

UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

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UFOs: 'If you're crazy, I'm nuts, too'

By Mark Holmberg
Times-Dispatch staff writer

Rural Retreat Police Chief Bob Lewis wishes he could find a lid for the can of worms he opened two weeks ago when he spotted an unidentified flying object.

"I didn't see anything," he joked as he opened the door of his modest brick home to confront another reporter. He stepped into his front yard and glanced at the mountains on the edge of town: "Man, I wish I hadn't said a word to anybody about it."

Lewis is one of dozens of Southwest Virginia residents who are certain they've seen large, silent objects hovering — or creeping along — in the crisp air over the multicolored mountains.

He carefully looked at each of the composite drawings of other recent sightings, made by Times-Dispatch artists with the help of the witnesses.

"I don't know what it was I saw up there," he said calmly after looking the sketches over, "but that's it right there."

He jabbed a finger at one of the drawings, a black-and-white version of the cone-shaped object drawn by the artists. It wasn't a depiction of one of the Wythe County sightings, but a drawing of an object spotted over Richmond skies.

A Southside woman was driving north toward Richmond on Interstate 95 Wednesday night. The following is her explanation of her close encounter:

"I sound crazy, I know. When I saw it I thought: 'This isn't me that's seeing this.'"

"It wasn't all the way dark; the news had just finished. I was driving to Cloverleaf Mall to go to the Toys-R-Us. Right past the Willis Road exit, the boys [ages 2 and 4] started being calm. That's highly unusual.

"The kids said, 'Look at all those lights, mommy.' The traffic slowed. My radio stopped working and my lights got dim. The charge light came on. I looked over and oh, God! Oh, God! I started ripping apart my glove compartment, looking for my camera." She pulled her car over.

"It was about as high up as a telephone wire, maybe lower, and it was

about the size of that house" — she pointed out her back door to a house about 1,000 square feet in size, 50 yards away — "and it was that close.

"The lights were flashing; red, blue, green, yellow, yellow, blue. It was so beautiful. There was no noise. The sky was so quiet. I didn't want to take my eyes off of it. Other cars had pulled over. I asked one of the drivers, 'Am I crazy?' She said: 'If you're crazy, I'm nuts, too.'"

She continued to watch for about two minutes. A round, red object, much smaller and glowing brightly, approached the larger object, as if the two were playing hide and seek, she said. Once the small object "found" the other, both disappeared instantly, followed by a "shower" of white lights, like a tangle of shooting stars.

She then tried her ignition. The car started right up.

No one else called to substantiate the Richmond story, but have the Wythe UFOs strayed east?

After nearly a dozen interviews with UFO spotters there, a clear picture emerges:

- The UFOs are silent except for an occasional "little hum. Reminded me of a little bee or something," Patricia Aker said. She and her family saw two airplane-shaped objects before sundown more than a week ago, flying low at low speed. She and her husband, Elmo, helped with the other composite drawing.

- The UFOs can hover or fly so slowly that they appear to be hovering.

- The objects appear in groups of two or three. The red, green, yellow and white lights usually don't flash.

- Many spotters believe the objects are part of a secret military project.

- Dogs, usually alert to visitors, haven't paid any attention to the UFOs.

- The objects are being spotted by people who have never seen a UFO before.

- Witnesses say they feel the objects are not hostile; in fact, most smile while discussing their encounters.

It's hardly a laughing matter. Residents of Wythe are no strangers to aircraft, particularly military planes on maneuvers, and they say what they've been seeing are not normal aircraft.

"They'll jar your windows out," Elmo Aker said of the military aircraft that frequently fly by. "This one didn't hardly make any noise. What struck me was it was flying so slow. I don't see how anything that big could

stay in the air going that slow." He said it was larger than a bomber.

The Aker sighting was rare in that it was still daylight, although the light was fading fast.

"If I'd seen one after dark, it would have scared me to death," Mrs. Aker said. As it was, their children were terrified and cried: "Daddy, get out of here!" she said.

Many of the other sightings coincide with that one. Lighting patterns match almost exactly.

"It was big, lights a-fashing all the way around," said Gerald Musser, who spotted the object while bow hunting for raccoons "down in Black Lick. It was a humongous thing, then came another right behind it, just in a straight arrow." He then saw a big reddish-orange ball. "My buddy said it was their mother," Musser said with a laugh.

Billie Rosenbaum was watching the baseball game Wednesday night when he stepped outside to get a little air. He said he saw two objects almost exactly like those Musser saw. He ran over and woke up his neighbor and together they watched the objects make a slow tour of the ridge above his house.

Rosenbaum described his encounter while playing pool in his basement. "I'd give anything if he'd land over here," he said as he hunkered down for a shot on the 12-ball. "I'd go with them in a minute."

That same night, Jack and Carolyn Ellison spotted objects creeping through the air above their mobile home on the outskirts of Rural Retreat. The composite sketch of what they saw matched that of the Aker sighting.

Retired from the Air Force, where he worked on flight simulators, Ellison is no stranger to aircraft.

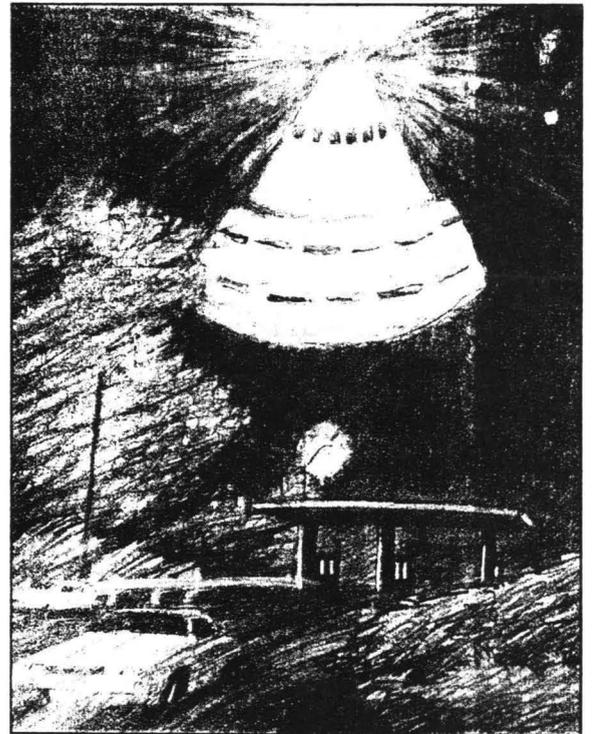
"I told her [his wife] that maybe that's some of the new Star Wars defense," drawled Ellison. "The next day that Stealth bomber went down ... made me think about what I'd seen."

Bettie Patton saw the same thing the others did, except she noticed the smaller glowing ball coming out of the top of the larger object. "The little one flew off a little bit and curved toward Cripple Creek. The big one followed it. ... It was strange. It was like you were being stared at." She, too, heard a low humming sound.

After the UFO left, Mrs. Patton remembered thinking, "I don't believe in this bull," and went outside to look up into the crystal clear skies to see if she couldn't spot the object again.

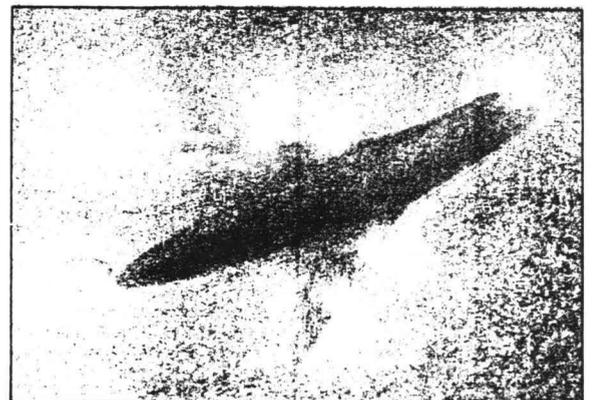
The air was crisp; the stars were brilliant. Everything was quiet.

"Then the hog snorted," she remembered. "It just about scared me to death."



Staff graphic by Martin Rhodes

Composite drawing of recent Richmond sighting



T-D graphic by Clarke Bustard

Silent, slow-flying object described in Wythe County

ADVANCE LEADER, Monroeville, PA - Aug. ?, 1987

Object spotted

A woman on O'Block Road told police she saw an object in the sky shortly after 1 a.m. on Aug. 14 that she believes could be an unidentified flying object.

