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IN THE NIGHT SKY...

This is an enhanced picture of the formation of three red lights seen in the sky over Tinley Park on Aug. 21, 2004.

TINLEY PARK LIGHTS STILL SHINE

By Adam Summers, The Star

The truth is out there, according to a local UFO investigator.

The past two years have seen autumn sightings of unidentified lights in the night sky over Tinley Park and the surrounding area.

According to Sam Maranto, of the Illinois chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, there have been more sightings recently.

"The sightings in Tinley Park were very important, and we have had more (in recent weeks)," Maranto, of Orland Park, said.

From the beginning

The sightings of three red, silent, slow-moving lights in the sky over Tinley Park and Oak Park were first reported on Aug. 21, 2004, with subsequent sightings on Oct. 31, 2004, and Oct. 1, 2005.



"We have ruled out balloons. We have ruled out flares. This is not a hoax."

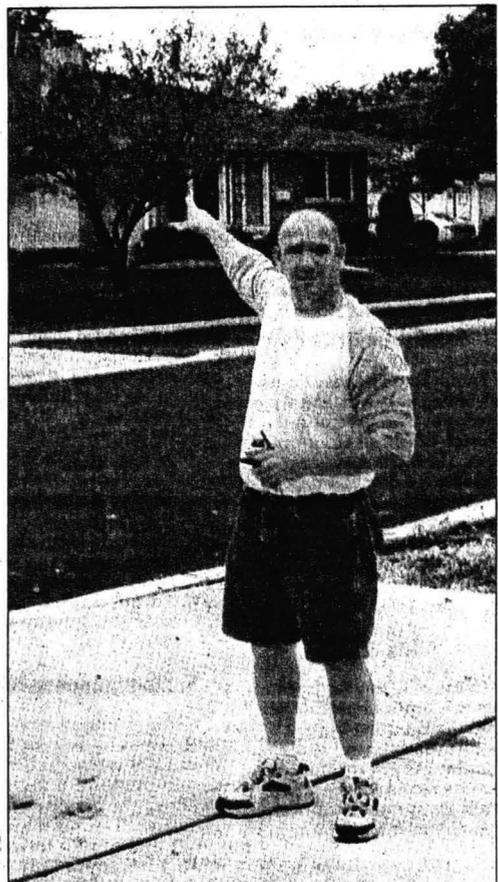
Sam Maranto, Orland Park resident and state section director of the Illinois chapter of the Mutual UFO Network

The National UFO Reporting Center was flooded with calls on each of those nights, with dozens of such reports at www.ufocenter.com.

"The Tinley Park sightings are among the most well-documented cases that we have seen," Peter Davenport, director of the center, said.

"With (each event), you have multiple witnesses, multiple videotapes, eyewitness reports, and Federal Aviation Administration and law enforcement documentation."

(continued on page 2)



T.J. Japcon, a former Tinley Park resident who now lives in Crestwood, points to the area in the sky where he saw a triangular formation of red lights over Tinley Park.

The amount of footage — particularly from Aug. 21, 2004 — is striking. Three red lights are seen hanging in the air in various positions, seemingly indicating a form or structure.

There are numerous pieces of footage shot by area residents at the same time in different locations, which gives researchers much more data to work with than the usual isolated UFO sighting.

Maranto agreed with this assessment. "I absolutely love mass sightings," he said, "because you have such a cross section of (witnesses)."

More suburban sightings

According to T.J. Japcon, a former Tinley Park resident who now lives in Crestwood, the sightings are anything but over.

Japcon said his family saw similar lights on Sept. 23 in both Crestwood and Tinley Park.

"At about 8:20 (p.m.), I went outside and noticed what I first thought was a star," he said.

"But when I looked at it closely, I noticed that it was flashing in the same pattern that (the lights) did the last few years."

Two hours later, Japcon received a call from his son.

"He told me that he saw three of them, just like (the previous sightings)," Japcon said.

With the influx of new reports comes an increased interest in finding an explanation for the sightings.

Maybe not so other-worldly

Dr. Jerry Galloway, of Georgia State University in Atlanta, said he is not convinced that these lights are other-worldly in origin.

"Lights in the sky are common yet mysterious things," he said.

"Human nature seems to invent all sorts of supernatural, metaphysical and extraterrestrial explanations for almost anything not immediately understood."

Galloway added that the laws of physics are irrefutable.

"It is important to recognize the scientific world and its physical limitations," he said.

Maranto said he welcomes serious scientific inquiry, but bristles at the dismissal of evidence that he has faced from some scientists.

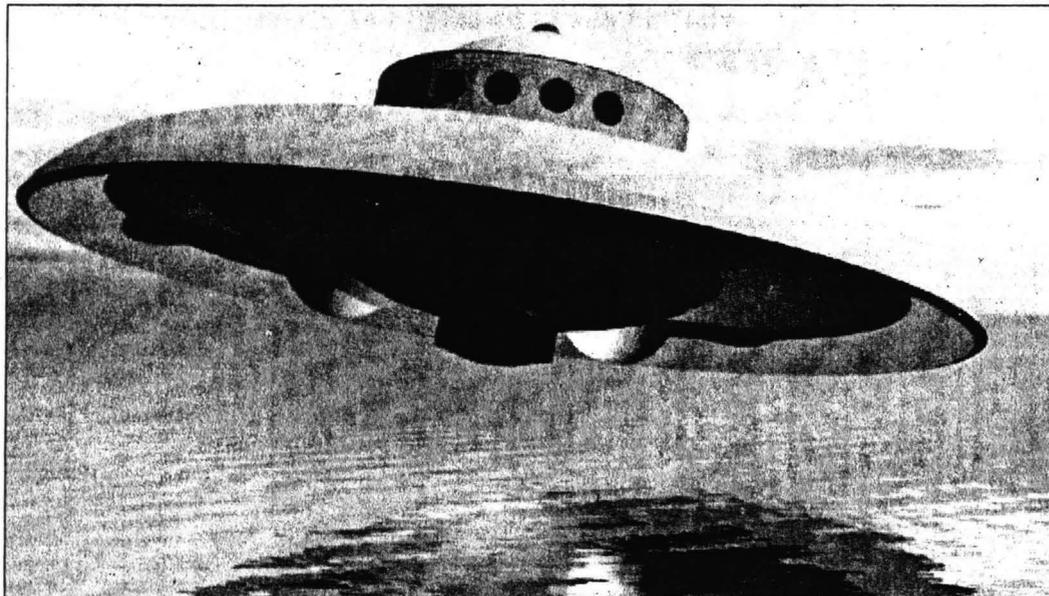
"We welcome anyone with a scientific background to examine the evidence," he said.

"But for (a scientist) to claim that this is a hoax without looking at even a shred of evidence, that is just not good science.

"We have ruled out balloons. We have ruled out flares. This is not a hoax."

Sightings elsewhere

While the Tinley Park sightings are



According to Peter Davenport, of the National UFO Reporting Center, there is no more important question facing humankind: "If we ufologists are correct ... are we alone in this galaxy, or are we not?"

likely of the most local interest, they are not the only sightings of this kind.

"One of the most relevant sightings took place just days prior (to the Tinley Park sightings) throughout Minnesota," Davenport said.

The dozens of reports of similar lights throughout that state on Aug. 19, 2004, are strikingly similar, with a cross section of witnesses.

Maranto added that there was activity around the world at the same time as the Tinley Park sightings, particularly around the time of the Aug. 21, 2004, event.

"There were reports from both Houston and Australia (on Aug. 23, 2004) that were very similar to what was seen here," he said.

According to Davenport, a mass sighting on Feb. 16, 2000, in Rockford featured similar, but orange, lights in the sky.

He also cited what many researchers consider to be the most credible UFO sighting of the last 20 years — the so-called "Phoenix Lights" incident.

On the evening of March 13, 1997, thousands of Phoenix-area residents reported seeing numerous lights in the sky.

Many witnesses said the lights were part of a large craft that hovered over the area for more than an hour, and many researchers said there may be a connection to the Tinley Park case.

The scientific approach

According to Brian Vike, director of HBCC UFO Research, sightings that occur in consecutive years at nearly the same time each year are rare.

"We have had something similar in Quebec, but that is about it," the Canadian UFO investigator said.

A seasoned UFO investigator, Vike said he recognizes the importance of weeding out the hoaxes from the legitimate reports.

"I'd be lying if I said that we don't get a fair amount of less-than-credible reports," he said.

"We've had a couple (of cases) that sounded good at first, but they unraveled when we tried to get a hold of (the witness)."

So how does Vike determine if a report should be taken seriously?

"(By) the way it is written, the type of event, the emotion expressed. It's all involved," he said.

According to Vike, the majority of the reports are explainable by conventional means. "It's the few really weird, really difficult ones that keep us going."

And Maranto said the Tinley Park sightings are exactly that.

"What we are looking at are three, possibly four, lights acting either in conjunction with each other or as part of a field of some sort," Maranto said.

"They keep geometric form, and generally act as objects that are in some way connected to each other."

Maranto has more information that has not been released yet, but said his reasons for doing this are valid.

"A few small pieces of information have to be kept so that you have something to be able to verify the credibility of a witness with," he said.

"It is a practice that many UFO researchers have used in the process of vetting witness reports."

In search of the truth

As the Mutual UFO Network continues to investigate the sightings, Maranto said recent developments have dramatically raised the

importance of this story.

"The things that we are working on now (in relation to this case), they have the potential to change everything that we know," he said.

"It's that important to all of us."

George State University's Galloway has a different view of the sightings. "Lights in the sky?" he asked rhetorically.

"Any conceivable phenomena of man's own making, however unsubstantiated or identified, is infinitely more likely than a visitation by extraterrestrials."

However, according to the National UFO Reporting Center's Davenport, there is no more important question facing humankind.

"If we ufologists are correct, we are dealing with what I believe is the most important scientific question that stands before us — namely, are we alone in this galaxy, or are we not?" he said.

Maranto said he does not have an agenda of any kind.

"This isn't about me," he said. "The last thing we'd want to do is feed in to hysteria."

After seeing so many strange things in the sky, Japcon said he cannot help but look to the stars at night.

"I always look up (in the sky) now," he said.

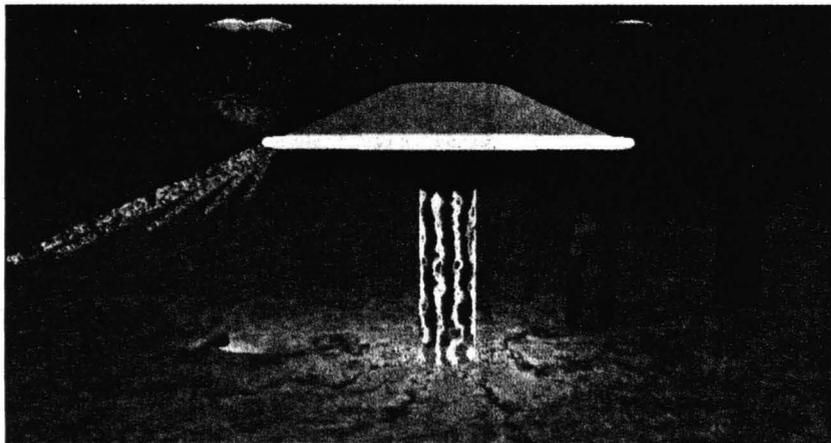
"This is real. And I can't help but wonder, 'Who are they?'"

That is exactly the question that Maranto seeks to answer.

"We are only concerned with what is, or is not (the truth)," he said.

"That's all that matters."

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Supplied illustration

UFOs have long been a fascination for many people. Some who claim to have seen the unidentified red lights in the area say those lights could be proof of other-worldly connections.

FIND OUT MORE

■ The Mutual UFO Network states it is dedicated to the scientific study of UFOs for the benefit of humanity. Information about MUFON's Illinois chapter is available with Sam Maranto at (708) 460-7606 or sammaranto@sbcglobal.net; and information about MUFON in general is at www.mufon.com.

■ The National UFO Reporting Center is billed as "the Web's most comprehensive and up-to-date UFO information source." Information about the center, which has been in operation since 1974, is at www.ufocenter.com.

■ While HBCC UFO Research is billed as serving the Canadian UFO research community, HBCC does list UFO sightings from around the world. Information is at www.hbccufo.org.

Investigating things that go bump in the night

Kathryn Caggianelli
The Record

Whether you're the superstitious type or not, UFOs and things that go bump in the night may be worth a closer look.

Conspiracy theories aside, moving lights in the sky that aren't aircraft, satellites, stars or planets and ethereal creatures that reportedly visit people while they are sleeping may be more than products of overactive imaginations, say two local detectives of unexplained phenomena.

A healthy dose of skepticism is important to bring to the job but so is an open mind, Niskayuna resident Raymond Cecot said.

Cecot is co-founder of Independent Researchers Association for Anomalous Phenomena in Niskayuna.

This time of year, the most common sightings are reported by people who mistake stationary stars or planets as moving objects.

"Right now the night skies are crystal clear. Low stars or planets will appear to twinkle from radiational cooling from the Earth. I ask them if they saw the light the night before or the following night, and if they answer yes to either we can pretty much rule out a UFO," he said.

IRAAP is a non-profit organization founded in 1997 that investigates a variety of phenomena, including Unidentified Flying Objects, crop formations, cattle mutilations, Big Foot and others.

While there are cases of sightings and close encounters that Cecot and his colleagues have easily dismissed, there are also those they have not.

Cecot, a former member of the Mutual UFO Network, a national organization based in Maryland, worked closely with state MUFON director Jim Bouck for many years.

If the truth is out there they want to find it.

A rash of UFO sightings in Stillwater in Saratoga County and Cairo in Greene County were called into MUFON in the early 1990s. Cecot and Bouck conducted interviews and made

REPORT A SIGHTING

■ To report an unusual experience or UFO sighting go to MUFON.com and click on the appropriate link or contact Bouck directly at (518) 356-6367

some startling findings.

"There were many sightings of moving lights in the sky over Stillwater and in Greene County around that time. One person in particular was so terrified by his experience that he and his wife moved out of

their home in Cairo the following day," Cecot said.

The man reportedly was walking his dog on farmland one night when he saw what he thought was a small plane flying over a mountain in the distance. The object then made an abrupt turn and came toward him. When it was about 100 feet away and 25 feet off the ground, it exploded, lighting up the entire field. He and his dog ran home and called MUFON to report the incident.

Cecot arrived at the scene that same night only to find that the man, his wife and their family pet had sought refuge elsewhere. He met up with them the following day and learned that they intended to move out of the area because of the incident.

There was no physical evidence of anything extra-terrestrial. If there had been, Cecot and Bouck would have sent it away for analysis.

"We use scientific methods when we conduct an investigation. If there are physical traces we gather the evidence and submit it to a lab for analysis," he said.

Bouck recalls another inci-



A starry night.

Photos.com

dent in Stillwater on Oct. 7, 1994. At 10 p.m. a teenaged girl called to report seeing as many as 12 UFOs over her home and said they were still there. Bouck and Cecot hurried to the site to find more than a dozen people standing on the girl's lawn staring at the sky. They appeared to be looking at nothing more than stars, but when interviewed, they revealed that the pinpoints of light had danced through the sky, joining in triangular formations and then melting out of sight.

By the time the investigation was completed — more than two weeks later — Cecot and Bouck had spoken to 30 witnesses from across the area.

"These were all credible witnesses. Though we didn't see what they did that night, we didn't discount their accounts," he said.

Interestingly, a neighbor's cat had frantically scratched at the girl's front door earlier that evening, begging to come inside. It got the girl's attention and brought her outside and that's when she spied the unusual moving lights in the sky directly overhead, Bouck said.

In December 1998, Bouck and Cecot received a call from a family in Schenectady about a ghostly nighttime visitor.

The woman woke up at 3 a.m. to find a short, black silhouette standing beside her bed. When interviewed she couldn't recall anything more about the incident. But what really caught the attention of Bouck and Cecot was the fact that later that night her son ran into his parents' bedroom visibly shaken. He said he'd seen a small, black man walk out of

his closet through the closed door. The boy had no way of knowing about his mother's similar experience.

"That association for me calls to mind 'the greys,' or three-foot-tall, dark-skinned aliens that are mentioned in alien abductions," Bouck said.

Bouck reportedly has gotten calls from staff at Albany International Airport about strange sightings on radar, he said.

Meteorologists have had their share of unusual calls, National Weather Service Meteorologist Bob Kilpatrick said.

Over the years he has been asked to check out sightings on Doppler radar. The technology that meteorologists use is designed to register reflectivity in the atmosphere, not unusual air traffic, he said.

The possibility that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is a logical assumption to make, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Professor of Physics and Applied Astronomy Heidi Newberg said.

"I don't think they've landed here yet, though," she said.

Newberg admitted that it's important to keep an open mind. Her own colleagues doubted she could accurately measure the rate at which the universe was expanding when she set out to do that in graduate school.

"We expected to find it was decelerating and it turned out that the universe is expanding at a faster and faster rate," Newberg said.

She used Dark Energy Physics to prove her findings, which defied the laws of existing physics models.

"I think mainstream science is concerned about whether the processes that are being used to investigate UFOs are truly scientific. I think there are legitimate researchers out there looking into this," she said.

