting.

She now wants to hear from other witnesses. She can be contacted on 01647 252975.

EXETER EXPRESS & ECHO, Devon, England - Oct. 10, 1997

TIVY-SIDE ADVERTISER, Wales - Oct. 1, 1997

Seen strange lights? Then read on

STRANGE lights seen across Cardigan bay in recent nights could simply be caused by missile testing from the Aberporth base, or they may have come from some other explainable source.

But some believe there may be more to it than that . . .

Adam Whaley of the West Wales Paranormal Group, who is based at New Quay, has made a detailed report of "freaky" lights he saw across the bay on Tuesday night last week.

Coastguards at Milford Haven and officials at the RAE Aberporth have confirmed that "range activity" was scheduled for that night but Adam says this "was no conventional missile test".

And he has a report from the Swansea area of similar strange lights seen at about the same time.

"I'd like to know if anyone saw anything on the evening of September 23," he told the *Tivy-Side* this week.

"There might be a connection between what I saw and what was seen in the Swansea area. The sightings were similar and at about the same time, 9pm. I wonder if anyone else saw anything."

Adam added that activities at Aberporth and at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, could be responsible for some light activity in the skies across Cardigan bay.

Aberporth base has confirmed that a target was towed that night and that a missile had been fired. "But that doesn't explain what I saw," said Adam.

He describes "a very bright light" at the coastal radar station half a mile from his home. There was another similar light off Cardigan Island. Both looked like a "giant welding torch".

"I suddenly noticed a brightly glowing orange ball of light appear in the sky over the sea. It just hung there with a

uniform brightness. Another light rose from the sea and travelled to meet the first, whereby they fused," said Adam.

"A few seconds later I heard a soft rumble like thunder and the light then dimmed to nothing. During the sifting I became aware of what I can only describe as an electrical smell that carried on the wind."

Adam says he saw no boats or aircraft and it was a clear, starry night.

He added: "I am convinced there is more to this than a straightforward missile test and I would be pleased to hear from anyone else who saw anything that night."

Adam can be contacted at Byrlip Farm, New Quay, 01545 560164.

EVENING ECHO, Southend, England - Oct. 22, 1997

UFO alert over Pitsea

SHARP-eyed residents in Pitsea spotted a hovering UFO which experts believe may have travelled from Southend.

Colin Jeffery, 54, from Mill Green, Pitsea, grabbed his binoculars on Saturday when his daughter saw a flattened diamond shape with pulsing lights in the sky to the west. The object slowly began to move north. He said: "It definitely was not a plane or helicopter."

Paul Joslin, chairman of *Ufology and Supernatural Studies* (Essex), said: "This could well be a UFO. It sounds similar to sightings we have seen in the last four months."

EVENING COURIER, Halifax, England - Sept. 13, 1997

In search of UFO spotters

AN unidentified flying object is believed to have passed through the skies over Calderdale - and researchers into the paranormal are searching for anyone who saw it.

Mr Graham Wilson, chairman and director of investigations at the Society of Paranormal and UFO Research, at Batley, said he spotted the craft above Wakefield on Tuesday night.

But it had already been seen several nights earlier flying over Middleton, Manchester, he said.

"I saw it at about 11.30 pm but it came to light on Wednesday that it was also seen in Mirfield and then in

Newsome, Huddersfield," said Mr Wilson.

"It was triangular in shape with a series of red lights underneath. The triangle part was not lit up but I noticed the silhouette against the cloud cover. It glided silently across the sky and it was quite low, as if it was coming into land."

"It could have been a military craft but they usually fly within a 60-mile radius of a base and the nearest to here would be at Leeming."

He said anyone else who saw it would help researchers plot the path it took from Wakefield.

"When I saw it it was heading for Middleton but at some point it changed direction and headed for Mirfield. It's quite likely that it flew over the Brighouse area. I saw something over Scammonden in February last year and we are just now investigating a sighting over Crosland Moor, Huddersfield. I have heard of quite a few sightings over Calderdale and Kirkstall."

Anyone with any information should contact Mr Wilson on 01924 423758.

A spokesman for West Yorkshire Police said he was unaware of any reported sightings of the craft.

BROADCAST, London, England - Oct. 17, 1997

SKY COMMISSIONS FIVE FACTUALS ON THE UNEXPLAINED

Five factual specials about the world's mysteries and unexplained phenomena have been commissioned for Sky 1 in 1998. Produced jointly by Dandelion and Transmedia Productions, the 60-minute documentaries include *The Brazilian Roswell* - an investigation into alien sightings and alleged capture in South America - and *The Uninvited*, which looks at the recent wave of UFO sightings in Britain. The commission follows last year's *Dreamland*, produced by the two companies for BSkyB, about the Area 51 secret military base in the Nevada desert.



PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, OH - Dec. 12, 1997 CR: B. Robbins

Pyramid theory just may fly

Woman thinks kites were building tool

By DAVID BLOOM
LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

LOS ANGELES — With a bone-chilling, 25-mph wind blowing, Maureen Clemmons and her friends went to the park to fly kites.

Not just any kites, however.

Containing 24 square feet of wind-grabbing surface, these kites were tied to a 400-pound concrete obelisk Wednesday morning, all to test her theory on one of antiquity's great mysteries: How did the ancient Egyptians build the pyramids?

Clemmons' hypothesis: wind power.

"If you had a rope and threw it around an oak tree, how many men would it take to pull it out of the ground?" Clemmons asked. "But in Northridge, the winds can pull a tree up any time."

So, Clemmons wondered, could the Egyptians have used wind and ancient versions of the kite as a building tool?

To find out, Clemmons and about 15 family members and friends trotted out to a park in the Los Angeles suburb of Porter Ranch, where they flew two kites to see if they could lift an 8-foot-long log and then the obelisk.