The woman said the object, which displayed green lights, hovered in one spot of the sky for a long period of time. Police said they were unable to identify the object.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA DAILY, Strasburg, VA - Oct. 29, 1987 CR: R. Bonck

UFOs may call home to Tennessee

By The Associated Press

WYTHEVILLE, Va. — The mysterious lights in the sky that stirred up a Wythe County UFO craze began in September, and the Tennessee Air National Guard said Wednesday that was when it began making refueling flights in the area.

"We started doing them more frequently in that area about a month or a month and a half ago," technical Sgt. Marty Everett of the 134th Air Refueling Group said from his

Knoxville office.

Asked whether his group's flights could be the alleged UFOs, Everett said, "I personally haven't seen anything up there. It'd certainly be a good guess. That'd be the best answer I could offer."

Many witnesses have reported groups of lights that appear to hover close together before splitting apart in the night skies, and others have reported a flying object that appears to be pulling another object along.

Those descriptions are about what witnesses of the refueling flights could expect

to see, Everett said.

"You can have as many as seven or eight at one time," he said. He said he was not sure why a refueling track stretching from Kingsport, Tenn., to Pulaski, Va., went into greater use this fall, but he said the refueling flights are about all one finds up there on a given night.

"The whole idea is to have a safe area without being run over by Piedmont or Delta," he said.

The UFO witnesses have claimed the objects they've seen were silent, and Everett

said the refueling flights would probably seem that way to someone on the ground.

"You probably wouldn't hear a thing," he said. "They're just at high altitudes. They're lit up. When they're long gone, the sound might get to you if the wind was right."

The UFO sightings had prompted speculation that Wythe County could be the sight of a secret federal military experiment, but spokespersons for several federal military installations in the region had said they were not flying anything resembling the objects sighted by witnesses.

UFO Conference lets people discuss their tales of the unknown

By David McKay Wilson
Staff Writer

The last time the "visitors" dropped by writer Whitley Strieber's Hudson Valley summer house, he was sitting at the table with his wife when he heard the voices. Strieber decided to have a chat.

"I asked 'Why did you come here?' and the voice said, 'Because I saw a glow.' I asked 'Where did you come from?' and the voice said, 'From everywhere.' I asked 'Why have you come?' and the voice said, 'Because it's time.'"

Strieber, author of the best seller, "Communion," was the final speaker Saturday at a daylong UFO Conference at the Wells Mid-

dle School in Brewster. By 9:30 p.m., when Strieber had concluded his talk, about 300 of the 600 conference participants were still there.

As a crystal healer led many in a group meditation, a crowd huddled around a tape deck outside the hall, listening intently to a recording of a UFO sighting. About 30 others surrounded Strieber, asking him about his "contacts," and the mystery of extraterrestrial life.

His book's success has catapulted Strieber into the national spotlight, bringing him both adulation and derision. The audience on the "Phil Donahue Show" jeered him, and a reporter is delving into

his background in an attempt to prove him a fake. It doesn't appear to faze Strieber, who is working on a new book, "Transformation," and is making "Communion" into a film.

"The reporter discovered when he spoke to my family and friends that when I was a little boy, I was always telling people I was being taken by aliens," said Strieber, who wrote horror novels before his best seller. "Maybe it's time for people to recognize that there really is something here."

Strieber, who looked professorial in his horned-rimmed glasses and tweed jacket, said the filmmaking experience has provided its own drama. The Australia-

lian director came to his summer house, only to be awakened one night by a stream of light outside his room, and a visit from some ugly thin hairless creature.

Strieber invited anyone in the audience to come forward and tell of their experiences with the unknown. One woman told of a large, boomerang-shaped object that floated over Kent Cliffs in Putnam County one eerie night in 1983. Another man told of a globe of light he spotted in Florida, which would appear and reappear on command. Then June Pope of Putnam Valley recounted her tale of the basketball-sized flashing light that settled in her backyard outside her bedroom window on Fa-

ther's Day in 1985.

She was so startled that she called the local constabulary to investigate.

"When they arrived, they did a lot of laughing," she said. "But they didn't go in the backyard."

Those attending the conference were the believers, those who find that science cannot explain everything on earth, who believe in other realms. Organizing the event was Peter Gersten of Peekskill, an attorney who fought the federal government and won the release of hundreds of reports on UFO sightings.

The battle continues because people like Gersten and Larry Bryant, who works for the Citizens Against UFO Secrecy in Washington, D.C., want to be able to explain the unexplainable one day.

"It's a cosmic Watergate," Bryant said. "The Central Intelligence Agency is still withholding 58 documents, and the National Security Agency has 135 it won't give out. We are going to keep knocking on the door so that we can get to the bottom of this mystery."

For Manhattan resident Diana Gold, the conference gave her the opportunity to learn about these issues in a setting that was conducive to meaningful discussions.

"It's great to be able to talk to others and not have them stare at you like you are from outer space," she said. "It makes you open your eyes."

Cases of alien kidnapping to highlight UFO conference

By Geoff Walden
Staff Writer

You are about to enter another dimension.

A place where human beings are kidnapped by little gray men with large heads and bug eyes who have journeyed to Earth through space.

Where the victims return to their homes suffering from symptoms ranging from vomiting to recurring dreams, and only gradually remember what happened to them, but then only part of it.

You are about to enter... the UFO Conference, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday at Henry H. Wells Middle School on Route 312 in Brewster. And if the bug-eyed monsters themselves won't be there, people who purport to have met them will.

At least 12 unrelated earthlings in the Hudson Valley and Connecticut have reported being kidnapped by aliens, according to Peter Gersten of Peekskill, organizer of the conference. Some of the abducted dozen will be at the free event, he said.

The focus of the program — a follow-up to the 1984 conference on the boomerang-shaped object sighted in the nighttime sky in this area — is extra-terrestrial contact. Although the boomerang turned out to be light planes flown in formation by pranksters, Gersten contends some of the sightings are still unexplained.

Mark Plummer says, however, that most UFOs can be dismissed as natural phenomena. Plummer is executive director of the Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, an international group based in Buffalo.

"We don't believe anyone's been kidnapped," Plummer said this week. He said no one claiming to have been a hostage has produced physical evidence of captors or their spacecraft.

Plummer said people who foster belief in kidnappings do it for one of two reasons. "You can write a book on UFO abductions and make hundreds of thousands of dollars," he said, "or you're deluded."

Gersten says 12 is too large a number for the hostage reports to have been coincidental fantasies. "I think the chances of that happening are astronomical," he said, "unless there's actually something there."

Gersten, a criminal lawyer in New York City, made the observation that if a dozen people said they were taken hostage by the same motorcycle gang their claim would generate a massive investigation.

"I've represented people for a lot less than abducting 12 people," he said.

Saturday's affair features an all-star lineup of authors who have written on close encounters of the third kind. The highlight promises to be an experiment in extra-terrestrial contact at 9 p.m.

Schedule of events for UFO conference

Peter Gersten of Peekskill, who represents Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, will open the UFO conference from 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Phil Imbrogno, who wrote "Night Seige," about Hudson Valley UFO sightings from 1983 to 1986, will speak until noon.

From noon to 1 p.m., the speaker will be Bud Hopkins, who wrote "Intruders" and has placed Hudson Valley "hostages" under hypnosis.

After lunch, John Keel, who wrote "The Mothman Prophecies" and has written about contact for 20 years, will speak from 2 to 2:30.

From 2:30 to 3 it's John Fuller, author of "The Interrupted Journey," speaking about the 1961 case of Betty and Barney Hill, the first publicly reported kidnapping.

Connecticut investigator Perry Collins will speak from 3 to 3:30, followed by Dean Fagerstrom until 4.

Ellen Crystal, author of "Invasion: They Come in Silence," about UFO sightings in Pine Bush, in Orange County, has the floor from 4:30 to 5:30.

The conference will be open to questions and unscheduled speakers until 6:30.

After dinner, Whitley Strieber, who wrote "Communion," about tri-state area cases, talks from 7:30 until the experiment for extra-terrestrial contact. Strieber, who says he conducts intergalactic communication regularly, will help foster the attempt to be reached by another world.