JOURNAL, Salina, KS - Oct. 3, 2006 CR: R. Webb

Crop circle caused by microwave action

Investigation of field says circle not made by man or UFOs

By TIM UNRUH
Salina Journal

BELOIT — Jane Wallace is careful to speculate about what created a large circle in her field of sorghum-sudan grass, but she is certain it wasn't a UFO.

"We're just saying it wasn't man-made," said Wallace, Beloit. "We think it was some other kind of phenomena."

Whatever caused the circle — 133 feet from east to west and 132 feet from north to south — it soon became a tourist attraction after it was spotted Sept. 9 in a field 2 1/4 miles east of Beloit off Kansas Highway 9.

"People just started coming by to see it," Wallace said. "It was all over town."

And beyond town, too.

Word reached other states, bringing in crop-circle investigators Rich Webb, Omaha, Neb., and Ted Robertson, Bloomington, Ind.

"We determined it to be a nonman-made crop circle," Webb said Monday. He's a re-



Photo courtesy of BROOKE WALLACE, New Cambria
This crop circle is thought to have formed Sept. 9 in a sorghum-sudan grass field 2 1/4 miles east of Beloit on Kansas Highway 9. The crop was swathed for livestock feed Saturday.

tired Internal Revenue Service worker and one of 100 members of the International Crop Circle Researchers Association.

He and Robertson arrived Sept. 15, took soil and crop samples, which will be analyzed by a lab, and checked for radio waves and microwaves. Their verdict: a microwave burst.

"We don't think it's little green men in flying saucers that do it," Webb said. "What

creates the microwave is unknown. It's some sort of force that's applied that involves microwaves."

Hundreds of folks have driven by. Some parked to gawk at the circle, located about 40 yards from a steep ditch.

Fearing people would get hurt parking on the busy highway, Wallace swathed the field Saturday for livestock feed.

"It was getting too dangerous. In the past few days, they would stop on that hill, halfway

on and halfway off," she said.

Even though the field has been cut, the circle is still evident, said Ileen Bean, who lives 10 miles east of Beloit. Sunday there still were people stopping to look.

"They all want to know what it is," she said.

'It just melted that cane'

Jean Rose of rural Beloit said she was flown over the field last week in a helicopter.

"It's spooky. Whatever did that was so hot that it just melted that cane and laid it flat," she said. "It looks like a perfect circle from off the ground 300 feet."

Webb said most crop circles form in rainstorms but not because of the rain. He said the plants inside the circle near Beloit were swirled clockwise. On the east side of the circle, but still inside the circle, was a smaller swirl, which also was clockwise.

"That can't be done if it's hoaxed," Webb said. "Man-made circles are almost perfect. They use a rope and a board that leaves a scar on the plants."

There was no scarring in the field east of Beloit.

Microwave evidence

Evidence of microwaves was noticed on the nodes that form on the stems of the plants as they grow. Nodes inside the circle were expanded. Outside of the circle, they were normal.

"Because the microwave's heat, the moisture inside the nodes will expand," Webb said. "It doesn't kill the plant. There were no dead plants in the circle."

Wallace owns the land with her brother, Judd Thierolf, Beloit, and farms it with her husband, Don.

She first learned of the crop circle from a friend who drove by the field at 9 a.m. Sept. 9. There was no circle at that time. When her friend passed again at 11 a.m., the circle was evident in the field of 5- to 6-foot-tall green plants.

There were no footprints, Jane Wallace said, and the area had just received rain.

"If somebody did it, I would like to see them duplicate it. There was no path into the circle at all," she said.

• Reporter Tim Unruh can be reached at 822-1419 or by e-mail at sjtunruh@saljournal.com.

'Green Monster' still news in Flatwoods

By Mannix Porterfield
REGISTER-HERALD REPORTER

SUTTON — Right in the heart of West Virginia, in this natural offering of florid hills and genteel country people, the 21st century competes with a bizarre page from its past.

Just up the road, about 2 miles away, on a summer night in 1952, seven people were hurled into a brief encounter with a strange object that put little Flatwoods on the national news radar for several days.

What they saw remains in dispute to this day.

To some, it was a visitor from another planet, a green figure with red eyes and a cowl-like covering on its head that reminded some of the ace of spades.

Others were inclined to accept a more earthly explanation.

"I believe that they definitely saw something," says Connie Skidmore, executive director of the Braxton County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Skidmore, not even born when the "monster" invaded, has heard her share of stories about the sighting.

"It's still quite a live topic," she said. "We get questions about it here at the bureau quite often. At least two or three a week ask about the 'monster.'"

One day, some young Japanese businessmen drove up from Charleston after a meeting just to inquire about the phenomenon. Another tourist pointed to an itinerary that included the far out, such as Point Pleasant, home of the Mothman.

A few want to know if a "monster" statue is available so they can be photographed with it.

There is none, but Skidmore's office features some "monster" items, among them a statuette, true to the red-and-green decor and fashioned by John Gibson, a shopkeeper at the mall. That one has proven a good seller this year.

Skidmore provides reprints of "The

Phantom of Flatwoods," written by Judy Davis for the Braxton Citizens' News.

Braxton County has good reason to pride itself on a number of attractions, as outlined in the bureau's booklet, focusing largely on outdoor activities in a region blessed by a number of lakes and streams teeming with fish, woods crawling with game, an abundance of stores and restaurants, and a rich history, and that includes, of course, "the monster."

Braxton's name honors Carter Braxton, a Virginia statesman and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Indeed, part of page 11 in the official brochure reminds visitors of "a monster of a story," noting some 10,000 people reportedly were drawn here at the outset of the incident.

Modern intrusions abound, but Sutton, Gassaway and Flatwoods remember the past.

And rather than bury the story, locals are capitalizing on it with a celebration they hope to turn into an annual event — The Braxton County Monster Festival.

A 50th anniversary in 2002 was followed by a festival in 2005, and another this year. Skidmore wants to see it evolve into a permanent fixture at the 10-year-old factory outlet mall where her office stands.

"We don't know exactly what happened, but somebody saw something, because it created quite a stir and people were obviously upset," Skidmore said.

"It's basically like any other festival — a reason to get together and celebrate your community. It's a sense of community."

Games, rides, music and food — the typical menu. Everything but the monster. But if he reappears, the creature is welcome. Landmark Studio for the Arts staged a re-enactment of the



Not a week passes in Sutton that executive director Connie Skidmore of the Braxton County Convention and Visitors Bureau doesn't get a few inquiries about the famed "monster" that briefly haunted a hollow just two miles away from her office.

C.L. GARVIN/
THE REGISTER-HERALD



unknown visitor, using two hunters as its characters to retell the story.

"We get people from several states asking about it," Skidmore said.

"We have people who come in to volunteer or work at the campgrounds. They get a poster or a statuette that they can take to tell the story to the people who come to the grounds, the little campers. A gentleman who is a naturalist from Kentucky was in and saw the 'monster' and wanted to take one home for his talk to camping groups."

A new attraction is the 2,000-seat amphitheater providing an outdoor music venue and possibly some dramas.

Just down the highway, at Century Inn Restaurant, one of the regulars, Junior Gibson, now 82, isn't convinced that an otherworldly visitor touched down back in 1952.

"I didn't believe too much of that monster deal," says Gibson, a World War II veteran who helped guard Nazi war criminals at the Nuremberg trials, after serving with the 9th Infantry Division in the Battle of the Bulge.

Gibson leans to his left and calls out to diners at another table for an opinion.

"I thought it was kind of fake," one man yells back. "So I didn't fool with it."

Another man begs off, explaining it was before his time.

"They still talk about the 'Flatwoods Monster,' and they talked about little green men, but I never seen any of them," Gibson says.

A friend, however, swore he saw a flying saucer buzz his home about that time.

"Hey, John," Gibson says to another buddy. "What did you think when they seen the monster?"

"Eisenhower on a broom stick," one man riposted.

Upon further reflection, Gibson says the seven witnesses apparently saw something that shook them up that night.

And Skidmore agrees. "People don't claim seeing something like that if they haven't seen something," she says.

"I don't know what it was, if was something the government created or what. Those people definitely saw something that made them nervous."

For all the attention that one brief episode from half a century ago still demands, merchants and townspeople alike don't seem to mind their town is associated with it, says Skidmore.

"I think most of the people in the county enjoy the novelty of it," she added.

— E-mail:

mannix@register-herald.com

Author says UFOs still buzzing W.Va.

By Mannix Porterfield
REGISTER-HERALD REPORTER

FLATWOODS — In the gathering dusk of a warm September evening, a sandlot football game is halted suddenly by a fiery object streaking over the lush, green hillside a short distance away.

Startled by what they saw, the five boys engaged in football, accompanied by the mother of one and a second adult, rushed up the mountainside to investigate.

From behind a tree emerged a 12-foot object, emitting a strong and repulsive sulfuric odor. Crackling sounds inside it reminded the witnesses of bacon sizzling in a fry pan.

Nothing verbal came from the curious object, but strong lights from the head of it formed a beam directed at the frightened onlookers.

Just to the right on the hillside lay a circular object described later as the standard spaceship.

Terrified, the seven scampered down the hill, giving birth to the enduring episode of the "Braxton County Monster."

Fifty-four years later, the account endures, thanks largely to a book author Frank Feschino Jr. penned after a dozen years of painstaking research. For instance, he was the first to examine the official Air Force Blue Book on UFO sightings, unwrapped only two decades ago after years of official secrecy.

Just up this hollow, as two Flatwoods firefighters, Monte Riffle, left, and the Rev. Paul Beatty point the way, is where the world-renowned "Green Monster" was sighted by two adults and five children in 1952.

C.L. GARVIN/
THE REGISTER-HERALD



Witnesses never altered their account of the bizarre incident that Sept. 12, 1952, night that put Flatwoods on national news for several days.

Based on his in-depth research that embraced "tons of reports" and numerous interviews with witnesses, Feschino is convinced the "monster" was indeed an alien inside a metallic probe, or small shuttlecraft, not unlike the lunar modules used by America astronauts, explaining why it appeared to "float" along the ground.

Feschino believes the alien was aboard one of three spacecraft that escaped a dogfight with U.S. Air Force jets over the Atlantic Ocean and land-

ed inside the American border.

The red-and-green "monster," a moniker that has stuck over five decades, appeared to have a medieval cowl over its head, while cloaked in a metallic "skirt." Antennae were visible, but it seemed to be armless.

One of the witnesses, Kathleen May, described the lower part of its attire as "hanging drapes," not surprisingly given the vernacular of the 1950s, but Feschino says this likely was a set of pipes of the shuttlecraft. Another saw it as a suit of armor. To one, the head reminded him of the ace of spades.

Less than half an hour, the "monster" was back inside his craft and took off for parts unknown.

Feschino's research took him to articles in weekly newspapers of the era, since many witnesses to UFO sightings hadn't bothered to contact authorities to fill out a detailed, 10-page report provided by the military.

Flatwoods became a household dateline just five years after the Roswell incident, and only a few years after the "shoot them down" directive to U.S. fighter pilots amid the mounting tensions with Russia in that era, he pointed out.

If an unknown craft appeared, the author says, the military was commanded to shoot first and ask questions later, rather than risk a pre-emptive nuclear strike by the Russians, based on the revelations of one high-ranking Air Force officer.

"This was at the height of the Cold War," Feschino said, recalling how school children were drilled almost daily in survival, such as getting under desks.

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 4 - REGISTER-HERALD, Beckley, WV - Sept. 21, 2006)

"Braxton County is a hotbed for UFO sightings."

FRANK FESCHINO JR.,
author of 'The Braxton County Monster: The Cover-up of the Flatwoods Monster Revealed'

"You're concerned for the safety of the country, and what if you picked up something on radar? Is it a Russian with a bomb? Or a UFO? You don't want that on your head."

When radar detected an unfamiliar, jets were scrambled.

"Shoot Them Down," in fact, is the title Port Orange, Fla., resident has chosen for a follow-up book on the UFO phenomenon.

Likely, the aliens were conducting reconnaissance flights over America, since they were seen at atomic plants and Air Force installations, the author said.

This, in turn, gave birth to a theory of galactic spying, or a "cosmic kindergarten," as one expert has described, Feschino pointed out.

"There have been tons of sightings up there," the author said. "Braxton County is a hotbed for

UFO sightings."

Just why remains a puzzle, but the author also says evidence has surfaced that crop circles have surfaced in the area as well.

One of the three spaceships that eluded the fighter jets nearly clipped a passenger train in Wheeling before darting southward and landing in Bluefield, says Feschino.

"The one that landed in West Virginia actually flew over Washington half an hour earlier," he says.

"I knew that every story has a beginning, a middle, and an end. Flatwoods was the end of the story. I wanted to find out what happened preceding it."

So, the author fetched aerial maps and compiled one that measures about 8 by 10 feet, tediously pinpointed each sighting, then connected the dots.

"In all of that night in 1952, there were about 18 and one-half hours of sightings," he says.

The Blue Book actually devoted an official case report to the Flatwoods incident, he learned.

"Besides that one page, there were about 200 other pages of UFO sightings that occurred throughout the night," he said. "Flatwoods was not an isolated

incident. This was not just one little incident. The one in Flatwoods was only 5 percent of the story."

In fact, he said, the "monster" was tracked as it retreated back across Braxton County that same night.

Feschino figures the aliens are still using the backwash of rural Braxton County since it is only 206 direct air miles away from the Capitol and provides dense foliage for concealment in interludes while, for whatever reasons. They are scouting out America.

As the damaged aircraft witnessed that night in 1952 flew over the backwash, parts of it crumbled and fell to the ground. No doubt, he says, many souvenir hunters grabbed them, never telling authorities about their finds.

"There could be hundreds of pieces of shrapnel and pieces in some junk cabins," he said. "We don't know."

Feschino says the media falsely portray Americans as evenly divided on Braxton County's incident.

"That's not even close," he said. "I would say it's closer to 90 percent who believe and 10 percent who are skeptical as far as the

Flatwoods case is concerned."

Feschino's book, "The Braxton County Monster: The Cover-Up of the Flatwoods Monster Revealed," was published by West Virginia Book Co. of Charleston, who says sales were "super" when it came out last year, and remain "quite steady."

"Frank does a wonderful job with tying in everything that happened in D.C. and all over the Eastern Seaboard," says owner Bill Clements.

"Basically, no one would talk about it. People were ridiculed by the media. Most of them just clammed up. Feschino spent 12 years getting to know people and getting their trust."

To some denizens of Flatwoods, the "monster" is on par with Mothman, the bird-man creature that took up brief residence in Point Pleasant. Does this mean a Flatwoods-based movie could be in the offing?

"There have been a lot of offers, but just talking at this point," Feschino acknowledged.

If one is made, would Feschino land a role?

"I want to be the 'monster,'" he laughed.

— E-mail: munnix@register-herald.com

PRESS-ENTERPRISE, Riverside, CA - Oct. 27, 2006 CR: D. Perez



CARRIE ROSEMA/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Bob Mauger, local "UFO-ologist" and March Air Field Museum volunteer, explains that many reported UFO sightings are actually U.S. Air Force planes, such as the SR0-71 Blackbird, at left.

UFO-LOGY

Expert tackles flying saucers, secret planes and coverups

BY JOHN ASBURY
THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Ever think some folks in the Inland Empire are out of this world? The UFO seminar on Saturday could provide some answers.

The murky world of UFOs, government coverups and America's secret planes will be the topic of March Field Air Museum's UFO seminar and family days on Saturday.

"UFOs and Things That Go Bump in the Night" will try to explain flying saucers and alien sightings such as Roswell and Area 51. Resident UFO-

ologist and museum volunteer Bob Mauger, 65, of Norco, will discuss how several suspected alien aircrafts are usually top-secret government airplanes.

"There's a lot you don't realize is out there," Mauger said. "Some things in the sky are totally unexplained."

The U.S. government used secret surveillance planes in World War II and to keep tabs on Cold War rivals, and still uses some today, Mauger said.

Reported UFO sightings were later discovered to be U.S. Air Force planes

such as the XP59, the first U.S. jet; the U-2 spy plane; the SR71; and the F1-17 Nighthawk, Mauger said. The incident that spawned the term "flying saucer" likely involved the Horton 229, a German airplane used by both the U.S. and the Soviet Union, he said.

Many of the planes were kept secret to stop release of state-of-the-art technology, Mauger said. In Roswell, N.M., a supposed alien crash was actually a government coverup for a downed spy balloon used to detect nuclear blasts in the Soviet Union, Mauger said.

The idea of alien UFOs has been driven by movies and science-fiction tales, Mauger said. While not completely ruling out alien life, Mauger said there is no evidence supporting alien sightings. He said any planets possible of maintaining life are in galaxies at least 4,000 light-years away.

Mauger said his interest in airplanes started early and as a child he would go to bed with an airplane under his arm rather than a teddy bear. Shortly after he moved to the Inland Empire, he realized North Corona was the setting of the first alien landing during the 1938 radio broadcast of Orson Wells' "War of the Worlds."

Mauger served as an Air Force engineer and mechanic at an airbase in Germany during the Vietnam War era. He later worked for Burrough's Electric and ITT Cannon.