And the big news:

"It works. Now I have such a passion for this thing. I want to get a grant to study it further," Clemmons said.

Outside specialists call Clemmons' hypothesis intriguing, even theoretically and historically possible. Yet they're not ready to embrace Clemmons' dream, given the dearth of evidence about any Egyptian construction methods and the theory's somewhat fantastic nature.

Such skepticism certainly won't deter Clemmons, a self-styled "backyard scientist" who in the pursuit of proving her theory enlisted her family and invested more than \$1,500 and many hours of work.

It all began in January when Clemmons read an article in Smithsonian magazine about efforts to duplicate the simplest, most widely accepted approach to moving multiton pieces of rock: back power, and lots of it.

"I'm not an Egyptologist at all," Clemmons said. "I'm a businesswoman with a physics background [from college]. I read this article and felt from a business point of view, would this be an efficient way to do this? I'm just looking at this and I thought there had to be a better way."

An epiphany

The dynasties of ancient Egypt erected 90 pyramids — the biggest containing 2.5 million stones averaging 2.5 tons apiece — and an amazing array of temples, monuments, statuary and obelisks that are still being unearthed.

But the Egyptians left little information about their building techniques, creating a mystery through the centuries that has yet to be fully solved.

"Then I heard about the '1,000 winds of Egypt' and it hit me," Clemmons said. "They used the wind to move the blocks."

Though Clemmons' life was remarkably full — with two young children and a husband, a vice presidency at the Sebastian International hair-care company and doctoral studies in organizational change at Pepperdine University — she couldn't ignore this epiphany.

She began researching and talking with engineers and other experts on issues such as the physics of flight and construction techniques.

Outside experts who have not talked with Clemmons concede that pieces of her theory make sense.

Egypt does have a windy season, from March to June, that is nearly as reliable as the Nile's annual floods once were. Desert cyclones west of the Nile can reach gale force, according to U.S. government weather almanacs.

The most reliable histories say some hieroglyphic evidence exists suggesting the ancient Egyptians used kites, though there is no evidence the kites were used to move things, said Valerie Govig, editor of the nation's oldest and biggest magazine on the subject, Kite Lines.

"It's reasonable to suppose they might have had kites. Any boating culture has an edge because they're so related," she said.

And the Egyptians were a boating culture, developing linen cloth thousands of years ago that was sewn into triangular sails to power barges up and down the Nile, said Craig Stratton, owner of Coast Kite Co.

TIMES, Waitsburg, WA - Dec. 4, 1997

VANCE ORCHARD: Touchet Valley Ramblings

A little Bigfoot ramblin'

While reports of Bigfoot activity in the Blue Mountains this past summer have been sparse, there have been a few, just to keep the record up to date.

I was reminded of this by a re-reading of one of the "primers" for those who endeavor to become more knowledgeable of this anomaly of our times. (Actually, it is a strangeness of past times as all kinds of incidents have been noted for centuries in the Northwest, just for openers). The primer is "Bigfoot: On the Track of the Sasquatch," by John Green, who is regarded as Numero Uno of Bigfoot investigators by many.

First off for the local scene, there were several Bigfoot tracks found in the Blues this spring and summer and an up-closer-than-you'd-ever-want-to-be encounter with one. I can't reveal the precise location because the sighter-reporter asks for complete anonymity. Here's the report I got:

This man owns a cabin in the mountains in a rather isolated area ... that's where you build cabins isn't it? ... and had just cleaned up the dirty dishes one day. Taking the pan of dirty dishwasher, the man strode to the cabin door, flung it open and tossed out the water.

Smack into the face of a Bigfoot standing just outside the door!

Well, two surprised creatures whirled and went opposite directions, I'm told ... the BF back into the brush from whence it had come and the man back into the cabin, slamming the door shut on the run!

My informant added that the cabin has not been visited since and furthermore is on the market for quick sale ... the quicker the better!

Reading a story the other day on the Internet I was stricken with desire for rebuttal so have done so in a story of my own. The story I picked up referred to the belief "by many" that the movie footage shot with

hip, just shot him twice. That knocked it down, it rolled over twice and got up and went right through a four-strand fence and snapped three poles off, big wooden poles, snapped them off flush with the ground. So, D— and I figured, well, we shot it, it was just gonna roll, and when it stopped rolling it'll be there dead, you know, so as soon as he started rolling we started down the bank after

16-mm camera in 1967 by Roger Patterson was a hoax of the Hollywood makeup artists.

"It's just a man in a fur suit," they scoffed.

My lengthy refutation cited comments by John Green in his fine book, remarks based on his highly detailed study of the Patterson film and on-site inspection. Green's comments are somewhat lengthy so I'll shorten it a bit. He says:

"Persons seeing the film, even 'trained observers,' with qualifications in zoology, almost get the impression that the creature walks just like a man and has a build that would not be abnormal for a man. Frame-by-frame study of the movie and measurements of the proportions of the figure contradict both these impressions. The stride is actually much smoother than a normal man's because the knee is bent as the weight comes on it. A walking man bobs up and down as his body goes over the top of his straightened leg. The Sasquatch in the film (a female) moves in a flowing fashion, with her leg being bent at all times. It is much straighter when she is reaching out in full stride than when it is bearing her full weight."

Green further notes that measurements of the creature filmed by Patterson, compared with those of a man just do not fit and "add to the problems for those who would like to dismiss the film as a hoax."

Nowadays, there is much hulla-balloo about testing some hairs suspected to have come from a Bigfoot in the Blues a couple years ago. Well, Green, writing in his book back in 1968, has some comments about hair-testing which are just as pertinent today.

"Hairs ... have been collected in places where Sasquatches were reported, and have been examined by competent experts, but they can

him.