The experiment will involve group meditation, Gersten said, in an effort to get a message from outer space. The message could be channeled, whereby an individual's body is taken over by an outside intelligence speaking words from the cosmos. Or it could come through automatic writing, whereby the alien occupier controls the individual's hand to write or draw an interstellar telegram.

A man who reportedly experienced automatic writing, Dean Fagerstrom of Putnam Lake, will attend the conference and show the drawings he produced, thought to represent a craft from another galaxy.

Gersten said the goal of the event is to draw out unreported abduction cases and create interest in forming an organization — Contact — that would explore kidnappings from beyond.

"We want the people to come forward without fear of ridicule,"

he said. "We have to know what's going on. There is evidence that something's going on."

He said cases in this region conform to scenarios recounted around the country. People report being taken aboard a spacecraft, he said, and examined by BEMs (bug-eyed monsters). A discussion ensues, with the invaders saying they are interested in bettering Earth.

Gersten said the creatures are always described the same way: hairless, 5 feet tall and having large heads, wrap-around large eyes, a slit for a mouth, two holes for nostrils, and grayish white skin.

Those abducted later experience partial or total amnesia. Partial recall comes only after the passage of time, usually through hypnosis. The kidnapped suffer nausea, vomiting, red eyes, runny noses, nervousness, anxiety and recurring dreams. Leg scars have been reported.

Most victims are kidnapped again after a certain period of time. They're thought to be monitored, and there are reports of implants being inserted in some.

"The abductors are noted for disinformation and deception," Gersten said, explaining that the spacemen report various home planets. "No two have said they're from the same place."

Gersten is bankrolling the conference with \$3,500. He said sales of T-shirts and sweatshirts will recoup only some of the investment, adding, "It's worth it."

He said the 12 documented reports could be just the tip of a universe of close encounters. People who are abducted exhibit the same trauma as rape victims, he said, and are similarly unwilling to discuss their experiences. The higher their economic class, he added, the more likely they fear being humiliated for summoning up their time with the little gray men.

For information about the conference call the UFO hot line at 739-6830.

Was UFO sighted in Stoughton?

She's not going to characterize it one way or the other, but a Stoughton resident may have seen the same thing police officers from Waunakee called a UFO early Tuesday morning.

The woman, who refused to be identified, but who is an usually reliable source, said she saw an object in the sky northwest of Stoughton at about 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

She said that the object she saw had bright white lights in the front and flashing blue and red lights in the rear.

Police officers in the town of Waunakee reported seeing similar object at about the same time. At press time the apparent UFO was not believed to be a plane or a balloon.

UFOs were sighted near Belleville last January by a Dane County Sheriff's officer and others.

Many of the characteristics of the object the Stoughton resident saw were similar to the UFO sighted by the Waunakee officers.

Among the similarities:
● The object "moved to the south real slow, and then moved off to the north in a big circle," the woman said.

● The lights in both sightings were said to be flashing blue and red.

● The sightings occurred at approximately the same time.

While the woman didn't want to go on the record, she did talk about what she saw.

She said that she doesn't know why she happened to look at this particular object in the sky, "but for some reason it caught my attention."

"At first I thought it was just a plane or a helicopter circling around, looking for somebody," she said.

But, although she never got a clear look at it, after about five minutes of watching it slowly circle to the northwest of Stoughton, it became clear it was not an airplane.

"I shut the car off that I was in, but I didn't hear any sound (coming from the lights)," she said. "And it was longer than an airplane."

She said that the lights were "quite" a distance from her, so she didn't get a clear look at the fuselage of the object.

"After about five minutes it moved off to the north again, and I lost it in the trees," she said.

COURTESY: HUB, STOUGHTON, WI - JULY 16, 1987 GR: R. Heiden

Becker County family reports sighting of unusual object

by Tim Kjos

Buck and Marilyn Cummings saw something last Thursday evening that was out of the ordinary.

Some folks might quickly call it an unidentified flying object — a flying saucer, if you prefer — while others will say the Cummings just weren't seeing things

too clearly at 10:30 p.m.

But this Richwood couple, who own and operate a taxidermy business, are sure of what they saw and will stand by it.

Marilyn saw the object first, which acted similar to a small, private airplane in the distance to begin with. "Then, it just jumped, or moved really fast," she stated Friday morning.

"It jerked all the way over to the left and then it jerked way back over to the right, and then the left again. Then, it headed straight toward us, so it was heading directly south then."

The object approached the Cummings' residence shining a very bright, white light.

"We grabbed the binoculars...and he (Buck) was

watching it with those, and it came straight toward us. It seemed like a long time, but I suppose it was 15 seconds. Then, it must have turned, because we didn't see the bright light anymore, but it jerked way off to the left again," she explained.

At this point, the t-shaped object slowly flashed red and green lights, in addition to white.

The object made an arch in the sky toward the west, before turning south toward Detroit Lakes. The Cummings were able to follow its movements inside their home.

At one moment, Buck exclaimed to his wife, "I know it's not a plane; it looks like some kind of a saucer or a dish."

Through the binoculars, Buck described the object as having windows with lights streaming from it. There was also the landing- or flood-shaped light on it.

The Cummings never saw the object land. Buck followed it for a distance with his car, but it eventually disappeared beyond the treeline. He then returned home.

They contacted the Becker County Sheriff's Department about the incident. A dispatcher said a deputy would be sent to investigate, and the Cummings were asked to report any further sightings that evening. They never saw anymore after that.

"I'm convinced, and so is he, it wasn't a plane," emphasized Marilyn. "There isn't any way, I don't think, a plane could jerk back and forth so fast — as a plane turns it just kind of slowly turns. It doesn't just pivot. That bright light was there and all of a sudden it was gone, unless it was shut off."

The Cummings telephone was continually ringing Friday morning after news of the sighting was broadcasted on KDLN, Detroit Lakes, as friends and neighbors wanted to know more about it.

"We didn't even want to call it a UFO. It was just something different that we saw that we were pretty sure wasn't a plane," commented Marilyn, adding it was not Northern Lights.

She said no law enforcement agency or military authority had contacted them as yet Friday morning.

Cummings admits some persons might consider them kooky for seeing such things.

"We're not strong believers in UFOs, but I kind of believe in the back of my mind that there is something, because there have been too many sightings of different things reported. And I can't imagine that all of those people could be crazy," she pointed out.

TIMES HERALD, Dallas, TX - Sept. 30, 1987 CR: T. Adams



Robert Bunch/Special to the Times Herald

Robert Baker displays artwork of alien worlds as he envisions them.

Believers in UFOs converge — impart knowledge at seminar

By Paula Yost

OF THE TIMES HERALD STAFF

McKINNEY — Bud Hopkins says it's absurd to think that space creatures are little green men with red eyes and antennae who drive flying saucers. Everybody who's seen aliens knows they have gray skin, oversized heads, big black eyes and wear hooded coveralls, he says.

Hopkins, who has written books about people who say they were abducted by aliens, and other UFO experts are conducting a five-day seminar at Collin County Community College to impart such knowledge to college students and anyone else who wants to know.

Still, inside the building where pictures of space creatures and spacecraft are posted on a bulletin board, skeptics abound.

"There are just so many hoaxes around. It doesn't seem possible," said David Carney, 20, of Plano, a culinary arts major.

Plano student Joe Martinez, 19, had an easy explanation: "A lot of people will do anything to get attention."

Hopkins and his associates are used to the abuse. "Most people feel a little nervous about this material because it's unsettling, and ridicule is something you tend to do when you're nervous," said Hopkins, who lives in New York. "I get a lot of nervous ridicule."

Hopkins has written two books based on thousands of interviews with people who say they have been abducted by UFOs, and he says he wouldn't try to pass off something as far-fetched as mutants and Martians.

"I believe people are actually seeing something up there," said Hopkins, 56, who recently was featured on the "Oprah Winfrey Show." "What it is they're seeing, we don't know."

What Hopkins and associate Walt Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network, say they do know is that some people have been abducted by UFOs — a discovery they said they made after interviewing people under hypnosis.

"The basic purpose seems to be a genetic experiment involving them and us, and involving the removal of (human) sperm and ovum cells with the goal of producing a hybrid between them and us," Hopkins said.

The creatures don't harm the earthlings, but they aren't very nice, either, he said.