"When it comes to UFOs, everyone has an opinion," said the museum's office manager Betty Bradley. "It's an interest that engages the entire family."

The museum will also feature a UFO video and crafts for children to create their own UFOs and alien eggs.

For more information, contact March Field Air Museum at 951-697-6600.

Reach John Asbury at 951-567-2408 or jasbury@PE.com

UFOs sighted locally – for class study, anyway

By Krista J. Stockman
The Journal Gazette

UFOs and alien life forms aren't just the subjects of science fiction books and movies.

Plenty of people in Indiana claim to have seen them. With such interest, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne's Division of Continuing Studies is offering its first class on unidentified flying objects.

The class, called UFOs – Perception, Reality and Sightings in Indiana, will cover the history of UFOs, crop circles and recent local sightings.

The course might sound out of this world to some, but it is a legitimate topic of study, said Mike Kelly, IPFW director of personal and professional

If you're interested

What: UFO course at IPFW
When: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 10, 17
Cost: \$75 To sign up, call the
Division of Continuing Studies,
481-6619

development.

"It's not that we're legitimizing alien life form, per se, but that there are unexplained phenomena and just having a conversation about that is interesting," Kelly said. "We support critical thinking, obviously, no matter what the topic is, especially some-

thing that has far-fetched components and is challenging."

The three-course class, which begins Tuesday, is being taught by Roger Sugden, assistant state director and chief investigator of the Mutual UFO Network and a member of the Independent Crop Circle Research Association. Eight people have signed up for the class so far – a number that pleased Kelly but disappointed Sugden.

Sugden approached IPFW about teaching the course because no one had ever done it before, he said. He has offered information sessions at the Allen County Public Library and had as many as 75 people attend, so he thought there would be plenty of interest in a three-week class.

Sugden said he has run into plenty

of skeptics, but that doesn't bother him. He simply wants to offer factual evidence of UFOs.

"There's plenty of interest in it," Sugden said. "I'm not trying to make you a believer. I'm just here to give you an education."

Michael Shermer, founding publisher of Skeptic magazine and the executive director of the Skeptics Society, said a university setting is ideal for critical discussions of claims of UFO sightings.

But a danger exists when institutions such as IPFW affiliate with a class that offers such claims as fact, because "it lends credibility where there actually isn't," Shermer said.

"What we try to strive for is keeping an open mind, but not so open that your brains fall out," he said.

The class will include the history of UFOs starting from the first documented sightings by Egyptian pharaohs and Roman emperors. Sugden said the history of UFO sightings includes the stories about Alexander the Great's sightings of flying objects in 332 B.C. The UFOs helped knock down fortress walls during the siege of the island Tyre, Sugden said.

"(UFOs) have a history of interfering with history," he said.

The course will extend through modern-day sightings, including those in Indiana. One sighting was in December 2003, when three police officers saw a strange object drifting through the skies over Huntington.

In March and April of this year, Indiana had the highest number of UFO sightings in the world, Sugden

said. Reports are collected by the Mutual UFO Network and the National UFO Reporting Center.

"I'll tell about some of the cases where these things have actually landed and beings have gotten out and been seen and gotten back in and took off," Sugden said.

If this course is successful, Sugden hopes to someday be able to offer the class for credit. Already, he is planning to teach another non-credit course on UFOs in Warsaw in the spring – for both skeptics and believers.

"It's an educational thing," he said. "If you don't believe it, that's fine."

kstockman@jg.net

Angela Mapes of The Journal Gazette contributed to this story.

UFO group to discuss unusual sightings in Indiana

By JACOB BENNETT

Courier & Press staff writer
464-7434 or bennettj@courierpress.com

There's no explanation, but it's been a busy year in the Indiana skies.

Huntingburg had the nation's first confirmed crop circles of the year, a complex configuration in David Ring's wheat.

There were more UFO sightings in the state than anywhere else except California in March.

There was even a reported sighting in January over Bristol-Myers Squibb in Mount Vernon, Ind.

"When I started, we were all just chasing lights in the sky," said Jerry Sievers of Vincennes, the director of the Mutual UFO Network of Indiana.

"Now there's been landings with traces left. There's been abductions, if you listen to the witnesses; implants that have been removed surgically, and

IF YOU GO

What: Indiana Mutual UFO Network fall meeting
When: noon to 5:30 p.m. Saturday
Where: Monroe City Blue Jeans Center in Monroe City, Ind.
Information: indiamufon.homestead.com

they can't figure out what it is. It just keeps growing."

State UFO investigators will gather Saturday at the Monroe City (Ind.) Blue Jeans Center to talk about these developments and other facets of unidentified flying objects.

The last time they had a state meeting, in April, there were maybe 20 people there, some of whom go into

the fields and investigate, others who have just read many books.

Saturday, they will talk about encounters with Men In Black (none from personal experience), and on happenings in Indiana, including what appeared to observers to be a shootout over the Wabash River.

Answers in that case are hard, probably impossible, to come by. A man and three friends in a canoe north of Peru, Ind., saw a large, silvery triangle shape at 20,000 feet being pursued — and possibly shot at — by two F-16 fighters. This was at 10:38 a.m. June 28, the men said. Military contacts haven't been that helpful, said Roger Sugden, a Mutual UFO Network field investigator from Fort Wayne, Ind.

"There's lots of questions about it," Sievers said.

Even less is known about the alleged sighting at Bristol-Myers, which occurred Jan. 28 and was reported by

an anonymous caller to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle.

The caller said several other people pulled over and watched as one large object — roughly the size of half a football field — hovered around Indiana 62 with two or three smaller, oblong objects.

Although Ring had already cut down the wheat in which the crop circle appeared, Sugden said he was able to take samples of what was left and determine that the crop circle was legitimate.

(For some, you can tell just by looking from the air that the circles were man-made. Several in Ohio this year were clearly made by people driving around in a truck.)

Sugden said that tests on Ring's crops showed that nodes inside the wheat stem had been elongated, a key sign that the circles were not a hoax.

Many Internet sites have step-by-

step instructions on how to make your own crop circles. But as to how to make the ones that paranormal investigators deem legitimate is anyone's guess, Sugden said.

"There are all kinds of theories. It could be Earth energy. It could be plasma vortexes in the air. It could be an aerial phenomenon that interacts with the ground.

"It could be some other intelligence using the forces of nature to create these designs and watch us run around in circles and try to figure them out."

Many investigators are surprised that the mystery of UFOs hasn't been solved, said James Delehanty of Jeffersonville, Ind., who will give the presentation "Men In Black."

"Every year we get closer," he said. "I guess until one lands on the lawn of the White House or in Times Square, not everybody's going to believe it."

Strange, bright lights surprise stargazers

Witnesses across western U.S. theorize unknown object was meteor, space debris

By Tom Sharpe and Jason Auslander
The New Mexican

Sky-watchers across the western U.S. reported seeing bright lights late Sunday, but theories abound on just what they saw. It was probably a meteor, one agency said. A UFO expert said space junk is another possibility. And depending on the observer, this thing that hurtled across the darkness

was either red, orange, yellow, blue or white. Or some combination of the above.

Santa Fe County Sheriff Greg Solano said six people called his dispatcher to report the lights in the sky, including one who thought it might have been a falling airplane.

The National UFO Reporting Center in eastern Washington State reported that about 30 people across the West reported

seeing something in the sky, with most of the calls coming from Colorado.

Menka Jain, who was driving near Los Alamos on Sunday night, said she saw what looked to be an orange fiery projectile that exploded into pieces.

Peggy Crumbacher, who lives south of Santa Fe off N.M. 14, said she looked to the north at about 11:15 p.m. "It went from white to blue, and then I could see it turned toward the north, and then it

Federal Aviation Administration officials also said the lights were likely a meteor, according to KOB-TV.

Base (in Colorado) makes a statement. ... And I have not heard from NORAD."

Davenport said some of Sunday's reports had the characteristics of a meteor — fragments coming off a main object, objects moving in a straight line, flaring up like a match and lasting only a few seconds.

Federal Aviation Administration officials also said the lights were likely a meteor, according to KOB-TV. A person at LodeStar Astronomy Center in Albuquerque didn't know about the lights, and neither did a person who answered the phone at Santa Fe Community College's planetarium.

absolutely disappeared," she said. "This was not a meteor. Meteors would be bright lights."

Peter Davenport of the National UFO Reporting Center said Sunday evening's reports began with a fireball over Seattle about 9:26 p.m. New Mexico time.

He said other reports Sunday evening came from:

◆ Winslow, Ariz., where a large light green fireball was observed at 10:18 p.m.

◆ Cheyenne, Wyo., where an airplane pilot flying at 30,000 feet observed to the south at 11:15 p.m. at approximately the same altitude a bright object that seemed to eject five golden objects out its back end at regular intervals. The objects remained visible for about 30 seconds.

◆ Cascade, Colo., where eight to 10 orange objects were seen flying from north to south for about 10 seconds about 11:15 p.m. An airplane was spotted nearby about 10 seconds later.

◆ Hartsel, Colo., where eight to 10 glowing orange, yellow and red objects were seen about 11:15 p.m. moving south to north. Several of the objects broke off in different directions, while the lead objects changed their color to blue and white before disappearing within one minute.

◆ Raton, N.M., where a motel employee observed a large gold star about 11:20 p.m. that split into three, then seven

objects that moved in a straight line for several seconds.

Davenport said similar lights were reported Sunday evening in Roseville, Calif.; Boulder, Colo.; Silver City and Las Cruces.

"The first thing that comes to my mind was the possibility of space debris," he said. "But usually when that happens, NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) at Peterson Air Force

Investigators ponder occurrence of crop circles

By Michael Shaw
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

SOMEWHERE NEAR BELLEVILLE • The UFO people discovered them first.

It was early August, around the time that tips of strange lights in the sky came in. Field investigators from the Colorado-based Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, or MUFON, flew over in a plane after hearing those reports and got photographic confirmation in early August.

There was no doubt about it. Thirteen crop circles, varying



Crop circles varying in size from 50 feet across to 15 feet across can be seen in soybean fields near Belleville. Image from KMOV-TV

in size between about 50 feet to 15 feet across, were visible among the soybean plants on the sloping banks of a gully that splits a farm near Belleville.

Lacking expertise to continue the inquiry, the UFO people turned to an outfit that specializes in this sort of thing.

That's right.

BLT Research Team Inc. of Cambridge, Mass., prides itself on searching for a scientific explanation for crop circles. The name has nothing to do with bacon. It comes from the

The exact location is still hush-hush, because the landowner did not want gawkers trampling her fields. No other scientific or law enforcement groups are known to be investigating the site. A reporter was given a tour after a promise to keep the location as vague as possible.

So what's BLT's explanation? Alien invasion? Bizarre weather event?

Nancy Talbott, the group's president and the "T" in BLT, said she's not a scientist but has been working with researchers to legitimize the field of study. She said she had produced outdoor country music festivals before getting into crop circles.

"People immediately jump to this other-worldly explanation," she said in a phone interview. "It might be a natural phenomenon."

Scarpellini, 73, agreed that the circles' origins remain a mystery. "We don't know," said Scarpellini, who said she retired years ago as a researcher for Washington University School of Medicine. "One theory that's been proposed and worked over is a plasma vortex that's controlled and manipulated somehow."

In the month since the Belleville circles were found, the soybean plants that weren't destroyed have continued to grow, spoiling the circles' well-defined edges. But they are still visible.

A few weeks after the Belleville circles appeared, a group of circles showed up in soybean fields in Geneseo, Ill.

Scarpellini visited those circles as well.

"It doesn't bother me," she said of the negative reaction to the group's efforts from skeptics. "Certain people have trouble accepting any explanation. I was always interested in this sort of thing."

mshaw@post-dispatch.com | 618-624-2577

three founders' initials. Since the 1990s, BLT has been looking into the bizarre patterns that sometimes materialize in grain fields.

BLT researchers have been looking into the Belleville circles for the past month.

"Fully one half, at least, of the crop circles I've seen are fakes," High Ridge resident JoAnne

Scarpellini said with confidence as she hiked along the Belleville site Thursday. She's the group's Midwest investigator. If there has been a report of a crop circle within 500 miles of St. Louis in the past decade, she's been there.

"We don't think these are man-made," she said of the Metro East circles. They were tested for magnetic anomalies and subjected to a

Geiger counter, but results were negative. A report notes that cell phones worked properly and neighbors reported no unusual animal behavior or electromagnetic effects, which Scarpellini said are a possibility at crop circle sites.

UFO more than a glow

By KEVIN LEWIS
Herald Editor

Mark Harmon promises he's not crazy, despite what some of his family and friends are telling him.

Harmon, a 48-year-old grain elevator operator at Providence Farm Supply, believes he had a close encounter with a UFO on Monday night outside his home in the 600 block of Wayland.

"Never in my life have I seen anything like this," Harmon said. "I really don't know what I saw."

Harmon was in the middle of watching Monday Night Football when he stepped outside.

"I stepped out in the backyard to smoke a cigarette and happened to be looking up because it was such a pretty night," Harmon recalled.

From out of nowhere, Harmon encountered lights like he had never seen before.

"From the edge of the house, something came over. It was in a perfect V-shape. There were seven distinctive yellowish-white lights," he said. "I've seen UFO programs where people have

drawn this exact same picture."

Harmon said the lights weren't flashing or changing colors, and "weren't moving real fast."

"Unless it was a mile wide, this thing was pretty close to the ground, maybe 1,000-2,000 feet."

Harmon said he saw the object, which was moving east, for about 4-5 seconds before it disappeared behind a tree. He hurried around the tree but never saw the lights again.

"I don't know if you had to be right under it" to see the lights or what, he said.

Harmon found it especially interesting that whatever the object was did not make any noise.

"The thing that got me the most was it was dead silent," he said.

"I was dumbfounded."

Harmon immediately called TV stations in Lubbock to see if they had heard of any strange object in the skies over Plainview.

None had.

"I was truly curious if anybody else in the area saw anything."

Harmon was supposed to call the

person at KLBK back after the 10 o'clock newscast, but after telling his two teenage sons and brother-in-law about his encounter, "we got to talking about it and I never called them back."

And what did his family think about his story?

"My 16-year-old (Dustin) said he had never seen me act this way about anything before," Harmon said. "My 18-year-old (John) was kind of looking at me like these farmers have been."

Those farmers were customers at Providence Grain Supply on Tuesday morning when Harmon was telling his story to anyone who would listen.

"I feel like the person on the (TV) program" trying to convince people they saw something. "These farmers are getting a kick out of it, but I know I saw something."

Harmon did a good enough job convincing his boss, Glen Graves, that he saw something. Graves did some research on the Internet and found a picture taken Oct. 16 in Croatia that

Harmon said "was the same-looking deal, just a little fuzzier than what I saw."

Harmon, who moved here about a year ago from Dallas, was married to the late Lisa Daffron, a Plainview native who died July 26, 2005.

"My wife used to be an (astronomy) buff. We had a couple of telescopes."

Harmon is hoping some-

body else in town saw what he witnessed Monday night, if for no other reason, to confirm to disbelieving friends that he, in fact, saw something up there.

"I'm starting to doubt myself a little, but I know I saw something."

(Contact Kevin Lewis at 806-296-1353 or klevin@plainviewdailyherald.com)



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

BOROUGH CHRONICLE, Hounslow, England - Aug. 10, 2006

FORMER PARATROOPER TELLS OF UFO SIGHTING

BY AIDAN JONES

WHEN it comes to UFOs seeing really is believing, as Heathrow Airport worker Michael Coetzee found out.

It was a clear and quiet Christmas Day when the engineer had his encounter with the unknown.

Michael, 48, was driving to work for his 2pm shift and had just turned into Harmondsworth Moor when he saw a spherical silver object hanging motionless in the sky.

"I pulled over and got out of the car straight away. This metallic object was about 200ft up and I could clearly see it was black underneath, with a silver dome on top," said the married father of two, of Hayling Avenue, Feltham.

The object stopped, then in complete silence, made a series of short, jerky movements, before making a quick horseshoe arc, said South African Michael.

"Then it zipped off and I've never seen anything move so fast in my life."

The whole episode lasted for about 12 seconds, but the former military man is absolutely con-

vinced of what he saw. So sure he gestured to his colleague Mohammed Mounir, in the car behind, to stop and look but by the time his fellow engineer had pulled over it was too late.

He immediately recorded what he had seen on a piece of paper and logged the incident with his managers.

"I'd never seen anything like it," said Michael. "At first I thought it must be some kind of military toy, but when it sped off I realised it couldn't be. I never believed in UFOs, but now, if I won the lottery, I would stake the lot that spaceships are definitely watching us."

To some, this is the talk of madmen or pranksters, but Michael is neither.

He is an ex-paratrooper instructor in the South African army, submarine electronics engineer and policeman, and said in his previous careers he was trained to stay composed and be observant of his surroundings.

"The road was clear, so I could stop the car quickly; I got out and studied it for 10-12 seconds, which is quite a long time," he said.

"My training has taught me to focus very quickly on what is going on and I am sure of what I saw."

Inevitably, his bosses were not quite as willing to believe his story.

"Obviously, they fell about laughing and said, 'Michael is seeing little green men' - until then I would have done the same in their shoes. I asked them to check with air traffic control if something unusual had been spotted, but they didn't and eventually I let the whole thing go."