"Then when he got up and ran, he ran away from us, so we decided well, he's not as hurt as we thought he was, and we only had one more shot, so we started back up where everybody else was ..."

In the Blue Mountains, there is more than one report of hunters having shot and wounded a Bigfoot, only to have it continue on over the next ridge and be gone.

only be compared with hairs of known origin. Some of the hairs collected were found not to match those of any known North American mammal and it was stated that they could be from an unknown primate. Obviously, when no collection contains known Sasquatch hairs there is no way to prove that hair you find comes from a Sasquatch."

And, right there, Green touches upon a subject that, when he publicly voiced it, got WSU anthropologist Grover Krantz in hot water. Green in his book opines that the Sasquatch puzzle may never be solved until one is slain. As he closes his book, Green observes:

"I have thought for a long time that the most likely way for the Sasquatch question to be settled is for some deer hunter to down one ..."

However, gunning down a Bigfoot very possibly won't be all that simple. There are numerous cases on record of high-powered hunting rifles being used to no avail as well as 12-gauge shotguns up real close. Green's book cites one such incident, which occurred near Richland, Wash., in 1967. Two youths had stumbled across a Bigfoot in that area and came back armed with a 12-gauge shotgun hoping to get another glimpse of the creature. The taped interview with the boys had these words:

"I reached down and pulled up a (tree) branch and D— — was standing on my right, and we saw it. It was about 8 or 10 feet away from us, I don't know how far it was, but it wasn't very far. It was in a crouching position. It was downhill from us, and I'd say it was at least 9 feet tall when it was standing up, when it was crouched it was probably 7 feet tall, or something like that you know.

"So D— just let him have it twice with the 12-gauge from the

This apparent ability of the Bigfoot to take a 30-caliber slug and keep on going ... and going ... is one of the seven established facts about the Bigfoot as compiled by Green. The facts:

1. They are not human ... their size goes beyond that of humans and they show no signs of human mentality.
2. They are completely omnivorous, making use of vegetable material that man cannot.
3. They can see in the dark.
4. They are strong swimmers and do just as well under water.
5. They make a variety of sounds, apparently being able to imitate most birds and animals of their surroundings.
6. They are very hard to kill.
7. They are deliberately avoiding contact with humans and are very successful in doing so.

And now, just in case you buy a neat little cabin tucked away in the Blues in some secluded nook, be careful and watch where you throw your dish water out the back door!

NORTH HILLS NEWS RECORD, Pittsburgh, PA - Jan. 22, 1998 CR: E. Plaisted

Mysterious goo covers house, property

The Associated Press

PARADISE TOWNSHIP: They're calling it the mystery goo.

It's the stuff Rose Snell's house has been bombarded with and the only words she has to describe it are: it's brown and grainy and hard to wash off.

No one else seems to know what it is either.

"It's mystifying," Snell kept saying as she walked around her house in York County. "There was not one side of the house that was missed."

The goo splattered Snell's house, barn, driveway, car and trees Sunday. And after three days of investigating, it still remained a mystery Wednesday.

"It appears as though it came from the sky," Northern Regional Police Lt.

Mark Bentzel said.

But no other homes in the neighborhood had one speck of the slime.

Officials offer a number of speculations.

It could be vandalism, but it didn't look like someone could hurl the brown substance all over the place, police said.

The next suspicion: sewage from an airplane passing overhead.

That's not likely, said Arlene Salac, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

So the brown mysterious substance continues to baffle many, including Snell's insurance agent, who has ordered tests on the substance.

Rich Fuess, the operations manager for York Aviation, has boiled it down to this: "It sounds like UFO waste to me," he said.

Rare cold weather unusual animal death cases reported in SLV

CR: D. Perkins
EAGLE, Crestone, CO - Jan. 1998

by Christopher O'Brien

After exactly a seven-month lull, the domesticated animal surgery squad has apparently returned to the San Luis Valley. There are two cases to report. On Sunday, Nov 30, 1997, a year-old, still-warm female calf was discovered dead from unusual circumstances just northwest of Center, Colorado near the southwest corner of Road C and Road 60. The calf was missing all the flesh from its right side mandible, it's right eye, and a 10" diameter rectum coning that extended 18" into the animal. The crime scene was completely devoid of any tracks (except the dead calf's tracks), footprints, blood, or additional clues as to how the animal was killed and subsequently mutilated. The calf was lying in 6" of fresh snow and the entire scene was devoid of any additional evidence whatsoever. No evidence of magnetic anomalies were detected around the site.

This is the first known SLV unusual animal death report since April 30, 1997, when a cow was discovered and reported as "mutilated" about five miles south of the Alamosa Airport.

Dense fog covered the middle portions of the SLV Saturday night November 29th and Sunday morning the 30th. The morning of discovery, the reporting rancher also noticed a second calf with a bloody nose and claims a third calf is missing from the herd. The three animals were part of a small herd numbering around 38 animals. Magpies and crows showed an interest in the carcass, as did the rancher's dogs. However, after covering the animal with a tarp, no scavengers touched the animal. Saguache County sheriffs officers are investigating the "mutilation" report.

To the west of the crime

scene; about 900 feet a nearby rancher heard his dogs bark around 6 a.m., Sunday morning, and unusual multi-colored lights were spotted Saturday night around 11 pm, 15 to 20 miles north of the mutilation site by four other witnesses in Crestone. Just after sunset Saturday night two other motorists on nearby State Highway 17 spotted a large slow-moving "meteor" that broke apart before disappearing. These sightings are still being investigated.