Because of the abductions, Hopkins said, people have some idea what the UFO occupants look like: grayish-white skin, oversized heads, enormous black eyes and slits for mouths. They're telepathic, he said, so they don't talk.

Hopkins said he didn't get a chance to see if aliens were piloting a metallic, circular object he spotted flying over Massachusetts in 1964. The so-called saucer hovered over the Cape Cod coast about three minutes as he and friends watched from a car, he said.

"We were hanging out of the windows of the car, trying to figure out what it was, and then it flew off at a great rate of speed," he said.

As director of the Seguin-based UFO network, Hopkins says he receives reports daily on his UFO Hotline.

Andrus, 66, also says he has seen UFOs. That was in 1948 in downtown Phoenix, said Andrus, who recalls seeing four silver discs flying over buildings and then disappearing in a clear, blue sky.

"They were easy to see," he said.

Tuesday, Andrus gave students instructions about how to make a UFO detector out of a clock, a battery, wires and a compass.

Most sightings can be explained by natural causes, says college physics professor Mike Broyles, who will cloud the UFO issue when speaking to students today.

At least 80 percent of so-called UFOs can be explained by weather balloons, aircraft and Venus — a bright planet that sometimes appears to be saucer-like and flying, Broyles said.

Robert Baker has never seen a UFO in the sky; but he's seen them flying through his head. So the Denton artist transferred them to canvass, and on Tuesday showed his work to students.

S.W. VIRGINIA ENTERPRISE,
Wytheville, VA - Oct. 15, 1987

UFO sighted again

By MICHAEL HAWKS
Staff Writer

The UFO that was sighted in Wythe County over the last week has apparently made another appearance during the weekend when something allegedly buzzed the car of an out-of-state family near Graham's Forge.

The sighting was not reported to the Wythe County Sheriff's Department but told to a dispatcher from the sheriff's department who was a personal friend of the family. The family was not aware of previous sightings last week.

The UFO hovered over the car for five or 10 minutes before speeding off noiselessly toward Pulaski County, the family claimed.

The UFO was described as an oval with bright, pulsating red and white lights. Other reports have said it has a pyramid or ice cream cone shape.

Extraterrestrial art



Santa Fe artist relates to UFOs

By MELISSA ADAMS
The New Mexican Staff

Some observers might say Richard Morrow's art work is out in space.

Certainly the impetus for his visual arts and jewelry and sculpture creations is space and the experiences he claims he has had with extraterrestrials and spaceships.

Morrow, a native New Mexican whose Starline Connection business is based in Santa Fe, has fun with his visions and his art.

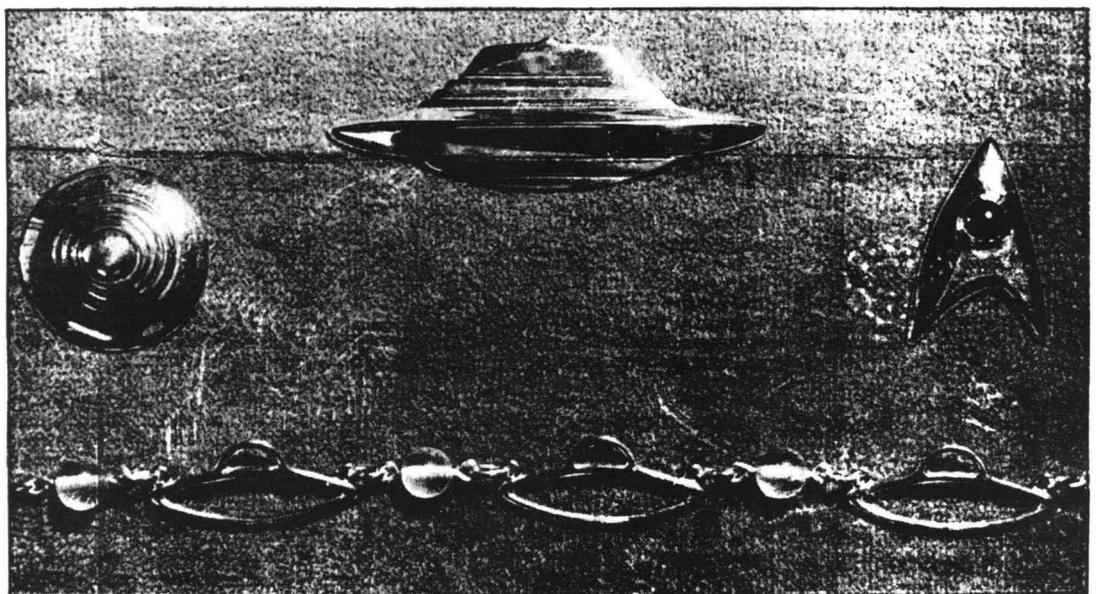
"I integrate what I have seen into a perception of reality," said the 32-year-old artist. Much of his work is whimsical to most viewers. He mocks himself and the world around him, but he also takes it very seriously.

"When someone has an experience, I try to integrate it into everyday life," he said.

His art helps him deal with the experiences he claims to have had. "I've got the ability to flow with the occurrences," he said. "Whether it's experiential or whimsical, the power of the piece speaks for itself."

His sterling silver lapel spaceship pins have been among his most popular works during the past four years. He even has concha belts made of little UFOs. "I can't keep up with the orders," he said.

He has used spaceship and unidentified flying objects in designs for numerous objects, including shirts and other clothing and lampshades.



Larry Beckner photos/The New Mexican

Far out

Richard Morrow, top, uses space and what he says are encounters with alien spaceships in his

sculptures and jewelry. His silver spaceship lapel pins, above, are among his most popular items.

His garage-size workshop is filled with collected minerals, rocks, bird feathers, bugs and other rare finds that he works with until they become a piece of art.

With these materials, he creates assemblage, arrangement of unrelated objects and materials into a sculptural collage.

"My work focuses on galactic visions, universal visions. And there are people all over the world who send me things," he said.

One piece of work, *Atlantis on the Halfshell*, is made of a multitude of crystals, minerals and fossils.

Petrified Fish is part of his frying pan series, which contains fish fossils and a smelt from Lake Michigan.

Another piece, *And let us not worship false profits*, is built on an antique watch and contains crystals, pearls, a little plastic pig, silver wings, a compass and other minerals.

His works are carried in 12 galleries locally and 30-40 galleries nationally, he said. Because he has so much varied material, the type of art rarely overlaps from one gallery to another.

He recently returned from a nation-

al trip to sell his work and attend UFO seminars. He occasionally speaks on his extraterrestrial experiences, which he claim began when he was a child. He was convinced that spaceships exist when one landed in his front yard near Taos, he said.

"I'm not doing this as an escape. I'm trying to wake people up to certain facts," he said. His art is his subtle way of introducing people to what he sees is a reality — there is other life out there.

"When you have something that is humorous, respectful and true, then you really have something," he said.

UFOs remain a mystery, Stanford professor says

By Carol Christ
Times Tribune staff

Unidentified flying objects remain a mystery to society, despite a history some believe stretches back to Biblical days, a noontime lecture audience heard Tuesday.

"All we have are reports," said Stanford University astrophysics professor Peter Sturrock. "What lies behind the reports we still don't know."

Sturrock was speaking on "The Evolving UFO Phenomenon" to 40 listeners at the Technology and Society Committee's (TASC) bi-monthly meeting.

Sturrock, a professor at Stanford's Center for Space Science and Astrophysics, was conservative

in approaching the topic.

He began the talk by telling the audience that he had "better get his beliefs out of the way" first.

"People ask me if I believe in flying saucers and I say, 'No, I don't believe in flying saucers, but I realize they may exist whether I believe in them or not,'" Sturrock said.

His lecture began with the Bible, which some perceive to be the first record of UFO sightings.

Sturrock cited a passage mentioning the "host of the Lord: a burning shield by day and a burning tower at night."

He said that many interpreted that to be a UFO sighting.

Sightings increased in the 1940s, Sturrock said.

PENINSULA TIMES TRIBUNE, Palo Alto, CA - Sept. 30, 1987

During World War II, he said, the Germans, the Japanese and the Americans all had accounts of UFOs but each assumed it was a secret weapon on the other side.