But after reading about Terry Hayley's sighting in the *Chronicle's* sister paper *Skyport* last month, Michael thought it was time to share his experiences.

"I'm sure many other people have seen similar things around here but don't say anything in case they make a fool of themselves," he said.

Have you seen a UFO or do you think it's all a load of nonsense? Email us at newshounslow@trinitysouth.co.uk or write to us at Letters, *The Chronicle*, 93 Staines Road, Hounslow, TW3 3JB.



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: Michael Coetzee thinks other people in the borough may have had similar experiences. Picture: Sam Mukadam

John's convinced we're not alone

by Russell Stoddart

RETIRED policeman John Hanson remembers the date and the exact time of an event which was to totally change his outlook on life.

It left such a lasting impression, he can still vividly picture the moment he saw his first UFO.

The unexplained phenomenon is the inspiration behind him writing a series of five books about UFOs and other spooky goings-on, arguably the most-detailed work on the subject ever in the UK.

The final book of the series, collectively called *Haunted Skies*, has just been completed after years of research.

John, who compiled the book with the help of his partner Dawn Holloway, is now in the process of finding a publisher.

He was sitting in the garden of an Alvechurch pub just over 10 years ago, when a mysterious "globular craft" appeared on the Worcestershire skyline, then suddenly vanished.

"It happened at 9.27pm on June 16, 1996," recalled John, from Birmingham.

Off their trolley

"I can still picture the large object - it looked like two globes bolted together. I couldn't explain it then, and I still can't explain it now."

"My interest in UFOs had been aroused the previous year, when I heard about sightings in the Birmingham region."

"I contacted two police officers I knew and trusted from my days in the force."

His first UFO sighting was to change his life forever

above a local school and, it was so close, he claims to have seen alien occupants aboard.

"Another sighting is that of Margaret Westwood and her husband, Geoff."

"They were among a lot of people who claimed to have spotted a strange-coloured light darting over a golf course in Wentworth in the mid 1970s."

"The difference with them was they also claimed to have handed in a fragment that had fallen from the object."

Evidence

"The couple received a report telling them that the object was made of pure magnesium, but it was never returned to them."

John put his police expertise to good use, gathering eyewitness testimonies, visiting the scenes of UFO sightings, gathering illustrations and photographic evidence.

He added, "I've met hundreds of people who've told me their UFO stories, and hundreds of others have contacted me through e-mails."

"I have black bin liners full of documents and photos of sightings that people said they were going to throw out, because they said no-one would believe them."

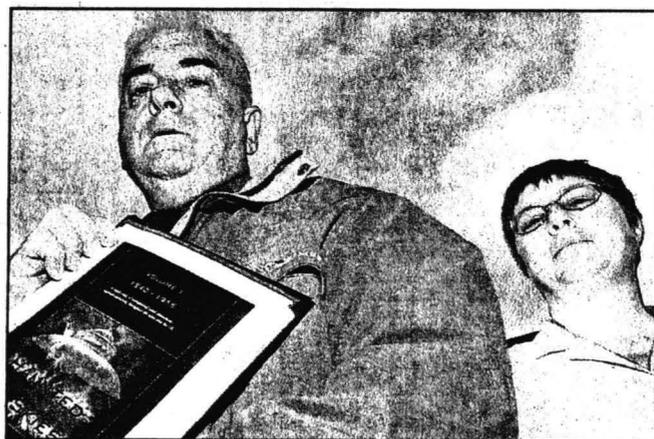
"We decided the best way to present it was to compile the evidence in chronological order."

"There's so much material that it's spread over five books."

"The first book is from 1940 to 1966, the second is 1967 to 1976 and next is 1977 to 1980, a period of a lot of sightings."

"The fourth is from 1981 to 1992, and the last covers the years 1993 onwards."

Anyone with UFO stories can contact John on 0121 445 0340.



Ex-policeman John Hanson with co-author Dawn Holloway of their book *Haunted Skies* at their home in Alvechurch.

EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England - Sept. 1, 2006

Driver spots another UFO in the night sky

Another UFO has been spotted - this time in the skies over Acle.

The *Evening News* reported on Tuesday how two witnesses had seen a UFO in Low Road, Helleston, in the early hours of August 23.

Kerry Neal, of Thorpe St Andrew, spotted a similar silent, hovering aircraft near Acle on Saturday, August 26. "I was coming home from Great Yarmouth on the A47 heading towards Norwich. Just after I passed Acle I noticed some lights in the sky. This was about 10.45pm. It looked like a round shape with different coloured lights around it. I didn't think it was a plane because it didn't move, it was just hovering. I thought it could have been a helicopter but I couldn't hear any noise, then I suddenly lost sight of it."

Karl Smith is convinced many UFO sightings are people spotting a billion dollar tactical reconnaissance aircraft called a TR-3B (code-named Astra). The triangular nuclear powered aerospace platform is rumoured to have been developed under the most classified aerospace development program in existence.

The TR-3B is also reputed to have an outer coating which is reactive to electrical radar stimulation and can change reflectiveness, radar absorption and colour.

Canadian Ufologist Jim Tolton contacted the *Evening News* after reading the article. He said: "I am convinced we are being visited by 20 technically advanced species."

→ If you think you have seen any UFOs in the area, e-mail eveningnewsletters@archant.co.uk

WEEKLY NEWS, London, England - Sept. 2, 2006

The internet is out there for anyone who loves UFOs

BY SIMON BURCH

TOMORROW is World UFO Day, an annual event held on the anniversary of the Roswell incident in New Mexico in 1947, which aims to increase awareness of extra terrestrials.

Ever since its early days, the internet has been a vital tool for those who believe in alien life-forms as they share information among them.

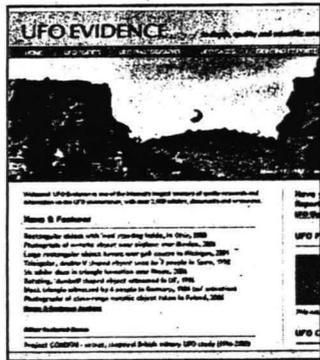
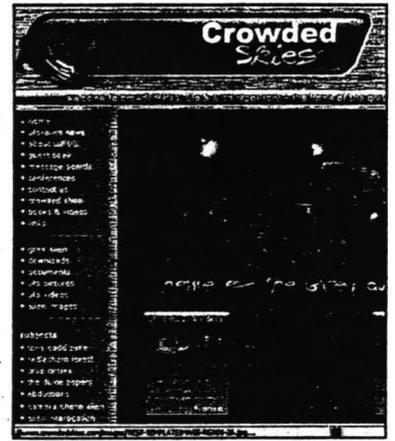
High on their list must be www.ufoevidence.org, which declares itself to be one of the internet's largest sources of quality research and inform-

ation on the UFO phenomenon.

It is certainly comprehensive, and includes the results of studies carried out by some pretty weighty scientific institutions.

It's text-heavy, naturally, so light relief is available at www.crowdedskies.com, which has pictures of UFOs and perhaps the first alien caught on mobile phone camera.

It might convince you, but how about evidence from a weightier source - www.bibleufo.com, which examines why even God himself travels about in a UFO.



NEWS, Luton, England - July 12, 2006

A ballooning in sightings of UFO

by Andy Gayler

AFTER the Luton News reported the 50-year-old mystery of a UFO sighting over Ramridge Junior School it became clear that the town was not alien to the unusual.

Among the many people who made contact with the paper after our front page report were other Lutonians whose lives have never been quite the same since they saw something strange in the sky.

Steve Clark was three years below Bill Dillon at Ramridge Junior School in 1957 when they both witnessed a mysterious flying object in the Luton sky.

Even though they grew up living in the same street, it wasn't until 1982 that the men first met and compared stories, and it wasn't until Bill's version of events featured in the Luton News three weeks ago that Steve decided it was time to make his own story known to a wider public.

"There was something there that startled everybody that day," said Steve, 57. "We were in the playing field of the school. I never saw it arrive or leave, but what I do remember quite clearly was a woman teacher on my right and four or five other kids to my left, and I think we were playing rounders, and everybody just stopped. The teacher



FLASHBACK: Front page story in The Luton News of June 21

looked at us and she had a 'what the hell's that' look on her face. She was a bit alarmed."

Steve said he could see a round object in the clear blue sky, appearing no bigger than a marble at arm's length to his naked eye, hovering in the distance.

The youngster's sighting

was much shorter than Bill Dillon's and he said he never had a chance to see the UFO manoeuvre in any significant way.

And when the retired Lutonian first spoke to Bill in the 1980s about their experiences the older witness said he thought they were talking about two different events.

The main disagreement seemed to be over the shape of the inexplicable sight.

Bill said it was saucer-shaped and Steve described it as round, but UFO researcher John Hanson many years later told them it was much more likely they were both witnesses to the same phenomenon, whether alien, man-made or natural, despite their differing recollections.

One explanation offered at the time, and often used in UFO sightings, was that the Ramridge pupils and teachers all saw a weather balloon.

But Steve said he extensively researched weather balloons as an adult and none of them resembled what he saw.

He also explored the possibility that it was another man-made flying object, such as an airship.

"There had been a lot of airship activity in the town from 1919 until the industry packed up in 1990," he said.

"It could have been an airship coming down nose towards us or it could have been the underside of Bill Dillon's saucer-shaped object, but it's so long ago now no one is ever going to know.

"That day is something that's been in my memory all my life, the same as Bill Dillon, but I remain open-minded about what it was really

"Was it a UFO, was it a balloon? We're never going to know."

HERALD, Abingdon, England Aug. 17, 2006

The harvest of mysterious crop circles in fields

MYSTERIOUS patterns have been cropping up in Oxfordshire fields this month.

First, a 54-foot-wide crop circle was discovered in a field by a church at Toot Baldon, near Garsington, on August 4.

Two days later, a larger and more intricate crop circle was created near Uffington White Horse in a field at Kingston Lisle.

They came only weeks after the world's first 3D crop circle was discovered at Ashbury, near Uffington.

But the days of the strange designs were numbered this week, as farmers were set to harvest the fields.

The design on land near Blowingstone Hill, near Kingston Lisle, was a circle surrounding a five-pointed star, with crops flattened to make a diagonal chequered design inside.

The design was on fields at Little Farm, run by CW Nash. Sheila Nash, of Little Farm, said the field was due to be harvested. "No one really knows what they are. But we haven't seen any aliens. The first we knew of

it was a group of people on the field and it turned out to be some kind of club.

"People have come to see it, but they haven't caused much damage as long as they keep to the tractor lines."

She added: "That field should be harvested soon."

The Toot Baldon design was near St Laurence church. Rev Sandra Miller said: "There must be a logical explanation. I don't see anything sinister or mysterious going on at Toot Baldon church - it's a pretty warm and lovely place that people like to go to and there is nothing here to make people feel uneasy."

Michael Soper, of Wheatley, a spokesman for UFO group Connect International, said: "Some crop circles are so detailed, it appears a projected force has been used to make a picture. It's obvious some of them are a hoax, yet others are so large you can't explain it."

Last month, the world's first three-dimensional crop circle, spanning 360 feet, was discovered near Wayland Smithy Farm, Ashbury.

STAR, Shropshire, England - July 13, 2006

Trying to contact spotter of A5's UFO

I am a retired police officer from the West Midlands, who has been researching into reports of strange phenomena that have taken place in and around the skies of the UK going back to the early 1940s.

I'm wondering if any of the readers could put me in touch with a Diane Foulkes, who was a typist in Shrewsbury during the 1960s. Miss Foulkes was on her way home along the A5 near to Great Ness on November 8, 1966 when she saw a brilliant object radiating beams of light over the road, which left some curious burn marks on the vehicle.

Was this incident connected to local reports of other UFO sightings made by a Mr Griffin who told people that he had seen one of them with occupants near Montford Bridge?

I will say that I have come across many such cases along the A5 over the year involving a similar object. I also seem to remember reports of an object resembling a witch's hat seen by Army cadets at the Army Camp just off the A5.

If anyone can help I can be contacted on (0121) 4450340 or by writing to 31 Red Lion Street, Alvechurch B48 7LG. John Hanson Worcestershire

HERALD, Stratford-upon-Avon, England - Aug. 3, 2006

Was it a UFO seen in our skies?

Report by Dale le Vack

A FORMER headteacher and a vicar, who believe they saw an unidentified flying object (UFO) in the sky above Stratford just over a fortnight ago, have agreed to make statements to Contact International and the Phenomenon Research Association who collate records of sightings.

A well-known researcher into unidentified flying objects in the skies above Warwickshire and Worcestershire has challenged the opinion of the president of the Stratford Astronomical Society that the two men and their wives saw a fireball over the town on Monday 17th July.

Kevin Owen, of Shipston, who describes himself as an experienced UFO researcher, says Stratford Astronomical Society president Steve Smith may have got it wrong when he described the sighting - above a garden in Bridgetown Road - as a large meteor, or shooting star, about the size of a grain of sand which burns

up a few seconds when it hits the atmosphere.

Mr Owen added: "If you get something bigger than that, say the size of a pebble, then rather than leaving a very short, sharp light path, it kinds of burns very brightly and appears as though it's a ball of fire moving through the sky."

Former headteacher Mr Colin McDowall, his wife Jill, and Mrs McDowall's brother, the Rev Michael Hiles, and his wife Janice, were enjoying a late night coffee when they saw an object in the sky at 10.25pm.

Mr McDowall said: "We noticed it in the sky through a gap between the houses. If it had been an aeroplane on

fire, that could perhaps have explained it."

They estimated it may have been around 500 to 1,000 feet above the ground - about the height of a low flying aircraft - and they watched it for at least 12 minutes before it turned at a right angle and started to head west. It was spherical.

Mr McDowall added: "We will be happy to give a statement to Mr Owen. We were somewhat surprised at Mr Smith's explanation because of the change of direction. We have never seen a UFO before and always tended to associate them with the lunatic fringe, but my view has changed now. What aston-

ishes me is that no-one else in Stratford but my family spotted it."

Mr Owen contacted the Herald this week to challenge Mr Smith's opinion. He said: "It made a right angled turn, fireballs do not deviate off course, and it lasted for three or four minutes - fireballs only last for a few seconds, unless they strike the earth. I've heard nothing about a crash or a strike."

Now Mr Owen is hoping to contact the McDowalls to ask them to fill out report forms for research organisations dedicated to the study of space, and unidentified flying objects.

He said his job (part-time) was to provide a serious, scientific study of

the UFO phenomena, to investigate recent sightings in confidence and provide an unbiased explanation, collate, and report new evidence for research groups to discuss and analyse.

Mr Owen belongs to two UFO groups, Contact International, based in Wheatley, and the Phenomenon Research Association based in Derby. A factory worker by day, he scours local radio and newspapers for night for sightings, then tries to track down the witnesses and arrange a meeting with them.

He claims to have seen three UFOs in his lifetime, all in the Shipston area, and all with corroborating witnesses.

Man's plea as family is startled by a 'UFO'

Strange, bright orange ball seen over home

IS anybody out there? That's the question posed by Rotherham UFO sceptic Malcolm Rotchell after seeing a strange object during Sunday's awesome thunderstorm.

The 54-year-old Rotherham resident is a total non-believer when it comes to ghosts, aliens and things that go bump in the night.

But the bright orange ball that "whooshed" over his home in Spring Croft, Kimberworth Park, left him speechless.

He witnessed the strange

'It was an orange light 1000ft up... it seemed to fall and I waited for the explosion'

Malcolm Rotchell

event along with his wife and son...and is now appealing for others to call in if they saw the same thing.

The weird "fireball" shot over his home at about 10.15pm, just after a local powercut caused by the terrific storm on Sunday evening.

"I was in the shower when my son saw it out of the

By Steve Hewitt

window. My wife also saw it out of the bedroom window," said Malcolm, who works for the NHS in Sheffield.

"It was an orange light with an aura to it, maybe 1,000ft up, but I couldn't really tell the size.

"My son thought it was a firework as it whooshed over our house, making that type of noise.

"But as I watched it, waiting for the explosion, nothing happened and it continued travelling in a north-easterly direction.

"Suddenly, it changed direction and flew off pretty quickly to the east towards the Swinton area. It seemed to plummet to earth and I became alarmed.

"I was waiting for an explosion or a muffled bang or something, but there was nothing. It looked like it was crashing so I expected something.

"I have no idea what it was and hope others can call in if they saw anything. Maybe it was an effect of the thunderstorm."

Light balls caused by static in the air have been known to form during electrical storms. If anyone saw the light, email steve.hewitt@sheffieldnewspapers.co.uk or call The Star's Rotherham newsroom on 01709 363488.

steve.hewitt@sheffieldnewspapers.co.uk

Borough's close encounter with third kind



After the unexplained sightings of mysterious flying objects in Wandsworth's skies nearly two weeks ago, a baffled UFO expert has urged more people to come forward to help them discover what they were.

Gobsnacked witnesses watched on in amazement as two sets of bright orange lights flew eerily in formation through the skies above Balham and Tooting on Friday, August 4.

Onlookers tried to capture the action on film and mobile phones as the UFOs lit up for a short while and flew across the sky before shooting up and disappearing into the distance just before midnight.