Another Case South of Alamosa

On Wednesday December 17, 1997, at 10:30 a.m., rancher Ron Gardiner discovered a dead gelding, five miles SW of Alamosa, CO. The animal was still warm and the rancher estimated the animal was killed and mutilated sometime around dawn. The horse was missing its penis and an 8 inch circular patch of hide behind the sheath—which was intact. The rear end was neatly cored out in a slightly elongated circle to a depth of 8 to 9 inches. Eyes and tongue were intact. The animal was found lying on its right side at the bottom of a dry, seven foot deep irrigation canal channel. There was evidence of a struggle i.e., broken chimisa bushes and thrashing marks, but besides the unfortunate gelding's tracks, there were no other tracks present. No apparent scavenger interest noted and two horses in the small herd seemed curious and unafraid of the carcass. The carcass did not bloat. No downside incisions or additional evidence noted by the rancher, this investigator, or the Alamosa County Sheriff investigator, but a five inch shallow gash in the hide was present on the neck. Several drops, which appeared to be blood, were found in snow about sixty feet away over the fence and across the

road.

No known concurrent regional reports of aerial activity or unexplained lights accompanied this latest case. Weather was again, extremely cold and windless and the temperature was just below zero at approximate time of death. Some dense fog reported in the area earlier the same evening. This investigator made an on-site visit Thursday December 18th after being contacted by the rancher. Forensic issue samples from both cases were obtained by this investigator and are being sent to two Veterinary Pathology Labs and a hematologist. Videotape and still picture documentation was also obtained.

A Clue?

Like five other officially reported unusual animal death cases from the southern Alamosa County area since 1994, this gelding was found on, or very near, the Alamosa River and its farm canal system. As some Eagle readers know, one of the only measurable pollution sources remotely affecting the SLV is located around 30 short miles up the Alamosa River at the Summitville Mine Superfund Site. This coincidental fact may be important.

Since the early 1970's, few theories explaining possible rationales behind these thousands of animal death and disfigurement cases around the world have been bantered about by a handful of dogged "mute" investigators. In all honesty, all but one, "the environmental monitoring theory" has established some circumstantial credence. Data is slowly being accumulated backing up the assertion that these warm-blooded domesticated animals are being tested for environmental factors, and/or pollution that may effect the animal's blissfully mundane

lives.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) recently released the results of a fifteen-year study concerning the impact of above ground nuclear testing on the environment. They concluded that almost one hundred above ground detonations have spread radioactivity across the entire United States and much of North America. I find it interesting that the San Luis Valley Counties of Saguache and Conejos are considered to be two of six hot-spot counties in Colorado, which is one of the hottest states. While watching a news broadcast covering the NCI study, David Perkins, the formulator of the "environmental monitoring" theory to explain "mutilations", immediately noticed the areas of highest radioactive concentrations in the environment mirror areas of high mutilation activity. In the late '70s, Perkins realized that "mutilation flap" areas of high incidence are generally found downwind and downstream of nuclear power plants, uranium mines, nuclear weapons labs, and nuclear stockpile locations.

This latest "mutilation" report and the recent November 30, '97 calf death case seem to be very unusual. The vast majority of suspect San Luis Valley animal deaths occur from last-frost to first-frost, during the warmer months and rarely are these deaths reported during cold sub-zero nights. Just another wrinkle in a wide spread "mystery" that continues to defy explanation.

The SLV is not alone. Unusual cattle deaths were reported this fall in Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico; Hopkins County, Texas, and Northern California.

Results of forensic sample testing of the Fall/Winter San Luis Valley cases will be published as soon as they are made available.

Hunts for Atlantis will be oceans apart

A British team will focus its search in Bolivia while a Russian team plans to look off the English coast.

by AISLING IRWIN
SOUTHAM NEWSPAPERS

LONDON — Plans by Russian scientists to search for the lost city of Atlantis 160 kilometres off Land's End, the southwestern tip of England, have perplexed a British team that's about to embark on an identical search on the high plains of Bolivia.

Professor Viatcheslav Koudriavtsev, director of the Moscow Institute of Metahistory, has applied for permission to dive in search of the sunken ruins next June. With an echo-sounder, sonar and video camera, his team will search an underwater hill known as Little Sole Bank, which rises to within 50 metres of the sea's surface.

Meanwhile, Colonel John Blashford-Snell, a British explorer, plans to investigate a canal identified by satellite on the Bolivian-Peruvian altiplano.

The ancient civilization of Atlantis was first recorded by Plato, who wrote of a city that flourished beyond the Pillars of Hercules — the Strait of Gibraltar — around 9000 BC, before sinking in "a single day of earthquakes, floods and rain."

Ever since, the idea of the city

has intrigued people.

Koudriavtsev is using geological evidence that the final melting away of the Ice Age flooded a fertile plain beyond the Isles of Scilly known as the Celtic Shelf. By coincidence, the area is also identified in Cornish myth as the City of Lions, which sank with its 140 temples many years ago.

"Our real motivation is examining the possible links between South America and Africa," said Blashford-Snell. "A number of recent discoveries, such as the recent identification of traces of cocaine and tobacco in Egyptian mummies, shows that contact between the two continents may have been happening at the time."

In a fleet of dragon-headed boats made from reeds, Blashford-Snell's team will travel up the Desaguadero River to Lake Poopo, 3,700 metres above sea level. He believes Atlantis may have sunk beneath this inland sea, which is surrounded by the rectangular level altiplano and high mountains.

"We have come across a feature which does look incredibly like a canal — it is five miles [eight kilometres] long and 600 feet [185 metres] across," he said. "It exactly fits the dimensions described in Plato."

"There are too many similarities between this place and Plato's description to ignore."

A popular topic

Atlantis has fuelled many an imagination, with more than 500 books speculating about its whereabouts.