In 1947, an air rescue pilot named Kenneth Arnold, who was a deputy sheriff in Washington state, saw something fly through the air that he had never seen before.

In an attempt to explain to the media what he had seen, he said he had seen nine silvery objects that were flying at about 1,700 mph.

He described them as flying disc-shaped saucers.

One audience member asked Sturrock what probability he gave for aliens visiting Earth.

"I'm not going to give my own answer; I'll give another," said Sturrock.

He said that a 1972 survey of astronomers gave estimates ranging from .000000001 percent to 1 percent probability that aliens had visited Earth.

One audience member told the group he had seen a UFO aboard a ship near San Diego as a young sailor. "It was like a fire ball. It stopped when it got here and then took off in a 90 degree angle." He said the UFO was about seven miles from the ship.

He then said the navy debriefed him and told him not to mention the incident to anyone.

They told him it was part of an experiment they were conducting, he said.

EARTH TO ALIENS: Urgent aid requested!

Some see help at hand from 'space brothers' in the Pleiades cluster

By Robert Ferrigno
The Register

Blame it on the headlines — the stock market is plummeting, the ozone layer is disintegrating, Ted Kennedy states on national TV that Robert Bork on the Supreme Court would jeopardize highway safety, and

Michael Deaver, who created the "Just Say No" to drugs strategy with Nancy Reagan, is defending himself against perjury charges by claiming he's an alcoholic. Maybe it's time to face facts and call for outside help, touchtone an intergalactic 911 — SEND IN THE UFOs!

For some, the aliens have answered. They hail from the Pleiades star cluster, and the message — in words and pictures — is coming to Anaheim on Oct. 31 in the form of a lecture and slide show at the Anaheim Hilton Hotel (777 Convention Way, 1 p.m., \$25).

The program is a mix of more than 100 photographs of "Pleiadian beam ships" taken by a Swiss handyman, Eduard Meier, and a lecture on Meier and the Pleiadians by a 44-year-old former computer programmer, Randolph Winters of Los Angeles. The message is: They're here, and they're willing to help.

The last time we were in this kind of a cultural emergency was in the late 1940s, at the start of the Cold War, when the country was gripped with atomic bomb jitters. In our darkest hour, Kenneth Arnold, a pilot from Yakima, Wash., showed Americans a way out. On June 20, 1947, Arnold reported seeing a flight of what he called "flying saucers" near Mt. Rainier. Public opinion was divided on the question of whether the saucers were a Russian plot, a secret Air Force project, a harbinger to intergalactic invasion, or the dawn of a new and better world in which the aliens would come to beat our swords into plowshares.

These they're-coming-to-protect-us-from-ourselves sentiments were most clearly expressed in the classic 1951 film, "The Day the Earth Stood Still." British actor Michael Rennie played the role of a space alien, Klatuu, who lands his saucer in Washington D.C., to warn us of the dangers of nuclear weapons and to teach us to live in peace and brotherhood. He had a big, dangerous robot sidekick that followed him everywhere, sort of like Mr. Rogers with a rabid pit bull. In the film, Klatuu was mortally wounded by the civil and military authorities, who just assumed he was a troublemaker.

But this is 1987, and we're a little more sophisticated these days. We've got cars with four-wheel steering that turn on a microchip, we've got CD-players with wireless remotes, we've got aerosol cheese and textured vegetable protein. We're not going to be impressed anymore by bright lights in the sky or space aliens landing on the Capitol rotunda demanding an interview with the president. Well, the President doesn't do press conferences, so forget that.

Essentially, if the UFOs can't tell us the secrets of existence, they can just keep right on going. Later, Klatuu.

"We are not missionaries or teachers, but we endeavor to keep order throughout all areas of space. Now and then we begin contacts with the inhabitants of different worlds by searching out individuals whom we feel can accept our existence. Then slowly we and others prepare them for the truth, that they are not the only thinking beings in the galaxy."

A Pleiadian, as quoted in "Light Years, An Investigation Into the Extraterrestrial Experiences of Eduard Meier" by Gary Kinder, (Atlantic Monthly Press, 1987).

And right on schedule, here comes Randolph Winters, to tell us that, yes, the space aliens are here, watching us with the concern of a big brother about to see his little brother sticking a fork into a light socket. Winters is a lecturer who is touring Southern California presenting information reputedly given to a Swiss handyman, Eduard "Billy" Meier, over a period of 40 years by aliens from the Pleiades.

Meier has taken hundreds of photographs of what he claims are alien "beamships," and transcribed 1,400 pages of information from the Pleiadians, information that answers what we've always considered the eternal questions. The manuscript is in German, but the text is being taken on the road by Winters, a student of Meier's work who spent a month with him in Switzerland. Winters is giving a series of lectures in Southern California in which he shows numerous slides of the ships and gives a detailed presentation of the history and nature of the universe.

We're not talking Infinity 101 here, we're talking details of the evolution of life and consciousness, the two-stage process by which the Pleiadians travel faster than light (using a "tachyon" propulsion system), and, since the Pleiadians can travel in time, fun predictions about our future, to wit: Los Angeles will not sink into the ocean as a result of a gigantic earthquake. However, San Francisco is going to be hit by a real doozy of a quake within the next five to 10 years that will make the 1906 quake seem like a tickler.

Aside from the nuts and bolts of existence, the Pleiadians have



Eduard Meier, a Swiss handyman, says he has been in contact with the Pleiades for 40 years.

come with some advice — we (humans) are responsible for ourselves and our planet. If you are unhappy, do something about it. If

you think your job is meaningless and your supervisors psychotic, find a new job. If you don't like the idea of the ozone layer deteriorating or the likelihood of nuclear war, do something! Make waves, write your congressman, join a group, demonstrate, talk to your neighbors, but don't just sit around waiting for "the authorities" to take care of it, because they don't have a clue. The Pleiadians say that the government and organized religion are both belief systems designed to make people feel powerless, and taking control begins with asking your own questions.

Some of you may have heard these things before, those of you who have been through the "human potential" movement of the 1960s, or the est and Lifespring seminars of the 70s. The Pleiadians are saying the same things, only they let you go to the bathroom anytime you want.

Another thing the Pleiadians mentioned: they think money is really a wild concept. They say we are the only planet in the known "universes" that have money. The other planets use various barter systems, but the idea of passing around bits of brightly colored paper and engraved metal discs really cracks them up.

Winters, who had been giving weekly seminars on Meier in his home for several years, has now begun full-time work in disseminating the information Meier says was given to him by the Pleiadians. A smooth and articulate lecturer, he wastes little time in the four-hour presentation in defending the accuracy of Meier's statements.

This is probably a good idea. "Light Years" examined the subject in detail and came to no clear conclusion. A group of highly respected scientists studied Meier's photographs and a metal sample from the "beamship" and determined that if they were part of a hoax, it was of such a level of sophistication that Meier's lack of education and economic resources would have made the hoax difficult to perpetrate.

One of the scientists, Marcel Vogel — a research chemist with IBM for 22 years, holder of 32 patents and the inventor of the magnetic disk coating memory system still used in IBM systems — is quoted in the book as saying, "I cannot explain the metal sample. By any known combination I could not put it together myself, as a scientist. With any technology that I know of, we could not achieve this on this planet."

"Billy's not trying to convince the world he's had a contact," says Winters. "He's never charged for his information or tried to get rich off of it. For 40 years he's assumed the task of keeper of the truth, the truth of our existence, the Where and the Why. The Pleiadians are telling us that within all of us — in our initial spiritual form — there's a complete awareness of life, but we've become sidetracked by emotion and we've not evolved. They feel a kinship with us, because our forefathers were their forefathers — we're like their little brothers.

"A lot of people want to believe that the space brothers will save us," says Winters, "Because of the current state of society, people can't imagine how we're going to be able to solve our problems. They don't want to take responsibility for themselves. We rarely attract that type of person to our seminars

— people prone to throwing themselves on their knees are not likely to attend. The essential message we're transmitting is that people have to take 100-percent responsibility for themselves."

Winters is right about the type of people who turn out for his seminars — at a recent lecture in Los Angeles, the audience was made up of a diverse group of adults, none of whom were wearing Mr. Spock ears or "Star Wars" T-shirts. During lengthy question-and-answer sessions, the questions — while uncritical in terms of the veracity of Meier's account — evinced a familiarity with spiritual and cosmological principles, and a genuine desire to understand the material presented.