Experts think the help of more witness accounts may help explain what they were.

Roy Lake, who has been studying UFOs for 50 years

and is the chairman of London UFO Studies, said: "This is a lot more serious than people think it is.

"We have got things flying in the skies, they could be experimental craft, military aircraft or even a terrorist threat.

"Who is to say what they are? Let's find out.

"These objects in the sky do exist and this subject has been going on for many years.

"The more people who come forward on this the greater chance we have finding out what this was."

For the latest local and regional stories visit your-localguardian.co.uk.

Pictured left: Makoto Okuyama, Misako Okuyama and Pete Dacey saw the lights in the sky last Friday.

Deadlinepix GH2545

Is this a UFO over town?

16. AUG. 2006

This is a snapshot from a video of the 'UFO' taken with a street light at the forefront. CNF

ARE UFOs visiting Long Eaton?

For one couple it could describe the mysterious white light hovering across the sky outside their home in Grasmere Road.

EXCLUSIVE by Vicki Eltis

Shop assistant Carol Clarke, 54, said: "I was in bed and from the corner of my eye I could see this big light in the sky.

"I turned to wake my husband, Ged, and when I turned back there were two. One was stationary and the other passed it very closely.

"We went outside to listen, but it was silent. The stationary light then went up and just disappeared."

Since this sighting it has appeared four more times, usually lasting for about 15 minutes.

She added: "I have never seen anything like it. It's frustrating. I've been racking my brains to what it could be. It's eerie."

They recorded the light, which appears more red as it gets closer, on camcorder.

But Long Eaton astronomer Alan Heath, who has not seen the footage, said: "It sounds odd, but it's very unlikely to be anything extra-terrestrial."

He ruled out an Iridium flare, as the satellite only lasts for up to half a minute.

Hovering garden lanterns have also been discounted by chairman of London UFO Studies Roy Lake. He said: "This sounds like an interesting case, especially as there is no sound."

A spokesperson for Nottingham East Midlands Airport said there was no unusual aircraft activity.

The Ministry of Defence refused to reveal if training aircraft had been in the area. A spokesperson said: "We are not aware of any UFO activity."

Anyone who has an explanation or who has seen the lights can call newsdesk on 0115 946 2837.

Do you know the UFO officers?

I WONDER if any Echo readers could help me?

I'm currently trying to locate two police officers, who would now be retired, who were living in police houses at Lytchett Minster, near the St Peter's Finger Garage, in October 1967.

The officers, together with a number of motorists were said to have witnessed the passage of a UFO (illustration, right) over the locality, but were no longer available for comment after reporting



UFO: seen over Dorset in 1967, says John Hanson

the matter to the police headquarters.

Inquiries by a Bournemouth-based UFO researcher revealed they had moved away and no longer wished to be involved.

Does anyone remember this incident, or have any information regarding UFOs that I may refer to in a catalogue of British experiences that my partner and I are currently working on?

JOHN HANSON
31 Red Lion Street
Alvechurch
Worcestershire B48 7LG

Have you heard this UFO story?

I AM hoping that some of your readers might be able to help me with information concerning a Yeovil resident, Mr Payne, who was driving a bulk milk tanker for a Yeovil firm in May 1957, when he happened to park up at Winkleigh airfield in North Devon, and witness the incredible sight of what looked like a submarine with two large fins, resting on the runway.

When he tried to approach the object he was prevented

from doing so by the apparent existence of what he believed to be some sort of force field.

The investigator was Ron Toft. Has anyone heard of this story or know of the whereabouts of Ron Toft or Mr Payne?

If so could they please contact me. My telephone number is 0121.445.0340 and my email: [johndawn@hansonholloway.fsnet.co.uk](mailto: johndawn@hansonholloway.fsnet.co.uk). I am a retired police officer.

John Hanson,
31, Red Lion Street,
Alvechurch, Worcestershire,
B48.7LG

Symposium asks: What if Earth is a penal colony for aliens?

Historians, filmmakers, authors gather at SMU to think outside the box

By Paul Everest - The Daily News

Could Earth be some kind of penal colony for an alien race?

This was one of many fantastic questions brought up yesterday at the New Frontiers Symposium at Saint Mary's University.

Presented by Halifax's Redstar Films Ltd., a company that produces documentaries on subjects ranging from space to classical music, the event brought together an international lineup of historians, authors and filmmakers to discuss everything from space exploration to extraterrestrial life to cryptozoology, the study of animals that are rumoured to exist, such as the sasquatch, but have not been proven.

Although he acknowledges that some of the topics sound "kooky," Redstar Films President Paul Kimball said there is a great deal of science and history behind each idea. For him, the event could be described as a science-fiction convention meeting an academic discussion, with everyone coming away with new ideas.

"There's a huge 'gee-whiz' factor there," he said.

Kimball also spoke at the symposium about evidence supporting and debunking stories about UFO sightings, something he and his colleagues referred to as a "cosmic Watergate." He said these kinds of topics, which may seem strange to some people, are right at home with more conventional subjects, especially since life has begun imitating art as cellphones and computers mimic technology seen in movies.

NOT THE FINAL FRONTIER

The opening to the classic science fiction television series *Star Trek* began with the words, "Space ... the final frontier." While certainly a ringing way to start a television show each week, it's not quite correct. In fact, there are still many "new frontiers" for humanity to explore — some of them "out there," and some of them still "down here." The New Frontiers Symposium will present speakers who have examined various aspects of these "new frontiers," and the implications for humanity's future.

— Mission statement of the 2006 New Frontiers Symposium

"Science fiction is not that far from becoming science fact," he said.

Even cryptozoology is not so far-fetched, he added, when one consid-

ers recent discoveries in Indonesia of creatures never thought to have existed before.

"There are places even on our own planet, frontiers that we still have to explore," he said. "So the possibly does exist that perhaps some of these mythical creatures might actually be real and we might actually discover them someday."

Following Kimball was a presentation from Stanton T. Friedman, an author and former nuclear physicist. His discussion, entitled *Flying Saucers and Physics*, dealt with the realities of aliens visiting Earth from a scientific point of view.

"We have to look at things in the right way," he said, adding that since humans had achieved success in technologies such as nuclear fission, advanced civilizations could have harnessed the power of nuclear fusion, an energy that could get

their ships to Earth, since it can be found in any star.

But Friedman also speculated that this planet could be some extraterrestrial society's version of Australia, or a dumping ground for prisoners, as he considered human civilization to be caught up in "tribal warfare." If that were the case, he said, aliens are probably hanging around to make sure we don't leave the solar system.

"If there's a galactic federation out there, it's probably thumbs down to Earth," he said.

Marishka Brown of Halifax caught most of the presentations throughout the symposium. She said the discussions and lectures opened her mind.

"It's the possibilities that I find fascinating," she said. "And it's romantic to think that we're not alone." peverest@hfxnews.ca

EXPRESS, Wilmslow, England - July 13, 2006

Fresh investigation into Wilmslow UFO

by Betty Anderson

A FRESH investigation has begun into the sighting of an unidentified flying object over Wilmslow 30 years ago.

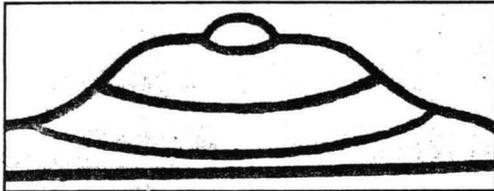
Researchers are going through files from 1966 when the "craft" was spotted by a policeman behind Hoopers on Alderley Road.

The close encounter was by PC Colin Perks who saw the image with his own eyes while on duty in the town centre.

In his report afterwards he says he was checking the back door of a shop at 4.10am on January 7.

At the time he heard a "high pitched whine" and when he turned to look over the car park behind he saw "a solid looking object, stationary, some 35 feet above the grass of the meadow beyond the car park and about 100 yards from where he stood."

"The upper surfaces glowed steadily with a greenish grey colour, a glow that did not hide the definite shape of the object."



THE drawing made by PC Colin Perks from his sighting

The policeman compared the image size with that of a bus estimating the UFO had a diameter of 30 feet for the base.

He said after about five seconds it moved off in an east, south east direction with no change of sound and then disappeared.

Nowhere could he see openings like portholes, he added.

A full report was published in the *Flying Saucer Review* which is the leading and longest established international journal dealing with UFOs and similar encounters and a published case study tells of a "strikingly similar"

sighting a year later in Streatham.

Now files are being updated and researchers want to interview PC Colin Perks for verbal evidence and to contact anyone who might have experienced mysterious goings on during the same night.

Derrick Wood, 74, of Sale, a retired safety consultant, who says he has a keen interest in UFOs said another witness had come forward since the sighting.

"There is to be a website set up so that people can give evidence about this and other sightings which have been recorded in the past.



INTEREST: Derrick Wood

"Someone has been to see the policeman in the case of the sighting in Wilmslow in 1966 and an investigation is going on to find out if there are other witnesses."

He is hoping memories will be jogged and wants any flashbacks to be recorded in full detail. There are no records of the sighting at the Wilmslow Express archive.

EVENING ECHO, Cork, Ireland
July 1, 2006



● Believers in UFOs and anyone who likes a good read will enjoy *A Conspiracy of Silence: UFOs in Ireland* by Dermot Butler and Carl Nally.

UFOs have been sighted in Ireland for more than a hundred years and seen in every county.

In this book the authors present plenty of eyewitness reports, including interviews with pilots and flight engineers who have, until now, been reluctant to speak about their experiences.

Certain places are closely examined, such as Newgrange, where paranormal activity is recorded more often than anywhere else in the country.

This is a good read, whatever your views on the subject.

SENTINEL, Stoke-on-Trent, England - July 28, 2006

Terrified by triangular UFO



SKY WATCHER: Daniel Eaves who saw a UFO above Sneyd Green.

SIR, - The recent report of the 'mysterious object' seen by Dan Eaves was interesting enough, but I think it pales a little compared to a sighting made by my wife and two daughters in Meir Park one autumn night in 1995.

While on our way through the estate bringing our then 11-year-old and nine-year-old daughters home from a pal's house and Brownies, my wife was aware of something stationary and low in the sky above and in front of the car. Upon stopping and getting out to see better, she saw it was a huge dense black triangle with lights at each point, the front one being slightly larger. As she and the girls looked at it she

says it began to move slowly backwards in total silence, then slowly forwards (hence the 'front' larger light). She began to feel scared saying she felt as though it was watching them so jumped back in the car - the girls having remained in the car observing through the windows. As she started the car she saw it leave at an incalculable speed. I have a clear memory of the excited girls drawing what they had just seen and confirming between them that it was "not an isosceles but equilateral triangle".

Before she turned in to our street she saw two police officers out of their car (a phenomenon in itself) looking up to the sky and there was a

helicopter flying around too as she got out the car at home. I looked in The Sentinel for a few weeks after and saw two or three reports of a triangular-shaped UFO, one being by a pilot on his approach to Manchester airport. I had never heard of the triangle phenomenon at that time but over the years since have come to realise it was a valuable sighting and one which I feel sure other folks on Meir Park must have seen even in autumn darkness at 8pm to 8.30pm but, like my wife, did not report it for fear of ridicule.

P HALLAM
Werrington

IRISH SUNDAY INDEPENDENT,
Dublin, Ireland - July 9, 2006

Gardai probe sighting of UFOs

LARISSA NOLAN

UNEXPLAINED flashing lights that illuminated the night sky led gardai to investigate possible UFO sightings over a racecourse last weekend.

Dozens of callers phoned gardai and local radio shows after seeing seven strange bright lights in a triangular shape, spotted for miles around Naas racecourse.

The sightings happened in the early hours of Saturday morning and caused astonishment and confusion. The lights flashed on and off erratically for a period of about five minutes, witnesses said.

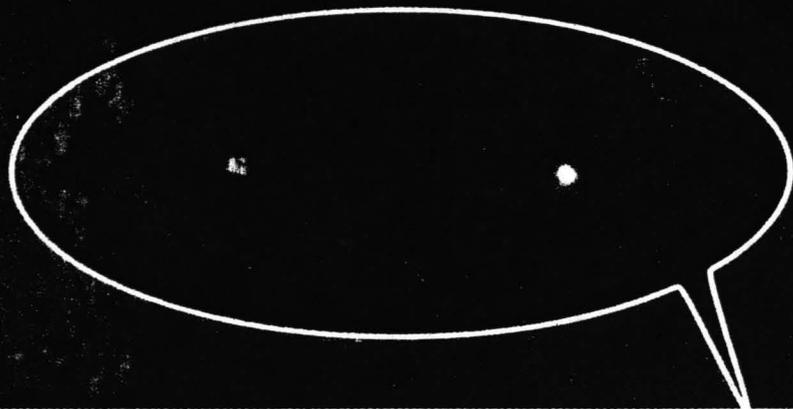
Noel Herbert said: "It went from one light to seven lights and in between. The lights were close enough together and in a kind of V-shape. There was no sound, the lights just kept going on and off."

Another witness, Christy Byrne, reported: "They were very bright lights, about six or seven. At one stage, they all went off and all came back on again. They were too high for all the street lamps and too low for an aircraft. I don't know what it was, I can only say what I saw."

A garda spokesperson said: "There is probably a perfectly simple explanation for it, but we don't know it yet."

The UFO society of Ireland said the sightings had "all the hallmarks" of a UFO. President Betty Meyler said: "Of course, we cannot say that this was definitely a UFO, but it was certainly typical."

Mysterious lights spark UFO probe!

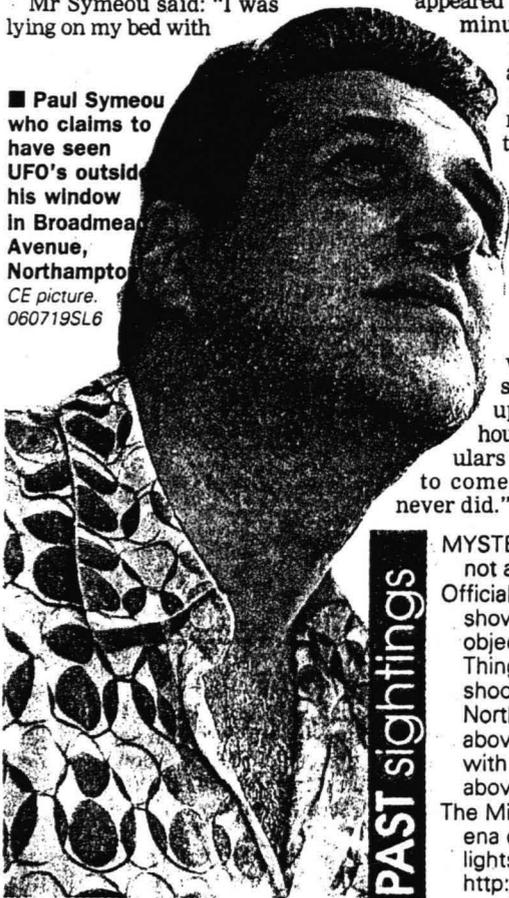


A SERIES of bright coloured UFOs have been spotted hovering above Northampton by two witnesses in the middle of the night.

The cluster of lights were seen 'dancing' in the sky above Broadmead Avenue, Abington by hairdresser Paul Symeou, aged 44, at 11.50pm on Tuesday before being spotted again just ten minutes later by another man in Moulton.

Mr Symeou said: "I was lying on my bed with

■ Paul Symeou who claims to have seen UFO's outside his window in Broadmead Avenue, Northampton
CE picture.
060719SL6



By Wayne Bontoft
"Alien" Reporter

the windows and curtains open because it was so hot when all of a sudden the room turned pink.

"I didn't know what on earth it was. At first I thought it was a helicopter but there was absolutely no noise coming from it and in know helicopters don't have pink lights."

After Mr Symeou watched the lights for a few seconds they disappeared then returned five minutes later.

He said: "I'm 44 and quite level-headed, but I've never seen anything like this.

"They were dancing around the sky, it seemed as if they were looking for something. It was quite eerie.

"After they vanished for the second time I sat up for a couple of hours with my binoculars waiting for them to come back, but they never did."

PAST sightings

MYSTERIOUS lights floating above Northamptonshire are not as rare as some people may think.

Official documents released by the Ministry of Defence show there have been almost 20 sightings of unusual objects passing over the county in the past four years. Things spotted in the sky include two white objects shooting through the air which were seen above Northampton in March 2003, a V-shaped craft hovering above Wellingborough in February 2005 and two crafts with lights streaming from the back of them seen above Corby in February 2002.

The Ministry of Defence believes most of the phenomena can be classed as either natural phenomena or lights from aircrafts. You can report sightings to <http://contactinternationalufo.homestead.com>

While the lights were in the sky, Mr Symeou, who owns the Orius salon in Gold Street, claims they emitted smoke and a beam of light so bright it lit the whole area.

Just minutes after they were spotted in Abington, the lights were seen again in Moulton by a man who reported them to the national UFO group Contact International.

Group spokesman, Michael Soper said: "The man who contacted us was quite shaken by what he saw.

"He described it as an extremely bright light which lit up the whole countryside.

"He said it was travelling extremely fast but was silent and quite low in the sky.

"We've had some remarkable sightings over Northamptonshire over the years but it's odd to get two in one day, especially with photographs."