- **Aristotle claimed** it was Plato who created the fabled kingdom of Atlantis and Plato who destroyed it. The Greek philosopher understood that his tutor, who lived between 427 and 347 BC, invented Atlantis as an allegory, one that aimed to convey a deeper message to his Athenian contemporaries about how to create a Utopian state.

- **For literalists**, the leading candidate for Atlantis has always been the Mediterranean island of Santorini, which suffered a huge volcanic explosion between 1500 and 1600. But the legendary city has also been sought in Sweden, Palestine, Central Asia, Carthage, Mexico, Cornwall, Spain and Nigeria.

- **Some have identified** it with the ancient English kingdom of Wessex. Supposedly, Levantine traders, bartering for tin with Cornish miners, brought back tales of a mysterious, mist-shrouded island where precious metals abounded.

- **Mystics and occultists** have also linked Atlantis with the Bermuda Triangle, site of unexplained disappearances of ships and planes. They believe the city was powered by fire crystals that now lie at the bottom of the ocean, emitting random energy beams that destroy passing objects.

Noise is a mystery, but big boom theories fly

By MICHEL ELEANOR ZIELINSKI
Staff Writer

KINGS MOUNTAIN — Earthquake? Explosion? Aliens landing? A big "boom" in northwest Kings Mountain has left citizens guessing.

Shortly after midnight Sunday, the boom jarred residents in the northwest and west sections of town. Authorities received a barrage of phone calls from concerned and curious people wanting to know what caused the noise. So far, no answers.

"We don't know anything," said Kings Mountain Fire Chief Frank Burns, who heard the boom himself.

Burns said he had just filled himself a glass of water about 12:30 a.m. when he heard it.

"I originally thought it was thun-

der," he said. But after seeing a sky full of stars, he knew it wasn't weather-related.

The Fire Department received about 40 phone calls, Burns said, and crews drove off into the night looking for the source of the disturbance. People had wandered out onto their porches trying to find out what had happened, he said. Some folks reported that the boom shook pictures from the walls.

"I have no idea what it is," said Carl Greene, who lives in the West-over community, "but it's really happening."

Greene and Burns both said that the same thing happened two or three times last summer. The Fire Department investigated then, too, they said, but came up with nothing. Authorities contacted a local mining company to see if it was blasting, he said, but that was ruled out.

"Last summer we were really concerned," Greene said.

Although fire, police and city officials have no explanation for the boom, there's plenty of speculation among residents. Burns said he doesn't think it was an explosion because nobody reported any flashes of light. He figures it was probably a sonic boom from a jet.

"It had to be something big for that many people to hear it," he said.

OBSERVER, Charlotte, NC - Jan. 13, 1998 CR: G. Fawcett

SUN, Vancouver, B.C., Canada - Dec. 31, 1997 CR: G. Conway

He's still on Sasquatch watch at Bigfoot Central

By Tracy Johnson
Journal Reporter

Some believe it exists and some don't, but Cliff Crook has spent most of his life in pursuit of Bigfoot.

Each year, he gets dozens of calls from people who believe they've spotted the huge ape-like creature believed to lurk in forested areas of the Pacific Northwest, Montana, western Canada and Alaska.

He takes the report and then grabs his equipment — a camera, footprint-recording plaster and a compass — and sets out to track the elusive animal. The "peaceful pursuit" of Bigfoot — also known as Sasquatch — has been his quest since he was a boy growing up near Kirkland.

Crook is chairman of Bigfoot Central, "the official Bigfoot/Sasquatch reports center and data base for North America," according to its web site. He founded the group in 1982, and turned it into a non-profit foundation in 1991.

His Bothell home is decorated with giant footprint-shaped rugs, and the front door is marked by a giant, hairy foot carved from wood and sprouting with plants. He proudly displays two plaster molds he made of some tracks.

The feet that made them were about 14 inches long and would wear about a size-20 shoe.

Crook said he has laid eyes on the furry creature four times: twice in some woods near Totem Lake when he was a teen, and twice in 1974, near the Sultan River.

His Bigfoot expertise has been called upon by the media many times, from local newspapers to tabloid magazines like the Weekly World News.

When did you first become interested in Bigfoot?

When I first became interested, I was not interested in meeting up with one.

Back in the early '40s, I'd heard screams in the woods... It was that point of the woods up there, above Totem Lake.

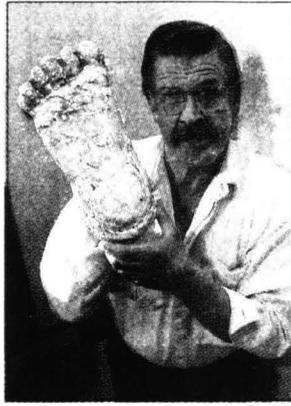
Any person that could be considered a neighbor, within a 10-mile radius — they'd had their own

QA

Name: Cliff Crook
Age: 57
Lives in: Bothell
Occupation: Freelance cartoonist

Noted for: Founder and chairman of Bigfoot Central, "the official Bigfoot/Sasquatch reports center and data base for North America."

Quote: "When I'm in the tabloids, I usually get a pretty good shake."



Steve Shelton/Journal



Evidence of Bigfoot? At left, Cliff Crook holds a plaster cast of a Bigfoot footprint taken years ago in Western Washington. Above, a purported photo of the Sasquatch, taken from a postcard published by Crook.

run-ins with this thing. Sounds, some had sighted it, dogs were missing. There were tracks in plowed fields. As a little boy, I was just terrified of what this might be.

I didn't hear of Bigfoot then. It wasn't even named Bigfoot then. We just heard that there was a giant in the woods, a hair-covered giant. Nobody tried to scare anybody else with it, but it was taken very seriously.

I decided I would go up to the woods and try to find out what was going on, as a little boy.

Describe the first time you truly believed it existed.