At a time when everybody and his brother is summoning "entities" from prehistory and beyond, speaking in tongues and increasing their aura-power through crystals, it would be easy to dismiss Meier as just another New Age crank. Which of course he may very well be. But it would be well to consider a declassified CIA memo cited in "Light Years."

The memo, dated August 1, 1952, stated "so long as a series of reports remains 'unexplainable' (interplanetary aspects and alien origin not being excluded) caution requires that intelligence continue coverage of the subject. . . . It is strongly urged, however, that no indication of CIA interest or concern reach the press or public, in view of their probably alarmist tendencies."

Watch the skies.

Another UFO sighted in Wythe

By JOE HELDRETH
Wythe Co. Correspondent

The sightings of unidentified flying objects continue in Wythe County and now include an incident where an object ran a car off the road.

The Wythe County Sheriff's Department says this past weekend, an out-of-state family, which was visiting here, reported their car was harassed by an unidentified flying object, and forced out of the road.

The car was near the S & D Grocery and Hopkins Motel in Grahams Forge when a low flying object came at the car, flying directly over it. The object was described as oval in shape with red and white pulsating lights. The area the lights showed was from six to eight feet wide.

The family reported the UFO hovered at a distance for five to 10 minutes, then took off toward Pulaski County. The family says the flying object gave off no noise as it disappeared. The out of state family reportedly was not aware of any other UFO sightings at the time of the incident.

Other sightings of UFO's were reported this past weekend over Ivanhoe, Piney and in Wytheville. No explanation has been offered for the sightings.



One of Meier's photographs of a 'Pleiadian beam ship,' taken at Hasenbol, Switzerland.

SOUTHWEST TIMES, Pulaski, VA - Oct. 14, 1987

Former Buena resident claims he has proof of U.F.O.'s existence

by Ginger Steffen

A former Valley resident, James S. Bounds, called a press conference this morning at a private residence in Buena and showed what he said was a thoroughly authenticated photograph of an Unidentified Flying Object - a UFO. The photograph



was taken by a DMSS (Defense Meteorological Satellite System) satellite and shows clearly a vehicle of some sort. It was taken in October of 1978, Bounds said.

He said the DMSS satellite orbits the earth at 450 nautical miles above the earth and is a near polar orbit satellite.

Bounds tells how this negative was noted by a friend of his, John T. Smith, who was at that time a Staff Communication Officer at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska. Smith put the negative in a brief case and showed it to Bounds after the two became friends and associates in a construction business in Alaska.

Bounds said he began working on authenticating the photograph in 1985 and only recently has received a copyright.

Asked why he waited all this time to release the information and the photograph, Bounds said he had wanted to be sure he had sufficient authentication and the copyright in hand.

He said he feels it is time the public saw the photograph and realized such things do exist. He said he knows the government has been hiding information about UFOs for "...probably 50 years." He cited several instances of UFO sightings which have been reported by reputable people and nothing further was ever heard about them. He noted one of the most recent was a Japanese Air Lines pilot who reported being followed by a huge flying object, which he could not identify, last November.

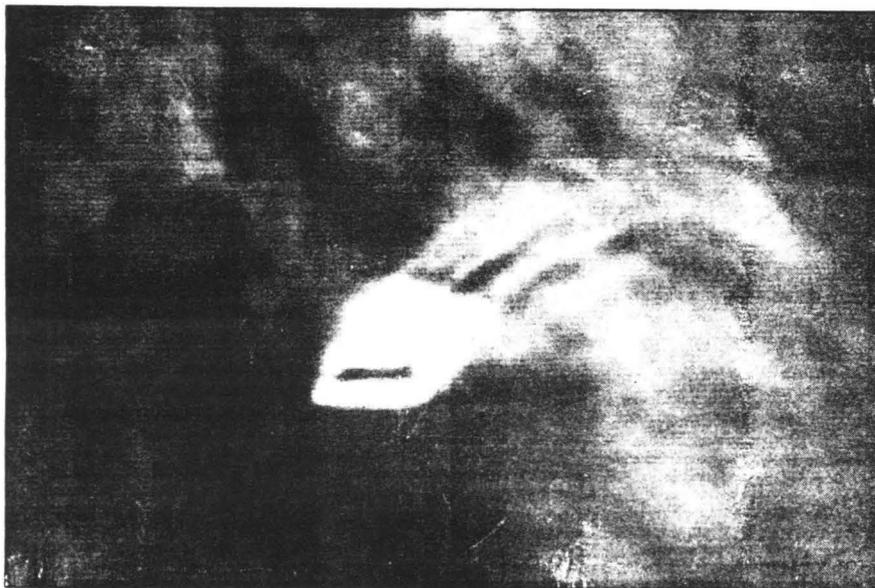
Among the testimonies of authenticity shown by Bounds this morning was a letter from Gerd Wendler, Professor of Geophysics at the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, saying he has examined the photo and that it has not been tampered with. Another was from a Professor of Physics, (highest rank) at Southeast Missouri State University, Dr. Harley D. Rutledge.

James Bounds provided a lengthy written account of his involvement with the satellite photo and his honest belief that he does indeed have a true picture of an Unidentified Flying Object.

He said he hopes the major news networks will be interested and will tell his story.



James Bounds, of Anchorage, AK, presented his U.F.O. documentation this morning.



A Daily Sun-News photograph of an authenticated satellite photograph of an Unidentified Flying Object - presented this morning by James Bounds at a news conference in Buena.

Hamburger-shaped UFO sighted

NEWS MINER, Fairbanks, AK - Aug. 27, 1987

Marilyn Gallagher wants to know if anyone else saw an unidentified flying object hovering over south Fairbanks early Tuesday morning.

"People are going to think we're nuts," she told her friend Evelyn Thormahlen, who also saw the hamburger-shaped object.

Gallagher, 54, is visiting from Kenai and awoke about 4:30 a.m. Tuesday when she heard chatter on her friend's police scanner. People on the scanner were talking about an unidentified flying object hovering over Lakeview Trailer Court, she said.

The house she was visiting was just a few miles from there, so Gallagher woke her friend and they went outside to look for themselves.

"It looked like a hamburger," she said. "It was just a bright light. It just stayed there a long time. I saw a beam that went right up from the top of it, like a flashlight beam.

"It was too bright for a star and too close for a star," she said. "But it was too high for a helicopter. And there was no sound, so it was no aircraft."

Perhaps it was a weather balloon, she theorized. At any rate, she figured the military probably knew what it was.

She watched the object for about five minutes, then went back to bed, so she didn't see it leave.

Neither Alaska State Troopers or Fairbanks City Police knew anything about the object. Apparently, officers on duty during that shift did not note it on their log sheets.

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration also didn't know anything about the object.

"Of course, people think you're foolish if you say anything, but I don't care," Gallagher said. "I was just interested."

PAGE TWO

This writer has a bead on one UFO

Something very strange has been happening for years in the Hudson River Valley, just north of New York City. So strange, in fact, that Bob Pratt of suburban Lake Worth



GLENN SINGER

PEOPLE

has written a book about the occurrences, which he calls "a true mystery." Pratt has, for more than a dozen years, specialized in reporting on unidentified flying objects. As a writer for The National Enquirer in Lantana — and later as a free-lance journalist — he has traveled throughout North America, as well as Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and the Philippines to investigate reports of UFO sightings and close encounters.

"I was very much a scoffer on the subject until my first UFO assignment in 1975," Pratt says. "But after a week of interviewing 60 or 70 people who'd had UFO sightings in Wisconsin and Minnesota, I became convinced something strange was going on."

Pratt soon became The Enquirer's expert on UFOs, and he usually kept a bag packed, not knowing where he would be heading next to report on a sighting. He estimates he has interviewed more than 1,400 people.

Pratt's book, *Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO sightings*, published by Ballantine, isn't based on his research, but rather on that of Philip Imbrogno and the dean of UFO researchers, J. Allen Hynek, who died last year.

"The book is about a nuts-and-bolts UFO that was triangular or boomerang-shaped and at least as large as a football field," Pratt says. It was first seen in the Hudson Valley on the last day of 1982, but most of the sightings came in 1983 and 1984.