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) said the sighting would simply be logged rather than investigated.

An MOD spokesman said: "If there was a threat to national security we would investigate but we haven't had anything that we'd consider a threat so these kind of calls are just logged."

wayne.bontoft@northantsnews.co.uk

■ The strange lights in the sky above Moulton snapped by Chron reader Paul Symeou

CE picture by Paul Symeou

Another sighting

Another man has reported seeing a UFO in the Norfolk sky. Yesterday, we reported two people had seen a black triangular craft above Low Road in Hellesdon at 12.20am on Wednesday, August 23.

Ivan Sharp, 37, from Ashmanhaugh, believes he saw a UFO while driving home from work between Salhouse and Wroxham at about 7.20am yesterday.

He said: "It was silver-coloured. I was coming from the east and the sun was reflecting onto it and it was hard to say how large it was. It was reasonably high, but when I got to Wroxham it was gone."

→ Have you seen evidence that aliens are watching us? Email david.bale2@archant.co.uk

EVENING NEWS, Norwich, England - Aug. 30, 2006

Just to say...

Close encounter?

I WAS just wondering if anyone else saw two strange lights in the sky on Wednesday night at approximately 9pm over Wallisdown?

My neighbour phoned me when she first noticed them and myself, two daughters and my husband saw them too.

They were orange, one above the other, a distance apart that stayed the same.

There were no lights flashing as in an aeroplane or helicopter, no noise at all, moving from left to right and then suddenly disappeared. Strange. Could it have been a UFO? Did any of your readers see it, I wonder?

Mrs CLARE BODIE, Julyan Avenue, Wallisdown

DAILY ECHO, Bournemouth, England - Sept. 2, 2006

TRANSLATIONS

[The following translations are all courtesy of Scott Corrales and the Institute for Hispanic Ufology, with translation copyright being retained. Credit for individual contributors will be given at the end of each article. All articles are from South American and other Spanish-language newspapers and media sources.]

September 26, 2006 — *CIUFOS/LAPAMPA*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: NEW CATTLE MUTILATION REPORTS FROM LA PAMPA ***A report from Raul Oscar Chaves, *CIUFOS/LAPAMPA**** — Elements of *CIUFOS/LAPAMPA* traveled to the the Sierras de Lihue ("Sierra of Life") region located 220 km to the south of Santa Rosa, La Pampa, to look into new cases of animal mutilation.

On the way there, at Km 277 of National Route No.35, in the Vicinity of Ataliva Roca, a Polled Hereford calf was found dead and mutilated. On the same route, but at Km 284, a red Aberdeen Angus cow was also found slain and mutilated.

At the "Mari Epu" ranch, located ten kilometers west of the Sierras de Lihue Catel, Puelches jurisdiction, a Polled Hereford bull was found dead and mutilated. Its owner, Bernardo Cueto, told researchers that the find was made known to the local police. The animal's death was estimated at 10 days ago.

The bovine was in good health and presented signs of mutilation in the lower right jaw, missing an eye and ear on the same side of the body, and was found lying on its stomach. Bernardo Cueto manifested surprise when he noted that "the animal appeared on a single print, pitched downward, lying on its stomach as if its legs had slowly given way."

On the return trip, and on the section of road between Quehue and the intersection of Routes No. 35 and Provincial Hwy. No. 18, Jorge Howe, owner of the "Los Corrales" ranch informed local police of the discovery of three black Aberdeen Angus cows, dead and mutilated. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

October 1, 2006 — *Fundacion Cosmos, A.C.*, Monterrey, Mexico — MEXICO: *Fundacion Cosmos* Obtains High Strangeness Photo ***A report from Ing. Marco A. Reynoso*** — [EDITOR'S NOTE: *Fundacion Cosmos A.C.*, under the direction of Ing. Marco A. Reynoso, MUFON State Director for Nuevo Leon, has been among Mexico's most active research organizations, regularly fielding well-equipped expeditions into the Mexican Republic's remotest regions, such as the enigmatic Zone of Silence near Ceballos, Durango. The Paredon Plateau in the state of Coahuila has been an area of frequent research by *Fundacion Cosmos*, given its long history of UFO, paranormal and high-strangeness activity. IMPORTANT - due to the sensitive nature of the image, Ing. Reynoso has asked that the image not be circulated, and while it is in INEXPLICATA's possession at this moment, we will gladly abide by his wishes - SC.]

Dear Colleagues - the following photograph was taken by Ing. Franklin Rojas on July 2, 2006 outside the town of Paredon, Coahuila, on the way to the location known as "Ojo Frio." In this image we may see an EBANI [Acronym for - Unidentified Aerial Biological Entity). The Expeditionary Team of *Fundacion Cosmos* performed field tests and measurements at the site in order to provide greater information about the photograph and the flying entity. This writer performed photometry and color spectrography tests to ascertain the authenticity of said photo only as a support to the material provided, without calling into question its author's credibility at any time. The conclusion reached was the following: The photo is authentic without any hoaxing or trickery. The EBANI is there and according to my calculations it should have measured approximately 20-25 meters long and was flying some 50 meters off the ground.

This photograph was also provided to Mr. Arturo Robles Gil, who submitted the photograph to certain analytical procedures and reached the same conclusion.

Interestingly, Ing. Rojas was not aware of this flying entity when said photo was taken, only afterwards, when he saw it in his Fuji Funpix digital camera.

October 2, 2006 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina and *Planeta UFO* — ARGENTINA: Enigmatic Brealito Lagoon and Recta de Tin-Tin — A mysterious region filled with odd stories and accounts of lights, UFOs and monsters reaches from El Cajoncillo to Brealito Lagoon in the departments of Cachi and Molinos.

The area's landscape, which begins at the very heart of the Los Cardones National Park, assists in letting human imagination run away: the traveler is surrounded by a marvelous landscape at Cuesta del Obispo, runs into Recta de Tin-Tin, crosses the town of Seclantas and reaches the edges of Brealito Lagoon, resembling a landscape from another world. Recta de Tin-rin is a perfectly straight stretch of road that extends for 11 kilometers and forms part of the ancient Inca road network, employed centuries ago to link the various points of the Tahuantisuyo, whose capital was in Cuzco.

In the 1980's, a team from *El Tribuno* made a report on Brealito Lagoon and gathered accounts that have not been forgotten to this very day. At that time, a police officer from Seclantas - now deceased - known as Gringo Guzman, told the detailed story of an apparition that caused him to lose sleep until the end of his days.

An avid fisherman, he would visit the lagoon regularly, as it was only 24 kilometers from his home. At that time, he made ready to spend a night at the edge of the enormous pond, which has a capricious shape and is surrounded by mineral hills and whose southering wing stretches into a rocky defile. He lit his lamp and settled under a gigantic black carob tree (a characteristic species of the area's damp microclimate), with red soil and green thistles. He cast his line and suddenly the waters became agitated. A splashing sound was heard as something large and heavy began to move around. Curiosity got the better of him and he did his best to see what it was; at the border of light and darkness he thought he saw a large dark figure, but the image was fleeting. As he didn't quite understand what had occurred, he calmed himself and prepared to cast his line into the water again, but as he was about to do so, the splashing returned--this time much stronger--and no lamp was needed to see the gigantic figure that emerged scant meters away from him.

Brealito Lagoon

He was able to make out the shape of what he said was a gigantic reptile or "pejerrey" with a scaly back. Horrified, the man ran away, falling several times. Although -- he said -- once he had recovered from the shock, he did his best to calm down and return for his belongings, he found them completely soaked in water, in spite of being 4 meters away from the water's edge, as though swamped by a gigantic wave.

Brealito is surrounded by scattered houses occupied by local residents, no more than 10 of them. Many in Seclantas report that the site is filled with eyewitnesses to very strange events.

Gloria Aban, former national deputy and a member of one of the oldest families in the region, said that: "Brealito is a source of phenomena that have been reported since the dawn of time," adding that there are two key individuals living near the lagoon -- Tomas Pastrana and Estanislao Lopez -- who have seen the monster. Aban is a physician and currently a member of the Provincial Insurance Board.

Mrs. Funes, owner of the "La Rueda" hostelry in Seclantas, claims that executives from the now-vanished COTAS corporation (which was the largest passenger transportation service in the capital 20 years ago) told her of having had an experience similar to that of Gringo Guzman. These businessmen visited the area every year to spend a few vacation days with their families, and after running into the creature, made a quick getaway and never again returned to the site.

They told her that while sitting at the lagoon's edge, the children's attention was drawn by a strange waterspout that was heading toward them. The waterspout made an ululating sound that echoed amid the rocky mountains that surround the lagoon. Amid the water tornado that came out of nowhere on a calm, sunny morning, they claimed to have seen a semi-human figure of colossal size. According to their story, the entity had the figure of a woman covered by a watery veil. It isn't hard to imagine how those people jumped aboard their vehicle and never returned.

Geographer Flavio Aban, who knows the area very well, has attempted to get to the bottom of the area's history and mysteries with the aid of one of his nine brothers, Fido Aban. "...this area contains not only the mystery that concerns you (the journalists). It is also customary for local residents to see strange lights in the mountains, especially the ones toward the west. Large luminous eyes that cover the area without their origin ever being determined. No one can deny that there isn't at least one mysterious presence living under the waters of Brealito, or that something unknown is taking place there. We have determined the existence of strange movements in the water, which repeat frequently at dusk. These movements cannot be due to a current, unless it is a source of energy that comes from the depths. Furthermore, the lagoon's waters are brackish, have a strange mineral taste, and their true depth has never been ascertained."

Walter Aban, mayor of Seclantas (a distant relative of Gloria, Fido and Flavio), does not believe in the monster, but agrees that inexplicable things do happen in the area. "Look, anyone traveling between Salta and Seclantas knows that strange lights appear in the sky from the Recta de Tin-Tin onwards. Are they UFOs? I don't know. But I can assure it's no fantasy."

Aban's words were confirmed by another area mayor, Hector Legoburo of Payogasta. "It's true, the Recta de Tin-Tin is a mysterious place at night. The lights that can be seen crossing the skies overhead are not a product of human engineering. Traveling from Salta to Payogasta I witnessed, I was tailed by a luminous object for a number of minutes. The people with me thought it was the lights of a construction vehicle, but it was impossible for a wheeled machine. And when the glare became brightest, we saw it vanish into the sky. I have no explanation for this." — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

October 2, 2006 — *Fundacion Cosmos, A.C., Mexico* — Thoughts Regarding Paredon Entity (EBANI) from David Lara Cervantes — Those of us who live in Coahuila know that the Paredon Region, right up to "La Muralla" (part of the mountain range) is a hot zone as regards paranormal events and UFO sightings. There was a time when people traveling along the Saltillo-Monclova road would mention a half-man, half-horse creature. UFO sightings at Hacienda de Guadalupe are also common. A couple with whom I spoke told me of the following experience.

They did business in the "los ranchos" region when one day, at noon under clear skies, they decided to stop for lunch at Hacienda de Guadalupe. They were eating inside their pickup truck when they heard a buzzing sound and realized that a silvery orb was directly over their vehicle. They watched it for a few seconds until the sphere "suddenly rose" and both eyewitnesses passed out. They woke up a few hours later and fled the area. They were simple people and to them, the event was merely "an apparition." I never mentioned to them the possibility that they could have been abducted.

Fireballs, which tradition maintains are witches in flight, are also a common sight.

What is unusual is that these events take place during given periods of time (what insiders would term "waves") and the EBANI's apparition coincided with a UFO wave taking place in southern Coahuila (Mexico). The week before last, a Saltillo newspaper published a photograph of a UFO, which I am trying to secure. — CREDIT: Ing. Marco A. Reynoso

October 2, 2006 — *OVNI.NET* — Puerto Rico: Camuy Girl Terrified by Hairy Creature Materialization — Location: Camu — Date: An evening between September 19-22, 2006 — Time: Between 10:30 and 11:00 PM — Witness: Daughter of a paranormal researcher in Puerto Rico (names on file with *Ovni.net*) — Age: 7 (researcher describes child as being serious and mature for her age; not given to falsification) — Brief Description: A set of red eyes came in through the window and materialized into a hairy creature beside the girl. Upon materialization, its estimated height was 5 feet 6 inches (judging by the girl's mother's height), all hairy "like lions" (black fur), human shaped mouth with dirty canine-like teeth, pointed ears like those of a dog, hairy human hands with canine-like nails (claws), human feet. It growled, was unclothed, and tried to grab her. The entity did issue any odor or stench. No temperature changes were reported.

Brief Summary: At around 10:30 to 11:00 PM, the girl's mother (the fiancée of a well-known paranormal researcher), told the girl to go to her grandparents bathroom to brush her teeth and go to bed. The girl went out of the room in search of her mother, terrified and weeping, trembling with fear. She told her mother that "the Chupacabras" was in her grandparents' room and had tried to seize her. After the mother calmed her down, the girl told her what happened: she entered her grandparents' room (which has a window facing a school - eastward exposure) and was about to open the bathroom door when she saw red eyes drift into the window.

The eyes materialized on her right into something she described as having her mother's height (5'6"), hairy all over like a lion (black fur), man-shaped mouth with dirty canine-like teeth, pointed ears like those of a dog, hairy human hands with canine-like nails (claws), human feet. It growled, was unclothed, and tried to grab her. She started to run and scream. When she ran toward the bedroom's exit, the creature followed, making as if to grab her. She shut the bedroom door behind her and ran to her mother. The paranormal researcher interviewed the child several times and her statement of the facts did not change; it was obvious that remembering the events inspired fear. When Lucy Guzman interviewed the mother and child two weeks later (October 2, 2006) the girl retold her experience calmly and the version of the events was identical to the mother's. Guzman inquired if any good or bad odors had been present, and the girl replied that "it neither smelled nor stank." Guzman asked if the room had grown hot or cold, and the girl replied that the air conditioner had been on at the time, remaining at the same level of coolness throughout.

Comments: The child reported having felt something watching her earlier, but was unaware of what it could be. The mother (a serious young woman) is sensitive and has clairaudient and clairvoyant abilities. It appears that the child has inherited this gift).

Note: The researcher has a sketch of something similar to what the girl reported seeing. It was a case from many years ago in the same area. The report and sketch appeared in the defunct *El Mundo* newspaper. At the time, residents of the site had gone out to find the creature, but could not find it. The researcher will try to find this information (on microfilm) and will print it to show to the child and confirm if that is what it saw.

Reported by: Mother and daughter to the anonymous researcher, mother and daughter to Lucy Guzman,

October 3, 2006 — *El Pais* (www.elpais.com.uy) and *Montevideo Portal* (www.montevideo.com.uy) — URUGUAY: FAMILY SEES UFO OVER SANTA LUCIA — Mystery - "it was a round structure, silent and suspended in the air," recalls the young man, who now finds it hard to sleep

It was August 7 at 1:30 a.m. - Nico, as he is called by everyone, was returning from downtown Santa Lucia along Rodo Street on his bicycle. When Nicolas Diaz reached the railroad tracks and was about to cross them, he saw some strange lights in the field and thought they belonged to a patrol car. "I thought they were running someone down," he said.

However, when he came within 100 meters of the apparition, he found an object he had never seen before. A round structure, with lights, suspended a meter over the ground and completely silent.

Nicolas had a fright, but phoned his parents to share the experience--and above all, so he wouldn't be dismissed as insane the next day.

From the roof of his house, the parents were able to see the UFO for some twenty minutes. "First it was still and then it started moving into the fields like this," explained the boy, making sliding gestures.

Some time later, he was the only one who was willing to tell his story to the press. He says the fear is still with him and that he has visions of the craft whenever he falls asleep. "If I see a shooting star, I already think its a UFO."

He is much more calm now, because he learned that others had already had UFO experiences in that field. "There are fishermen who work the river and have seen them." In any event, he laments not having been able to take a picture of it with his cellphone or having phoned the local cable company. That will be the next time he steps into Santa Lucia's unknown dimension. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero

October 4, 2006 — www.analuisacid.com.mx — MEXICO: Alleged Flying Entity Recorded Over Nuevo Leon — ***A report from Ana Luisa Cid*** — On May 17, 2006, renowned Mexican research group *Ovni Club Nuevo Leon* was holding a meeting in the northern area of Cerro de las Mitras when they had the chance to witness a strange figure crossing the skies.

The image was captured by the camera of Diana Perla Chapa (the group's founder-director) and by Jose Ramon Villareal (member).

The alleged entity flew at constant speed, always at the same altitude, making a sudden 90 degree movement heading toward Cerro de la Silla, flying from north to south and subsequently from south to east.

During a close-up of the image, researchers noted that it appears to have a "dog" or "sheep" in its hands, according to Diana Perla Chapa's report. Witnesses state that total silence reigned over the area; not even crickets were audible.

Ovni Club Nuevo Leon presents 4 possible explanations for this event:

1. It could be some kind of man-made experimental device undergoing tests
2. It could be an abnormal entity that made itself visible due to a "reduction in its vibratory frequency"
3. An extraterrestrial entity flying a means of conveyance
4. A witch

Ovni Club Nuevo Leon and Diana Perla Chapa have a good reputation for credibility, and for that reason I dismiss the possibility that a hoax could be involved. Upon inspecting the 4 minute-long video, a strange figure can be seen, appearing to wear a cloak and hood.