It was one summer, about '47, that the guy that lived next door to us called me over. I had to jump over the fence to get to his property. He said, "listen, Cliff, just listen now." He was smoking a pipe. You know, five, 10 minutes now, to a little kid, seems like you've waited there an hour. And I was kind of spooked, because I knew he was pointing up into the woods.

All of the sudden, this big scream came out of the woods. The sound was just a mournful, eerie scream — it was just chilling.

What did you think it was?

I just thought it was some horrible animal of some type.

What happened the night, when you were 15, and you first actually laid eyes on Sasquatch?

We were out at the gate of the horse pasture and the horses just started to come toward us at a full run. One of them crashed into the gate, and the other one went right over the top of it...

That naturally focused our attention right out into the pasture (to see) what they were running from. And here, this appears... a big black form under the moonlight.

You had just enough (light) to see the outline of it, and the bigness of it. It was on two legs, it probably somewhere between 7½ and 8 feet high.

It turned its head and... went into the woods.

What does Bigfoot look like?

HERALD & NEWS, Klamath Falls, OR - Nov. 7, 1997 Bigfoot search effort eyed in Dorris

DORRIS — A member of the Dorris city council is spearheading an effort to locate a so-called Bigfoot.

Rye Emerson, who operates the "Museum of the Unexplained" in Dorris and is president of the U.S. Expedition and Exploration Society (USEES), will coordinate the efforts of 240 USEES members in the search. The effort will run next May 15 to Oct. 15.

"They will be formed into groups of five to 10, and assigned to specific geographic areas in the Pacific Northwest, central states and Eastern Seaboard," Emerson said of the project.

The undertaking will be "the most massive photographic search for the Sasquatch (Bigfoot) that has ever been made in the history of North America," he said.

"There have been over 5,000 Sasquatch sightings in North America since 1840, and it's time to prove the creature exists," Emerson said.

He said that since July there have been six reports of Bigfoot tracks in the Bly Mountain area.

They average about seven-and-a-half feet high, and about 450 to 500 pounds. It's not a human being, it's a North American primate that has been able to avoid man's detection. It's got simian features — it tends to be an ape-like creature in its habits, its facial features, its overall appearance. It's got the stooped, hunched over-shoulders.

Do you get a lot of skepticism from people who don't believe you've seen it?

Not anymore. I used to. I used to get ridiculed to death... It would shock you to find out how many people actually believe such a creature exists.

I think people know that eventually either this creature will be discovered or the bones of it will.

Is it your goal to prove to people that Bigfoot exists?

No. Not anymore. When I first knew that it existed, I wanted to prove it to the world.

My real goal — and I don't care who finds it — is to get it on film.

What do you think would be absolute proof that it exists?

I think the ultimate proof would have to be skeletal remains. But I think film would be good enough.

I hope that we can get it recorded as a real animal, because it would clear it up for a lot of people that have sworn on their mother's tombstone that they did see it, it does exist.

It's just that the people who don't want to believe something automatically just assume that it doesn't exist.



because they relate it to hunters who blast country while sitting around a campfire."

Morgan's expertise has gained him publicity in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and a host of less reputable newspapers, tabloid television shows and magazines.

He says humans can learn a lot from Bigfoots.

"They mate for life; there is no divorce among their kind," he explains. "They do not leave their wounded behind. They care for their young and aged. They bury their dead under huge boulders — which explains why no bodies have ever been found. They are very intelligent, smart enough to live in our midst and not be seen."

The average Bigfoot is about 7 1/2 feet tall, well muscled and covered with long, brown hair. Morgan claims to have seen them four times, some in Ohio, and heard them many more.

"I won't say where because if I did people would be out there the next night with pick-ups and shotguns; that's just how people are."

Bigfooted Friends

If you don't want to rile a Bigfoot, don't call it a Bigfoot.

The big, hairy — and apparently sensitive — creatures would prefer to be called Giant Forest People.

This piece of political correctness comes from researcher Robert W. Morgan, who says you don't have to visit the Pacific Northwest to see a Bigfoot. There are plenty in Ohio.

Morgan, who recently lectured to about 20 Bigfoot stalkers in Akron, says the area from Stark County south on the eastern side of the state is home to many Bigfoot.

One man who attended saw one near Brimfield. Several others said they had not actually seen them, but heard unnatural animal cries in the woods and had things thrown at them.

"You have to learn to walk very silently through the woods, then just sit and wait," says Morgan, 47. "Let them be curious about you and want to be close to you. If you scare them, you will never see a trace."

Morgan tells the people not to bother trying to photograph Bigfoot.

"The idea is to convince them you are harmless," he says. "Let them come to you. If you raise a metal thing to your eye, they will assume it's a gun and flee. You'll never see them. Besides, you could take the greatest photo in the world and people will still doubt you, still think it was faked."

"And don't play country music, or even some rock music, but especially country," he says. "They hate it

PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, OH - Sept. 7, 1997 CR: B. Robbins

Letters

Are mutilations part of larger plot?

Dear Editor,

There are recent animal mutilations in our Valley! I have three questions.

First, why always domesticated animals, never animals in the wild? May have the answer to this one. Federal and State wildlife people are good at catching poachers which would make it dangerous for the perpetrators of these irrational acts.

The second, why does the FBI seem so disinterested in these crimes? It is clearly interstate and it is unquestionably something which is disturbing the "domestic tranquillity."

Has the FBI been given hands off instructions by another agency of our government? CIA? The Federal Government is undoubtedly suspect in many people's minds, so you might conclude it is part of a plot to overthrow our government, not just disturb domestic tranquillity.