Pratt says there have been more than three dozen sightings of what seems to be the same UFO, including a handful this year. Hundreds and hundreds of people have seen it, and some of their photos are included in the book.

"Skeptics and debunkers claim the object was nothing more than a hoax staged by some private pilots in small planes, flying in formation," Pratt says. "But small planes do not fly silently, cannot hover and cannot safely fly in formation in strong winds."

"The UFO was seen by very credible people — police officers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, scientists and pilots. Twice, it hovered over the Indian Point nuclear reactor, and one night the supervisors asked for military help and the security guards were ready to fire their weapons at it."

Unlike some reported UFO encounters, these did not involve abductions or the sighting of aliens. Says Pratt: "Perhaps they were less spectacular, but the frequency with which they occurred is unmatched anywhere in the world."

P.S.: If you're wondering why you don't see as many stories as you once did, blame Ronald Reagan.

"When Jimmy Carter was president, you could get a lot of information under the Freedom of Information Act," Pratt says. "Under Reagan, the North American Aerospace Defense Command has put up all sorts of obstacles. There is almost no cooperation, and when they do cooperate, they want exorbitant fees for copies of reports."

Light seen in area

DAILY RECORD, Roswell, NM - Oct. 1, 1987 CR: P. White

Editor:

The following unusual incident occurred on Sunday a.m. at approximately 1:30 on July 26.

A friend and I had attended an affair in Hobbs and were on our way back to Roswell. We drove to Tatum and turned left toward Roswell. Approximately six miles west of Tatum we noticed a bright flashing light. The light was north of the highway, possi-

ble less than one-eighth mile and maybe 50-feet above the ground. The flashing was dim to bright. At times it seemed to be three lights, one above each other.

This strange light kept pace with our car until we were 50 miles from Roswell. At that time it suddenly disappeared. We did not hear any sound. As best I can estimate, the light followed us for approximately 13 miles. It had to

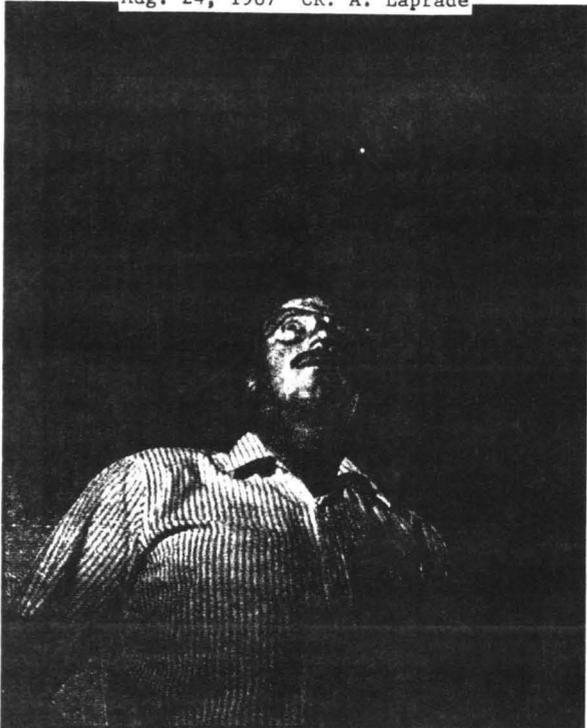
be a part of some kind of moving vehicle.

I have travelled this route many times and vaguely recall seeing unusual lights, but never under such a condition before. After this incident I saw on Monday's TV news that many sheep were found dead under mysterious circumstances in the Tatum area.

"Somethin's going on out thar."

I have tried to confirm the date of this incident, but can't be positive. It could have been one week earlier. It definitely occurred on the week-end when the many Tatum sheep died. I apologize for not writing sooner. Actually I did so at the urging of many friends.

Bob Kukla
3407 N. Garden Ave.



Pat Tehan/The Register

Ron Regehr of Huntington Beach, an aerospace engineer, never has seen a UFO, but he has devoted five years to studying the subject.

UFO hunter is a serious sleuth, not a space case

By Edward Humes
The Register

HUNTINGTON BEACH — Ron Regehr has spent 20 hours a week for the past five years compiling a 5-foot-high stack of documents that prove nothing at all.

But there are tidbits in that stack, hints of something big, and that's more than enough to keep him going.

Regehr is a UFO hunter. His tools are not telescopes or cameras, but telephones, typewriters and the Freedom of Information Act. He never has seen an unidentified flying object and really doesn't want to; his search is on paper alone.

Over the years, he and his partners have amassed oblique references to a shadowy government project called Majestic-12, supposedly concerned with UFOs.

He has photos of military bases with no official missions and, in some cases, no official existence. Captured UFOs are test flown there by Air Force pilots, according to a supposedly top-secret government document he can't authenticate.

Regehr's theory is that UFO technology is being exploited for the nation's Stealth fighter and bomber programs. The secret Nevada installations reputed to house the Stealth prototypes also are mentioned prominently in his UFO documents.

"What does all of this prove?" Regehr asked, sitting at his dining-room table heaped high with Chinese takeout and piles of documents. "Nothing. But we haven't disproved anything yet, either.

"We want to confirm it, or we want to refute it. Either way, I want to know."

Regehr is well aware of the stereotype of UFO enthusiasts: wild-eyed crackpots clutching hazy Polaroid snapshots of the sky and sporting aluminum foil on their heads for deflecting alien thought beams.

"Sometimes people might think that, until they sit down and talk to me and see what I've got. It doesn't bother me," Regehr said.

According to the U.S. government, Regehr is no crackpot.

After extensive investigation, he was issued a "secret" clearance as part of his job at Aerojet Electro-Systems in Azusa, where he works

me. I can't stand to be lied to."

Regehr and Graham then began their research. This led them to Andrews and then Moore, who one day called them and said he had received amazing documents from an Air Force source.

Regehr has a photocopy of one document that purports to be a top-secret 1952 briefing for President Eisenhower by Rear Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, the first director of the CIA.

The subject was "Operation Majestic-12," a 12-member committee of prominent military officers and scientists originally appointed by President Harry S. Truman.

The paper describes a secret government inquiry into "disc-shaped aircraft" sighted in the United States. In particular, it focuses on a highly publicized UFO sighting and apparent crash in July 1947 in Roswell, later dismissed as a crash of an experimental weather balloon. The briefing calls the balloon explanation a cover story.

"On July 7, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study," the paper says. "During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small humanlike be-

"What does all of this prove? Nothing. But we haven't disproved anything yet, either. We want to confirm it, or we want to refute it. Either way, I want to know."

Ron Regehr
compiles data on UFOs

ings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. ... All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements."

The bodies and wreckage were removed to several military bases for study, the paper says. The wreckage contained numerous examples of indecipherable symbols. Nothing resembling a propulsion system, electric wiring or recognizable control systems was found.

A second object crashed and was mostly destroyed in December 1950, along the Texas-New Mexico border. Its wreckage was taken to the nuclear-arms facility at Sandia, N.M., the paper says.

UFO debunkers have dismissed the paper as a hoax. All 12 of the named Majestic-12 members are dead, and no verifiable references to such an organization can be found, critics have said.

Spokesmen for the White House and the National Security Council denied the existence of any organization called Majestic-12 or MJ-12 or Majic-12, two abbreviations used in the document.

An Air Force spokesman said the military had several UFO projects in the 1950s and 1960s, the last of which was called "Blue Book."

"It was closed in the late 1960s," said Capt. Martin Hauser, spokesman for the Air Force Systems Command. "As far as I know, they didn't find enough evidence to make it worth continuing."

But Regehr says he has uncovered authenticated records showing that Majestic-12 existed, although the records do not describe Majestic-12's purpose.

From the National Archives, Regehr obtained a memo for Air Force Gen. Nathan Twining from Robert Cutler, special assistant to Eisenhower, dated July 14, 1954:

"Subject: NSC/MJ-12 Special Studies Project.

"The president has decided the MJ-12 SSP briefing should take place during the already scheduled White House meeting of July 16."

Regehr concedes this proves only that there was an MJ-12. It does not prove MJ-12 was a UFO program.

More National Archive inquiries uncovered an Air Force memo appointing Twining to a program created to attempt to validate or disprove UFO sightings. Long days at the library uncovered newspaper clippings from 1968, in which a re-

tired Hillenkoetter is reported to have testified before Congress about a government cover-up of UFO evidence.