As background information, there have been reports in Nuevo Leon of unknown flying entities, the most relevant case being that of the "witch" reported by police officer Leonardo Samaniego.

Unless research proves otherwise, it is very likely that this is among the best Mexican evidence illustrating the "flying entity" phenomenon. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

October 5, 2006 — *Diario 21*, Guerrero, Mexico — MEXICO: UFO Sighting in Guerrero witnessed by Red Cross Personnel — 4 UFOs over Taxco in Broad Daylight — Taxco - For 20 minutes, four unidentified flying objects (UFOs) appeared over the city, traveling in a northeast to south direction as the sun shed its last few rays over the city, at 19:00 hours last Monday, according to several residents.

At 19:10 hours, [a UFO] appeared for over two minutes in a "somewhat" descending form, and as it vanished into the distance, three more objects appeared from the opposite direction, as though they were about to collide, said Fernando Zaga, a resident of Los Jales. "The ones who recorded the UFO were Red Cross personnel. I saw them loading their camera," he said, adding, "several of us saw the vehicles, even with a certain amount of fear."

Miguel Angel Saenz Ocampo, a rescue worker of the international organization, when interviewed this morning by *DIARIO 21*, noted that after having witnessed the event, "only two more objects appeared from the same direction and one more, traveling from one side to another."

He added that the event "the likes of which he'd never seen before" had an approximate duration of 20 minutes.

Antonio Gomez Castrejon, also a member of the Red Cross, showed the reporter the images taken with his camcorder after the UFOs had appeared.

He rejected the possibility that they could have been airplanes, as no wings were visible, adding that they had a semi-oval shape, "somewhat rounded," made no noise, and [flew] at an estimated speed of 600-800 kmh.

"Airplanes fly along a defined route from which they do not stray unless they have been hijacked or experience mechanical failures," he stated. "Nor do they cross paths with one another, much less pretending to collide." The images were taken from "the best angle" of the Red Cross facility, accompanied by two rescue workers.

Sergio Miguel Sandoval, a resident of La Florida, claimed having seen those objects that "seemed to travel from Cuernavaca to Iguala, or from the community of El Azul to Taxco el Viejo."

Gomez Castrejon said that his video will be shown in its entirety in the "Mitos, Leyendas y Enigmas" show that is broadcast on Saturdays on Landavision's news program, produced by Joaquin Cadena, by cable television. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

October 6, 2006 — www.analuisacid.com.mx — MEXICO: PILOT REPORTS UFO — According to a report by Mexican researcher Alfonso Salazar, Captain Luis Guillermo Cruz, first officer of a Boeing 737-200, registration XA-MAR, reported a tubular unidentified flying object with a metallic appearance directly over Lake Tequesquitengo in the Mexican state of Morelos.

The sighting occurred on September 16, 2006 at 14:00 hrs. during a flight from Huatulco to Mexico City along air corridor L-47. Weather conditions were clear with some clouds.

According to the witness, he was alerted by an intense reflection visible four miles away from the airliner, toward the right side of the cabin. At first he thought it could be a glider, but as they approached, he had a clear observation of an unknown object.

He added that the tubular flying object crossed at the same altitude the airliner was flying, but in the opposite direction and with a north/south trajectory, remaining a mile and a half distant from the airliner.

The object vanished 4 minutes later. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

October 7, 2006 — *20 Minutos*, Spain — SPAIN: ORANGE LIGHT FLIES OVER GRANADA — It was seen at midnight over Avenida de la Constitucion by a dozen people. Astrophysicists believe that it is not a meteorite. Defense sources claim that no vehicle belonging to the Ejercito del Aire flew over the city's airspace at that time.

The object seen was shiny and rounded: "It was fixed in the sky and then began moving to the right." These are the words of one of the people who, at 12 midnight yesterday, were astounded as they looked skyward from Avenida de la Constitucion.

A round, shiny orange light remained overhead for five minutes. It later adopted a triangular shape and went away until it vanished. Dozens of Granadans Viewed the event in astonishment. After a while, one witness saw and heard the transit of a jet airplane flying at low altitude. "It flew by twice."

However, neither Granada Airport nor the Instituto de Astrofisica de Andalucia, headquartered in Granada, are aware of this event. Pablo Santos, a scientist with the aforementioned institute, has examined the images sent to "20 Minutos" by one witness and believes the phenomenon could be an atmospheric reflection. The expert dismisses the possibility that it could be a meteor shower or a meteorite. Antonio Salinas of the Sociedad de Investigaciones Biofisicas in Granada, agrees with this perception: "A meteorite does not remain static for several minutes," adding: "In military circles, interceptors are immediately put on alert whenever an unidentified aircraft is sighted within the air space."

"It was nothing known; not even an airplane," declared Eva Martin cuttingly. She was one of the persons who witnessed on Tuesday midnight how an orange light stopped in front of [her] home's terrace, changed shape and vanished. Other readers have advised "20 Minutos" of having had similar sightings elsewhere in the city.

"The fact that the orange light remained in the same spot for some minutes and then moved is a sign that we are facing a genuine UFO." These are the words of Rafael Casares, an expert in this type of phenomena, who describes the province as being a "sightings hot spot."

"Perhaps what concerns me more than the light is the fact that we heard a military aircraft and that no one explained to us what we saw," says Martin, who was in the company of four other individuals who witnessed "how the light vanished over Torres Bermejas." — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

October 10, 2006 — *CIUFOS/LA PAMPA*, La Pampa, Argentina — Argentina: Unusual Light Reported over Santa Rosa — At 21:05 hours on October 10, 2006, residents of the Quintas Sur Sector, located between Santa Rosa and Toay, reported seeing a great light which vanished unexpectedly.

According to witnesses, upon leaving their home and remaining outside, chatting on the sidewalk, they saw how "a luminous spot appeared suddenly out of nowhere" appearing static for several minutes. It then "increased its size gradually until it reached a dimension or volume 10 times greater than the planet Venus at that hour."

The witnesses also noted that after having reached that size, "the luminosity began to contract, initiating a slow movement in a south-southeastern direction until it vanished."

The sighting had a duration of 10-15 seconds and the luminosity was "orange/yellow in color, with irregular borders like waves" and was located some 75 degrees over the horizon. Witnesses added that the light source "gave the impression of having rotated and aimed its light toward where they [the witnesses] were standing, prior to beginning its movement."

The witnesses (a man and a woman) are competent adults, living in the aforementioned sector of the capital city of La Pampa. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

October 10, 2006 — *Cuyo Noticias*, Argentina — ARGENTINA UFO REPORTED OVER POTRERO DE LOS FUNES by Pablo Oro — The event occurred on Sunday around 21:00 hours and was seen by a group of people that included employees from the Hotel Potrero de los Funes. They claim having seen a large silver light the size of a car over Ouebrada de los Condores. A couple who owns a crafts shop in the Hotel was the first to see the object. They later informed everyone else in the lodging and the sighting was shared by all.

"They all saw it - the reception desk crew and some people who were also staying at the hotel," said the man named Juan Torres.

According to the report, the UFO "was over the mountain for over 20 minutes and since the night was clear, it was easily seen."

They initially speculated that it was an airplane, but given the object's passivity and its light, they realized they were looking at something else.

"A light appeared suddenly and was surrounded by other lights. It seemed to head toward the hotel, but it remained stationary and then began turning on and off. Its intensity increased and decreased until it extinguished itself, leaving only a mark in the sky," said another hotel employee. — CREDIT: David Lara Cervantes, *Fundacion Cosmos*

October 13, 2006 — *www.analuisacid.com.mx* — MEXICO: Possible UFO over Puebla — A photo [was] taken by renowned Mexican journalist Jose Luis Moreno Reyes in Puebla, Mexico, on October 4, 2006.

According to Mr. Moreno's account, he was at Kilometer 40 on the Atlixco-Izucar de Matamoros highway, ready to take photos of that section of road, since he was planning to write an article for his website about the paranormal events that have taken place in that area.

The time was approximately 11:45 AM and as he was about to take a photo of an "ahuehuete" tree, he noticed that the sun's rays were shining off a flying object. He then decided to move to the center of the road to see it better and secure the evidence.

Jose Luis Moreno took two photos of the possible UFO and others where the cars on the road do not allow for good visibility. He used a Canon PowerShot A-310 camera. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid



MONSTER MOVIE



The (Kankakee) Daily Journal/Mike Voss

Chicago filmmaker Steve Zagata films a fun sequence of Du Pont monster actor Hunt Mossell of Cullom putting a grip on David Childress, producer of a planned film on the creature of local legend.

Small-town filmmaker to focus on Seneca's version of Bigfoot

CHARLES STANLEY

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People who have heard of the Du Pont monster, the Seneca area's version of Bigfoot, but have never seen him may not have much longer to wait.

The creature may soon be on the silver screen in a film in production.

Plus, some of the filming is planned for the Seneca area, and local residents may have a chance to participate.

"The Du Pont Monster" is, in fact, the name of the movie," says Dave Childress, the movie's mastermind, who lives in Kempton.

Kempton is a small town of a couple of hundred people about midway between Pontiac and Kankakee.

"They don't get much smaller than Kempton," says Childress.

Once a larger railroad town, among the few businesses remaining there are a bar and a book shop — the bar being Childress's Sgt. Pepper's Bar and Grill and the book shop being his Adventures Unlimited Bookstore.

"The bookstore is really quite well know," says Childress. "We sell kind of unusual nonfiction books. Books on the Knights Templar, UFO books, real life X-files books, mind control, conspiracy, paranormal and crypto-zoology books." That last category includes Bigfoots.

Last year, a Times story about Seneca area Bigfoot sightings spawned a story in the Chicago Tribune, which Childress read.

Stan Courtney, of Pawnee, an investigator for the California-based Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization has researched Bigfoot sightings in the Seneca area. Two of the encounters took place in June of last year, while the others happened in 1983 and 1979.

But what is popularly called Bigfoot, Seneca locals have for decades been calling the Du Pont monster. Over the years sightings have placed the "monster" on Du Pont Road south of the Illinois River.

"These animals are everywhere where there's adequate habitat," Courtney said Friday. "There's nothing unusual or special other than that perhaps people in Seneca talk about it. There was a sighting last spring at Starved Rock State Park, but the guy is a businessman and he doesn't want a report written up."

Courtney estimates that only 10 per cent of all Bigfoot sightings are researched.

Courtney said around Kankakee is another area where he suspects there is a Bigfoot population.

"Anywhere there is water and a big deer population. They have to eat something in the winter."

There have been no new Bigfoot sightings in the Seneca area, Courtney said. And as far as the film is concerned, he worries the attention may drive Bigfoots away.

"The sad thing is these animals are not monsters, and that's what's always played. The animal part and the fear part."

Childress said he is a Bigfoot believer.

"However, to tell the truth, the Du Pont monster stories seemed a little bit far-fetched," said Childress.

But last year, he and his wife drove to Seneca and ended up doing their field research with the bartender and patrons of Jack and Lovey's tavern on Main Street.

"We were convinced that something was going on there. The stories they told were cautious, but credible. It all made sense. I mean, I went there a skeptic but left a believer."

Earlier this year, Childress and friend Steve Zagata, a Chicago

filmmaker, decided to make a movie starring the Du Pont monster. About a month ago preliminary filming was done in Seneca to get some footage together for a seven-minute promo demo of the film to screen at an upcoming film festival in Chicago.

Childress's plan is to do the majority of filming in spring.

"It will be a 90-minute movie with special effects. Of course, we have a Bigfoot costume all ready."

"I'm not going to tell you the whole plot, but the Bigfoot's not going to be the bad guy — he turns out to be a good guy. There will be a bad guy. There's an element of the script like the 'Blair Witch Project' and there's a little bit of a 'King Kong' aspect. There's also this cabin in the woods that they find and in it are some kind of weird cult things. I think that's all I should say right now."

He plans to use his bar in Kempton as a stand in for Jack and Lovey's, but other filming will take place near Seneca and Kankakee.

For one part he would like some documentary style interviews with locals who have had Du Pont monster experiences.

"We would like to hear any real stories."

People who want to be in the movie also are being sought.

"We would like locals. We have a couple of tall people to be the Du Pont monster, but we still have not cast the main players, one of which will be a young actress that will be the star. We realize that we need a cute girl in a tank top running around screaming with Bigfoot after her, so we're looking for that gal."

Childress can be phoned at (815) 253-6390 or e-mailed at auphq@frontiernet.net. The Web site for his bookstore is www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com.

DAILY OKLAHOMAN, Oklahoma City, OK - Aug. 3, 2006

'Bigfoot' talk stirs town, sparks search

By Penny Cockerell, Staff Writer

CANEY — Nothing attracts a crowd like a good mystery, especially when it involves something tall, furry and elusive. That is what happened in Atoka County after news spread of sightings in the tiny town of Caney.

Wednesday, a team of eight experts arrived to search for and, hopefully, capture the creature they call Bigfoot.

"I didn't travel 2,300 miles for nothing," said C. Thomas Biscardi of Menlo Park, Calif., who has spent the last 33 years in search of Bigfoot.

Biscardi and his team descended on Caney first to interview Jackie Marlow and siblings Morgan and Garrett Whatley, who all are convinced they saw a strange creature, known locally as the Boggy Bottom Monster.

Their two episodes of sightings happened within the last two weeks, a few days apart.

Marlow and the Whatleys never called what they saw "Bigfoot." But the name matches the description of a creature that has eluded believers for decades. And the chase has attracted determined folks like Biscardi, who are convinced they'll capture one someday.

"This is what I do for a living," Biscardi said in a phone interview with *The Oklahoman* on Wednesday. "The Bigfoot hunter is here in town, and we'll get to the bottom of this before the end of the day."

Interest in the creature has disrupted this town of about 200 people. Everyone is talking about the sightings. Some have even gone too far by fabricating photos of a tall, bearish-looking creature fleeing in the heavily wooded area near Clear Boggy Creek.

"We've had a lot of calls from all kinds of people from all over, and it has taken over the whole town. It's been an interesting sociological phenomenon. I've never seen anything like it."

Kevin Hilley, news editor, Atoka County Times

County Times. "It's been an interesting sociological phenomenon. I've never seen anything like it."

Biscardi says he has seen Bigfoot five times throughout the decades. His most recent sighting was 10 miles north of Paris, Texas, which is 75 miles south of Caney.

That sighting and his belief that Bigfoot migrates brought Biscardi to Atoka County, where he interviewed Marlow and the Whatley siblings. He said he showed photos of his sightings to Marlow, which made her ill.

Marlow previously suffered an anxiety attack and needed medical treatment after seeing the creature while smoking a cigarette on her front porch. Biscardi said his photos reminded her of her sighting to the point of throwing up.

"I talked to this woman, and she has seen something," Biscardi said. "Until we came out here it was fun and carnival time, and now that we're here they're taking it seriously."

Biscardi believes about 3,500 of these creatures exist and that they migrate south to north in packs. He figures the timing of his encounter in Lamar County in Texas coincides with them traveling north in time to be spotted in Caney.

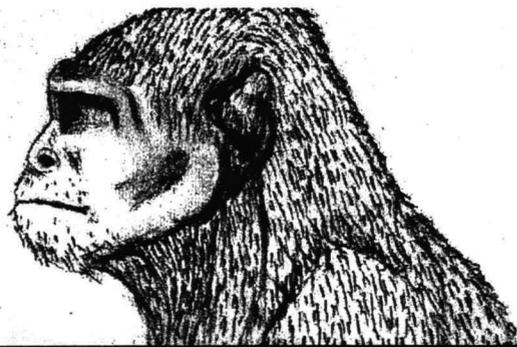
Wednesday, Biscardi and his team armed themselves with equipment and confidence and scoured the woods around Caney to try to capture one of them.

Team member Bob Schmalzbach thinks they found a lair. He said they found a spot in the woods where something — not a known animal — had built something like a half-tent using woven branches and leaves. He said they found what could have been dried footprints, but they weren't distinguishable enough to tell. They also found broken branches and partially eaten fruit.

So the search continues. "We're on our way to Paris (Texas) and hopefully we're going to capture one down there," Biscardi said.

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BIGFOOT BEWARE



Volunteers repair damage to the nation's only known Sasquatch trap

By PAUL FATTIG

Mail Tribune

APPLEGATE LAKE — Dave Enge and Jeff LaLande figure they are following in some mighty big footsteps.

They point to the hefty 12-inch wide and two-inch thick planks that form the ceiling, floor and four sides. Then there's the heavy expanded metal grate and telephone poles that anchor the 10-foot by 10-foot wooden cage to the ground.

"I don't know how they carried them up here," LaLande observed. "Back in the days when they built this, it was still fairly remote. You had to hike all the way up from the Applegate River at that point."

Perhaps, it went unsaid, the builders of the legendary Bigfoot trap in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest had a little help from a large hairy fellow.

Despite the fort-like strength its 1974 builders apparently felt was necessary to nab the elusive Sasquatch, age has taken its toll. The floor planks have nearly rotted through and rot has punched a hole through one side.