The third is for the sheriffs in our valley. Suppose a rancher can't sleep, takes his deer rifle, walks into the night to check his cattle, and comes upon a black helicopter taking off from his pasture with one of his cows slung under it. In rage he unloads his magazine into the machine, whereupon it explodes in a fiery mass. Is the sheriff in question going to charge him with murder or give him a medal? (I would do the latter, which is one reason why I am not sheriff.)

Sincerely,

William M. Hess, Antonito

Mother of all beasts

Monster still is Loch Ness' draw

By MICHAEL THOMPSON NOEL
The Financial Times

LOCH NESS, Scotland — I was on the banks of Loch Ness the other morning, sunning my long legs, when one of those Nessies — those plesiosaur-type monsters that inhabit the loch — surfaced in front of me.

She was 10 or 15 yards away. She had three or four humps and a greenish-brownish hide. Small, imperious head. Long, graceful neck. Pearl-colored eyes. As silent as a mouse. Not at all threatening.

Within a few seconds, a second monster surfaced, and bobbed beside the first one. Then a third and a fourth one, followed by a juvenile. I suppose it was a juvenile, for it was smaller than the other four.

I reached for my camera. According to experts, a photograph of five Nessies bobbing companionably at that sort of range would be worth, when syndicated internationally, approximately 1½ Van Goghs.

But my camera was in my car, hundreds of yards away. I could not possibly reach it. So I have no evidence that what I saw were five Loch Ness monsters as opposed, say, to five weed-festooned telegraph poles, or five mystical apparitions.

Perhaps it was just a brain-storm; increasingly, I seem prone to them.

At any rate, around the world — Scotland to Canada, Russia to central Africa and beyond — 265 lakes and rivers are reputed to harbor Loch Ness-type monsters, while sea serpents are sighted regularly almost everywhere. But there is no place on Earth with as many monster sites as Scotland, which has 24.

The most famous site of all is Loch Ness, which enjoys — because of Nessie, and because of its beauty and sublimity — an exalted position in world tourism's hall of fame. Its monster equals or outranks almost all man-made monuments and marvels, and queens it over nearly all zoological (or meta-zoological) riv- als.

The weird beastie in Loch Ness is no arriviste, no hopper-on of bandwagons. Her first recorded surfacing in front of eye-witnesses occurred, allegedly, in AD 565, when the Irish missionary-saint, Columba, is said to have encountered her, and spoken very sharply to her.

Writing a century later, St. Columba's biographer, St. Adam nan, described in his chronicle how one of St. Columba's disciples was swimming across the River Ness, which runs from the loch to the sea, to fetch a boat for his master.

With a "great roar and open mouth" a monster suddenly surfaced. Horror and consternation. But St. Columba stepped bravely forward, made the sign of the cross, and instructed the monster: "Think not to go further, nor touch thou that man. Quick, go back."

Since then, there has been no report of a Loch Ness monster attacking any of the many people who claim to have seen one; nor have there been reports of a monster roaring.

Nessie is always silent. The only noise that eye-witnesses report is that of the turbulence and commotion when she surfaces, followed by the sound of water cascading from her head, neck and hump(s). In contrast, the monster usually departs almost soundlessly, sinking from view as though pulled (say many witnesses) by powerful forces from below.

Over the years, there has been a tantalizingly large amount of evidence — all of it disputed, every jot and tittle — for Nessie's existence, including surface and underwater photographs and sonar contacts. But no piece of the monster, let alone a whole one, has ever been captured. No hair, skin or skeleton. No proof whatsoever. Belief in the monster rests entirely on faith.

If you visit Loch Ness today, all you need do to feel close to the monster is view the excellent audio-visual presentation at the visitors' center at Drumnadrochit, halfway down the loch, between Inverness and Fort Augustus.

The presentation lasts half an hour and does its subject justice; it is balanced and neutral in tone, inviting you neither to believe in Nessie, nor to guffaw in disbelief. Visitors are given all the information they need and shown pictures, then invited to judge for

themselves whether the creature in the loch is real or imagined.

The whole area hereabouts is world-class scenery. After Drumnadrochit, continue on down the loch — it is 24 miles long, a mile wide and is Britain's most voluminous body of fresh water — to Fort Augustus, where you can have lunch or dinner at the Benedictine abbey. The abbey describes itself, not inaccurately, as an "all-weather, all-day, multiattraction visitor center for all ages," located in one of Scotland's most idyllic beauty spots.

When I first visited Loch Ness, in 1972, the abbey at Fort Augustus was not, as far as I recall, open to the public. It was in that year that Dr. Robert Rines and a small team from the Academy of Applied Science in Boston took some advanced monitoring equipment to Loch Ness and secured a number of underwater photographs that (for some) confirmed Nessie's existence.

One of them was the celebrated "flipper" shot, taken with a time-lapse camera fitted with a strobe flash and appearing to portray a large, diamond-shaped flipper or fin at close range. Later, the Rines team captured underwater shots appearing to show the gargoyle head of a 12-foot, reddish-brown creature unknown to science.

These pictures are some of the most intriguing ever offered as evidence for Nessie's existence. The curator of reptiles at the Smithsonian Institution in America declared that they "indicate the presence of large animals in Loch Ness," although they were not distinct enough to help identify the creature. Others debunked and dismissed them out of hand.

However, some experts say that the best evidence for the monster's existence has nothing to do with photographs or sonar traces but is oral — eye-witness accounts from respectable people such as Father Gregory Brusey of the Benedictine abbey at Fort Augustus.

On Oct. 19, 1971, Father Gregory and a friend, Roger Pugh, reckoned they saw a tremendous commotion about 300 yards out in Loch Ness. "We saw quite distinctly the neck of the beast standing out of the water to ... a height of about 10 feet. It swam toward us at a slight angle, and after about 20 seconds disappeared."