And a ponderosa pine tree some 2 feet in diameter at the base was uprooted by a storm earlier this year, narrowly missing the trap but taking with it a roughly 10-inch in diameter madrone tree that struck the trap's northwest corner.

"The madrone collapsed part of the roof, which was already heavily deteriorated," explained LaLande. "The roof was no longer doing its job of protecting the planks."

Enge, a retired industrial instrument repairman from Albany, is a volunteer in the U.S. Forest Service's Passport In Time program, which enables folks to work on supervised projects during the summer. Although most PIT projects focus on historic or archaeological sites, the Bigfoot trap falls under the program because it is very unusual, LaLande explained.

"Even though this is not historic yet, it is unique in the country," he said, noting it is believed to be the only one in the nation.

In addition to restoring the Bigfoot trap, the PIT crew is putting a new cedar shingle roof on the historic tack room near the Applegate Ranger District office. Besides Enge, the volunteers, all veterans of other PIT projects, include Dana Gaab of North Bend, Marc Herring of Sandy and Charlie Vincent of Myrtle Point.

For further information on PIT projects, check out www.passportintime.org on the Web.



Mail Tribune / Jim Craven

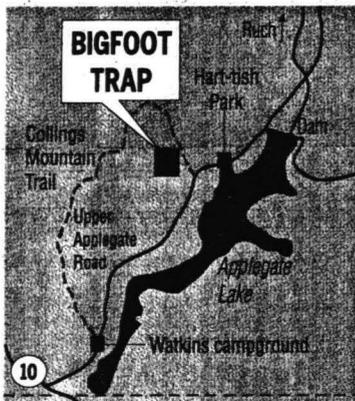
Volunteer Dave Enge, left, and forest archaeologist Jeff LaLande work on the 32-year-old Bigfoot trap near Applegate Lake, a project for the U.S. Forest Service's Passport In Time program. The sketch at top is based on a Bigfoot sighting by William Roe and Myrtle Walton on Mica Mountain, Ariz., in 1955, according to the Web site www.bermuda-triangle.org.

Where to find it

The Bigfoot trap is about 26 miles south of Medford. To reach it, take Highway 238 west to Ruch, then turn left on the Applegate Road to the Applegate Dam. Drive past the dam and the Hart-Tish Park entrance.

Stop several hundred feet past the park at the Collings Mountain Trailhead on the right. It's marked by a sign, with a footprint insignia on it.

After hiking about half a mile you will come to a fork in the trail at a dilapidated old shelter. The trap is about 200 feet up the trail on the left.



Mail Tribune

Located along the Collings Mountain Trail a half mile west of Applegate Lake, the trap was built by the long defunct Eugene-

based North American Wildlife Research Team with a special use permit. The group was attracted to the area after a miner named

Vandals have etched their names in the wood over the years. "Bigfoot '05," reads one. "Free Satch," adds another.

Enge, 63, reared in Coos Bay, had heard tales about Bigfoot as a youngster. But the trap was new to him.

"They must be crazy," he said of his first reaction to learning about it. But he and the others working on restoring the trap are dead serious about their work. Before they began, forest sawyer Cliff Snaveley and a fire crew cleared the trail and bucked up a portion of the pine, cutting seats

Perry Lovell found 18-inch human-like tracks in his garden near the Applegate River. The creature reportedly had a 6-foot stride.

The trap caught no Bigfoot in its six years of operation before the Forest Service bolted it open in 1980 because of safety concerns.

When the trap was built, the Applegate Dam was yet to be built and the road was on the opposite side of the river, LaLande said.

"They were very serious about it," he said. "It wasn't a joke to them. It was the real deal. They had the Bigfoot fever and wanted to catch one."

"They hung a rotting deer carcass or something up in the back of the trap," he added. "When Bigfoot grabbed it, the trap door would fall and send an electronic signal down at the cabin."

He was referring to the "watchman's" cabin several hundred feet back down the trail. The moss-covered wood shelter is now settling into the forest duff.

"It seems a bit too close for comfort if you expected Bigfoot to show up," LaLande quipped.

Although nothing was caught except for a couple of bears, LaLande knows there are still believers out there. Moreover, the trap draws hundreds of curious people each year.

"It's known far and wide," he said. "We've even had a French-speaking television crew from Montreal come all the way out here."

into the tree which lies on the southwest side of the trap.

In addition to rebuilding a portion of the frame this week, the PIT crew will put on a new roof, replicating the boards and roofing which had originally been used.

"One of these days the trap will go the way of all things," LaLande said, referring to the natural decay of wood. "But this will help preserve it."

Reach reporter Paul Fattig at 776-4496 or at pfattig@mailtribune.com

Lawndale's big bird returns — in print

Man who claims to have seen giant critter is writing book about them

BY ERIN CLARK
THE COURIER

Lawndale resident Marlon Lowe traveled nearly 40 yards — by bird.

The then 10-year-old was picked up in giant talons and nearly carried away 29 years ago today.

According to The Courier's account from July 26, 1977, two birds with wingspans of 4 to 6 feet attacked Lowe, and one of them caught the boy by the shirt and lifted him about a foot into the air.

"He's probably the luckiest kid in the world" that the bird only grabbed onto his shirt and not his flesh, said John Walker, a Danville resident who told The Courier Monday he also saw the bird.

Marlon's mother told The Courier at the

time that the 65-pound boy screamed and punched at the bird until it dropped him. She and other adults who witnessed the attack said the birds were black with bands of white around their necks and long, curved beaks.

She said local law enforcement agents didn't believe her after she called them out to investigate.

Several other sightings of a pair of giant birds occurred in the area over the next few days. A Tuscola man, "Texas" John Huffer, even captured a giant bird on film as he fished at Lake Shelbyville five days after the Lawndale attack. A still frame from the film-ran in the Tuscola Journal Aug. 2 of that year.

"These birds are a very prehistoric-looking bird," said Walker, who spotted one in 1977. "You're absolutely not believing what you're seeing because of what you've been taught

about evolution."

Walker was hunting with a friend one afternoon in 1972 near Danville. As they walked along the railroad tracks in the still afternoon air, the giant bird floated on the breeze ahead of them.

"There was no mistaking what we saw," Walker said. "The bird that I saw, the wing was so wide it blended in with the tail feathers."

A "giant eagle" was the closest Walker could relate the creature to a known species.

"This is just the most bizarre thing that ever happened to me in my life," he said.

Walker has copyrighted a drawing of the bird, and he's also in the process of writing a book about them.

Walker said he and his friend didn't tell



anyone about the giant bird they saw at first. They were teenagers at the time, and he said they didn't think anyone would believe them.

"The only reason I've come out with this story now is I believe I have all the facts," Walker said. "I've had some health problems over the last few years and I thought, 'I'm not going to be around forever and people need to know about this.'"

Walker said the giant birds migrate to this area from South America in the fall of the year, and people should be careful letting small children play outside at this time.

'Monsterologist' doesn't dismiss the Bear Lake Monster

I will speak on behalf of the Bear Lake Monster, since my brother isn't here to do it.

The 24th of July issue of *The Tribune* featured a front page story "Myths of the Pioneers" that debunked a half dozen or so of the Beehive State's favorite faith-promoting rumors. Among those cherished notions torpedoed by *The Tribune* was the existence of the Bear Lake Monster.

In 1863 Joseph Rich of Bear Valley was the first to claim sighting the beast. *The Tribune* stated that Rich later boasted of foisting "a first class lie." Monday's article conclusively declared that there is "probably"

nothing to the stories.

Will Bagley, my brother, would disagree. There are lots to the stories. Following his stint as a history columnist for this paper, where, no matter how an article began it always somehow found a way to include something about The Bear Lake Monster, Will went on to become a "monsterologist."

Relying on the historical record, Will is absolutely certain that the creature reportedly seen by dozens in Bear Lake is, "between 6 and 90 feet long, has a head resembling a horse or a

LIVING HISTORY



PAT BAGLEY

snake, is either green or brown or shiny, and it is definitely either scaly or hairy." Many of these eyewitnesses were men and women of standing in the community and Will admits to having no reason to doubt their descriptions.

Will regularly gives lectures on the history and evidence regarding the existence of the monster. An article he wrote on the subject was even recently translated into Portuguese. His audiences are ap-

preciative and interested. Following the presentation, thoughtful debates

often break out. Is the Bear Lake Monster really a surviving ice age Pleistocene giant beaver? Or is it a stranded plesiosaur from the Jurassic? (The once popular theory that an underground tunnel connects Bear Lake to Loch Ness has fallen into disrepute and is no longer given serious consideration.)

My favorite theory about how the monster got to be where it is occurred to me while pulling crawdads out of East Canyon Reservoir with my boys. The folks at Wildlife Resources are emphatic that the crustaceans be killed before one leaves the lake where they are caught. Why? They don't want crawdads introduced into

lakes where they're not. My boys were willing to risk my getting a \$1,000 fine so that they could have a new pet at home, even if I wasn't.

So someone brought a fingerling monster to Bear Lake and slipped it in when no one was looking.

Here's the clincher. A recent story on the BBC reported dozens of people in Sweden saw a lake creature that had a long body like a serpent and a head like a horse.

A number of the pioneers who settled Bear Lake were Swedes.

You put two and two together.

Pat Bagley is The Tribune's editorial cartoonist.

STAR-TELEGRAM, Ft. Worth, TX - June 6, 2006

IN MY OPINION

Lake Monster may be myth, but exhibit is real

■ Experts and hobbyists have tracked Texas Bigfoot sightings back to 1969 and our very own Lake Worth "Goat-Man."

SAN ANTONIO — Bigfoot is back.



Bud Kennedy

And he's in Texas. To be exact, he's back in an animated version, standing between fake Big Thicket trees in a museum and welcoming tourists to an exhibit where even the name

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Post a comment on this report at www.star-telegram.com

is skeptical: "Bigfoot in Texas?"

As it turns out, experts and hobbyists now track the mythical swamp beast's Texas appearances back to 1969 — and Lake Worth.

No kidding. Our very own Lake Worth Monster — the "Goat-Man," if you prefer — is now considered the most famous of all Texas sasquatch sightings.

Police later blamed teenage pranksters. But one of the speakers Saturday at an Institute of Texan Cultures forum said he still thinks the

of the search.

If you think the TV newscasts made a big deal lately about a dead alligator in Lewisville Lake, imagine the coverage in the Texas summer of 1969, before we had the Rangers or Mavericks.

"I was already interested in the unusual — dinosaurs, UFOs," Woolheater said. "All the news talked about was this monster." He visited his grandparents on Eagle Mountain Lake and imagined the monster roaming the shore.

As a teenager, he saw *The Legend of Boggy Creek*, a movie based on a Northeast Texas swamp creature tale. Then, in 1994, he and his wife saw something tall and furry walking on two legs alongside a highway outside Alexandria, La.

Now, he is the co-founder and director of the Dallas-based Texas Bigfoot Research Center, a Web site that sponsors an annual Bigfoot conference in Jefferson.

Woolheater's volunteers helped the Institute of Texan Cultures assemble the "Bigfoot in Texas?" exhibit, which the museum, backed by the University of Texas at San Antonio, offers not as science but as an example of Texas folklore.

A series of monthly lectures has reviewed Bigfoot evidence, as presented by Bigfoot hobbyists.

At the Saturday forum, author and mythbuster Benjamin Radford argued that Bigfoot is no more real than the legendary Texas horned rabbit called the jackalope.

"Why do people see Bigfoot?" Radford asked. "Because they see something, and they think, 'That must be Bigfoot.' Other people might think they saw a leprechaun or a dragon. The same thing goes for the Chupacabra."

In San Antonio, the legend of El Chupacabras is more vivid than Bigfoot. When a dead animal found on a nearby ranch last year was reported jokingly to be the legend-

ary bloodsucking flying beast, hundreds of residents drove to Elmendorf to see photos of what turned out to be a mange-ridden dog or coyote.

"If people in New Mexico find cattle killed, they blame it on UFOs," Radford said. "If the same thing happens in Puerto Rico, it's the Chupacabra. In Montana, it's Satanic worship."

"Bigfoot is the same way. People use Bigfoot to explain an experience. The sightings are misunderstandings or hoaxes. Or people saw a large, hairy animal and thought it was Bigfoot."

In the crowd was one tourist who knows her hoaxes.

Linda Weems Johnson, 57, of Houston is a great-niece of T.J. Weems, a Wise County blacksmith who was quoted in *The Dallas Morning News* in 1897 as saying that a "native of the planet Mars" had crashed a spaceship in the town of Aurora. The "Aurora Space-man," probably a stunt to draw attention to the town, is now the subject of his own movie and legend.

"I can see how stories like Bigfoot get started," Johnson said. "I come from a big, very Celtic family. Our tradition involves a lot of myths and storytelling."

Her husband, Scott Johnson, said he can easily believe in both the Aurora Spaceman and the Lake Worth Monster.

"I think there's too much evidence out there," he said. "There are too many witnesses. I don't think they all just misunderstood what they saw."

Real or hoax, Bigfoot is now big business. Both authors Saturday were doing a brisk book trade. The museum gift shop was almost sold out of T-shirts and mugs with the face of a Texas Bigfoot.

He's a star.

And to think — we knew him when he was just our little Goat-Man.

Bud Kennedy's column appears Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. 817-390-7538 bud@bukennedy.com



Bud Kennedy

■ Allen Plaster knows he shot a picture of something at Lake Worth in the summer of '69, but he doesn't think it proves anything.

IN MY OPINION

37 years after snapping photo, Bigfoot talk gets man's goat

The Lake Worth Monster lives on in a grainy 1969 photo.

To some hobbyists, it's proof that our "Goat-Man" of legend was Texas' own Bigfoot.

But the man who shot the photo now says talk of a swamp beast is "silly."

The fleeing "monster" looked more like a prankster with a fur or rug, Allen Plaster, 59, of Fort Worth, says.

And the "Goat-Man" should be glad that Plaster shot only a Polaroid.

"That place was crawling with people with guns," he said.

"That was really stupid."

Until this week, Plaster didn't know that his 1969 snapshot is on Web sites and in a new San Antonio museum exhibit, "Bigfoot in Texas?"

For two months that summer, he and the rest of Fort Worth were swept up in monster fever.

When one motorist told the *Star-Telegram* that a 7-foot-tall half-man, half-goat leaped onto his car, and

another man said he saw something hurl a tire 500 feet, hunters and curiosity seekers descended on Lake Worth along what is now Shoreline Drive facing Greer Island.

Police later blamed teenage pranksters. The owner of a nearby kennel said this week that he was tracking a 40-pound runaway macaque monkey near the lake that summer, which matches some descriptions.

Plaster and a Weatherford couple, all in their early 20s, went to the lake two or three nights a week that summer searching for the "monster" or "Goat-Man" described breathlessly on TV and radio news.

Plaster was driving westbound along the shore late one night when one of his friends — he would give her name only as Kay — pointed and shouted, "Look! Look! Look! There it is!"

Something furry stood up in 3-foot-tall weeds on his side of the road. Plaster stopped and reached for his Polaroid, catching the figure running away.

"Looking back, I realize that when we drove by, it stood up," he said this week. "Whatever it was, it wanted to be seen."

"That was a prank. That was somebody out there waiting for people to drive by. I don't think an animal would have acted that way."

At the time, Plaster had become the young owner of some women's-wear boutiques in Fort Worth, the House of Allen. Later, he managed hotels before working 15 years as a bail bond agent.

He hadn't seen the photo in years, he said. He remembers giving the Polaroid instant print — the only copy — to



ALLEN PLASTER/TEXAS BIGFOOT RESEARCH CENTER
The man who took this 1969 photo of the Lake Worth Monster now laughs at the idea.

Sallie Ann Clarke of Benbrook, who not only saw the monster but wrote a homespun book, *The Lake Worth Monster of Greer Island, Ft. Worth, Texas*.

Now the photo is everywhere from eBay.com to San Antonio and the Institute of Texan Cultures, where an exhibit open through July 30 reviews the folklore of Texas Bigfoot sightings.

Plaster looked down and shook his head sadly.

"It's strange, the things that happen," he said. "I don't know what gets in people's heads."

Clarke, now 77, said she thinks she has Plaster's original photo somewhere.

She also stuck by her story and said that Plaster now laughs it off out of embarrassment.

"We all saw that thing at the lake that summer," she said. "A lot of people saw it."

Her book describes a "terrorizing monster" with white hair and scales, a 7-foot "goat-fish-man."

"It came out of a bunch of trees in front of 40 or 50 people," she said Wednesday by phone, describing the incident in the wee hours of July 11, 1969, that triggered the months-long search.

"When it screamed, everybody ran to their cars and took off. I didn't take it as a prank, and I don't think too many people did."

By the time Plaster shot the photo weeks later, everybody was either

looking for Lake Worth's celebrity Goat-Man or maybe dressed up portraying him.

And in 1969, the Monster wasn't the only thing into weeds.

"If I'd been smoking pot or drinking alcohol back then, I could blame that," Plaster said.

"But my friends were all terribly boring. That's why we were out driving around the lake every night. We were coffee and Dr Pepper people, staying out late."

If you think his photo shows Bigfoot, then you've been drinking something stronger than Lake Worth water.

Or Dr Pepper.

Bud Kennedy's column appears Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. 817-390-7538 bud@bukennedy.com