VALLEY COURIER, Alamosa, CO - Dec. 30, 1997 CR: D. Perkins

Mutilated horse found near Alamosa

By MARK H. HUNTER
Rio Grande County Editor

ALAMOSA — The still-warm body of strangely mutilated horse was found lying in the bottom of a dry canal ditch south of here the week before Christmas.

According to Crestone paranormal investigator Christopher O'Brien, the five- or six-year-old gelding was discovered by a neighbor who reported it to the Alamosa County Sheriff's office and to O'Brien.

"It looked real suspicious," O'Brien said Tuesday. The gelding's hindquarters had been "cored out," and its sex organ removed from its sheath from the inside.

Two "peculiar" abrasions were found on its sides.

There were no horse tracks leading into the canal but some chamisa bushes around the body were smashed down.

"It looked like it thrashed around before it died," O'Brien said.

Because there were no tracks, O'Brien believes it may have been dropped into the ditch. In his book, "The Mysterious Valley," which documents San Luis Valley "strangeness," he reports several incidents where residents reported seeing a cow hanging from a helicopter then dropped to where they were later found.

"We couldn't find any tracks near it," he said. Other horses pastured nearby were apparently not affected. Scavengers, such as birds or coyotes, had not bothered the scene.

There was also no "strange smell" in the immediate area. Usually, when a rancher finds a mutilated cow there is a sickly sweet, per-

fume odor in the area.

Last year a New Mexico cattle inspector was hospitalized after he breathed strange fumes emitting from a mutilated cow he was examining near Taos.

The discovery is even more strange because the temperature the night before the horse died was well below zero. Other discoveries of mutilated animals have never occurred when the temperature was below zero, he said. "That's really rare."

There were also several "sightings" of large lights the night before the horse was found, and the Valley was blanketed with dense fog.

O'Brien said they found what looked like "a blood splash" about 60 feet from the ditch and there were other nearby blood spatters, but they had been trampled by catwalkers.

The canal where the body was found is a drainage ditch from the Empire Canal to the Rio Grande, he said. It was also fairly close to where residents have reported strange sightings and two other incidents of mutilated cattle in the past two or three years.

It is the second report of a mutilated animal in the Valley in two months. In late November, a rancher found a mutilated cow north of Center which has still not been explained.

O'Brien said he has taken tissue samples from the Center area cow and the horse and sent them off to a lab for further examination.

Anyone who witnesses strange objects in the sky, or finds a mutilated animal can call O'Brien at 719-256-4128. He will keep a reporting party's identity confidential if they request it.

Spooked in Missouri

On Oct. 29, your paper carried an AP story about the Missouri "Spooklight," which can be seen on a farm near Joplin.

About 15 years ago, some friends and I drove to Hornet, Mo., to see the "Spooklight." We got lost on the back roads of the county, and at about midnight, we encountered an elderly farmer taking a walk on that hot July evening. He gave us directions to where the Spooklight was supposed to be seen, but he discouraged us by saying that he had lived in the area for over 50 years but had never seen it.

We followed his directions, and finally found the Spooklight Museum, a structure that looked more like an out-house than a Smithsonian. Stapled to its interior walls were news clippings accumulated over more than 20 years. The clippings contained various explanations for the phenomenon, as well as scientific denials of the Spooklight's existence.

Encouraged by finding the site of the museum, we waited for about two hours in pitch dark. Just as we were getting in our van to leave, thoroughly

disgusted with ourselves for wasting so much time on a silly rumor, we saw the Spooklight! It danced around the field, going up and down, flitting back and forth from us, for about 20 minutes. The light was less bright than a flashlight, and had a somewhat greenish cast. After a wonderful display of its luminous existence, it disappeared. We waited a few more minutes and then drove home.

No one has adequately explained what causes the Spooklight, but I can assure you that it was real. Observers have been speculating about its origin for more than 150 years, according to the clippings in the Spooklight Museum. For example, Professor John W. Northrip claims that the Spooklight is caused by "rising heat from surrounding hills ... carrying light from a nearby highway." This sounds plausible, but Native Americans observed the Spooklight before cars were invented, and there was no traffic on any "nearby highway" at 2 a.m. on that hot Missouri night many years ago. Although I don't know what causes it, I can assure you that the Spooklight is real.

J. Nelson Happy
Newport News

Signals crossed

Bad tuning hampers search for space life

Newsday

After straining for decades to find hints of intelligent life in space, astronomers now suspect their big radio receivers have been tuned in wrong all along.

Recently, research has shown that radio signals from afar suffer fading and distortion as they pass through the long reaches of space. But the systems designed to listen for alien radio signals — called SETI, or Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence — were set up under the assumption that any signal coming from another civiliza-

tion would be a continued or repeating signal.

This could mean the current SETI programs already have recorded real messages, without recognizing them, said researchers James Cordes, Joseph Lazio and the late Carl Sagan, all of Cornell University. The scientists' conclusions appeared in a research report published recently in the Astrophysical Journal.

Over the years, SETI programs have recorded a few intriguing signals that seemed to meet all the criteria except one, the report said. The missing criterion was repeatability; the signals were never detected again, despite intensive listening.

Now, the scientists say that a close look shows that the follow-up observations made on the sources were inadequate — one-tenth of what was needed in terms of sensitivity. Better work is needed

to distinguish between accidents, including signals from satellites or radio transmissions from Earth-bound sources, and genuine messages coming from across the galaxy, they said.

Physicist Paul Horowitz, director of a SETI search called Project Beta, which uses a big dish-shaped radio telescope in Harvard, Mass., said these ideas have already been incorporated into the automated search system. The computer now conducts 120 follow-ups on each interesting signal that is detected.

And Jill Tartar, at the SETI Institute in California, said her system has already used more sensitive equipment in Green Bank, W.Va., to reobserve some of the interesting spots in the sky detected earlier.