"If we were paid for all the hours it took to find this stuff, I could retire by now," Regehr said.

Another document — describing "Project Aquarius" — purportedly was leaked to Moore and given to Regehr. It describes actual contact with aliens by the U.S. military.

"This project met with positive success when in 1959, the United States established primitive communications with the aliens. On April 25, 1964, (an Air Force) intelligence officer met two aliens at a prearranged location in the desert of New Mexico. The contact lasted for approximately three hours. ... This project is continuing at an Air Force base in New Mexico."

The paper also describes a "Project Snowbird," established in 1972. "Its mission was to test fly a recovered alien aircraft. This project is continuing in Nevada."

Regehr and his associates believe Snowbird is located at the Tonopah Test Range or a secret facility at Groom Lake, both of which are in deserted areas of Nevada. Although aerial photos in Lockheed Co. publications show Groom Lake to have one of the longest airstrips in the world, the base does not appear on maps or aviation charts of the area, Regehr said. The Air Force has not acknowledged the existence of a Tonopah airfield.

He has collected eyewitness accounts from military pilots describing a strange, disc-shaped aircraft flying out of the area.

He believes that the Stealth program, reportedly operating out of those two Nevada bases, is using information gleaned from UFO technology. He said UFOs consistently are sighted but often do not appear on radar, a Stealth characteristic.

The description of the crashed alien vehicle in the MJ-12 briefing — including the absence of vacuum tubes and electrical wiring — fits recent developments in fiber electro-optics and computer-chip technology, Regehr said. Such technology would be largely unrecognizable in the early 1950s, he said.

"It's really just a gut feeling, of course. We can't prove any of this," he said.

Meanwhile, Regehr and Graham keep pounding out the Freedom of Information requests. They ask for records on MJ-12, they ask for autopsy results on the alien bodies, they ask what's going on at Groom Lake. They get back a lot of letters referring questions to other agencies.

They took the MJ-12 briefing paper into the Defense Investigative Services office at Aerojet last year, asking officials what they should do with it and if it could be authenticated. Instead, an investigation of their backgrounds was

"We think the (Majestic-12) project is so far along, it's about to explode. After 40 years of deceit and cover-up, it's going to catch up with them, and the truth will come out."

Ron Regehr
compiles data on UFOs

launched to see if they were a security risk, according to their personnel records, Regehr said.

Neighbors, relatives and co-workers were questioned. Regehr said he was questioned for three days, eight hours a day. The agent investigating him was named James Kirk.

"No kidding," Regehr said, noting that James Kirk is the name of the fictional captain of the starship Enterprise from the television series "Star Trek."

Nothing happened to the men as a result of the investigation, although they never received any word on the authenticity of the documents, he said.

Regehr's wife, Sydney, said she admires her husband's persistence — even if it does spill over into evenings, weekends and vacations. They'll be camping later this month, and they'll "just happen" to swing by Sandia, N.M., to see what they can see, she said.

"It's human nature to want to know these things, to ask why," she said. "It's a challenge to the mind, to think about the unknown. These guys have worked hard. They're going to see the fruits of their labor some day."

As much as he wants to know the truth, Regehr isn't so sure anymore what would happen if his pile of documents one day contained proof positive of UFOs. He worries that the public may not be prepared for full disclosure. Perhaps that is why information is "leaking" slowly through people like Moore, he suggested — a kind of testing of the waters.

"We think the (Majestic 12) project is so far along, it's about to explode," he said. "After 40 years of deceit and cover-up, it's going to catch up with them, and the truth will come out."

UFO sighting reported locally; Wytheville incidents described

DAILY TELEGRAPH, Bluefield, WV
Oct. 24, 1987 CR: L. Whitehurst

By CHARLES BOOTHE
of the Daily Telegraph staff

Wytheville, Va., has not been the only area of UFO sightings. A Green Valley woman said she and her family recently saw strange lights that made no noise and vanished.

Myrtle Mullens said she first saw the lights about two weeks ago for several evenings between sundown and 9 p.m.

"We saw two big white lights and a red light in the center," she said. "They were flying lower than an aircraft and made no noise."

She said they came in from the north and flew

west.

"We also saw lights that looked like a figure-eight shape," Mullens said. "They were huge and went in different directions and disappeared."

Mullens said the lights were often accompanied by other "normal" aircraft and that makes her think it's all some sort of military operation.

"One night we saw about 40 aircraft, besides the strange lights," she said. "You could hear the other airplanes. But there were a lot of them."

She said she hasn't been

outside to look lately because "it's been too cold" but she's convinced it all can be explained.

In Wytheville, five people who claim to have seen UFOs said Friday a secret military operation has stirred up the recent flying saucer craze in Wythe County, but they offered no evidence to back the assertion. The Associated Press reported.

"It appears we are dealing with something of a military nature," said news director Danny Gordon of radio station WYVE.

NLR resident collects accounts of UFOs

New tales about unidentified flying objects and alien intruders have brought a long-simmering debate to a boil again, Edward Zeigler said in his article, "What's Behind Our UFO Mania?" in the August issue of *Readers Digest*.



CLARK
"What's Behind Our UFO Mania?" in the August issue of *Readers Digest*.

The modern debate between UFO believers and skeptics has been steadily heating since 1947 when veteran pilot Kenneth Arnold reported observing disc-like objects near Mount Rainier in Washington. Zeigler said news accounts of that incident first used the term "flying saucer."

UFO skeptics point to the lack of tangible evidence and to human gullibility in refuting reports of extraterrestrial Earth visitors. But UFO believers say there is no proof either way. An estimated 70,000 UFO sightings have been reported during the last 40 years with many more unreported, Zeigler said.

North Little Rock resident

Fillman Bledsoe, 75, believes in UFOs. In fact, Bledsoe reports having been within 10 feet of one UFO and within 50 feet of another in separate sightings.

His own experiences and those of other UFO believers are detailed in a book, "Far Star," which he has spent the last 15 years researching and writing.

"Far Star" is a collection of accounts by people, such as an editor at the *Arkansas Gazette* and a North Little Rock couple, who have actually encountered UFOs.

Many books are being written about UFOs, but very few deal with why the government has chosen to cover up the existence of such objects, Bledsoe said.

"Far Star" is unique in that it is one of the few books that discusses the reasons for the government cover-up of UFOs although sightings have been documented in congressional hearings, he said.

The North Little Rock author's love of mystery and intrigue goes beyond UFOs. He once spent 12 years searching for a man, with the search culminating in a London, England, cemetery. His greatest experiences have been hunting for



Fillman Bledsoe

sunken Spanish ships in the Bermuda Triangle.

Bledsoe, who has been reading and writing since he was 4, is the author of four other books. His first, "Treasure Hunting: A Treasure Hunter's Guide," sold more than 10,000 copies. His

other books are "Treasure Hunting Tips," "Treasure Hunting Far and Wide," and a not yet titled book set for release later this year.

When not delving into intrigue and research, Bledsoe spends his time with, and working for, children. During his early years as a charter member of the North Little Rock Kiwanis Club, he was instrumental in establishing a program to supply poor children with clothing and shoes. Because of its success, Bledsoe's program was adopted by other Kiwanis Clubs.

Bledsoe has four children - Mike, 29, who owns Mike's Metal Detectors in North Little Rock; Marla Kvaternik, 29, of Monticello (Mike and Marla are twins); Sue Carson of Dallas; and Leslie Bledsoe of North Little Rock.

"I hope to be able to make my greatest contribution to children (with "Far Star"), Bledsoe said. He plans to share profits from the book with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

"I hope to personally hand Danny Thomas a check for this wonderful institution and the great work they do there for children."

MESSINGER, Bland, VA - Oct. 28, 1987

UFO sightings:

Press conference seeks answers

By MICHAEL HAWKS
Staff Writer

The latest chapter in the saga of the UFOs spotted around Wythe County over the past month unfolded in a news conference held at WYVE Friday afternoon.

WYVE News Director Danny Gordon called the news conference to try to solve the mystery surrounding the UFOs.

In addition to Gordon, the members of the panel included Andrew Convery, a computer analyst from Virginia Beach who studies UFO; John Stember, a photographer from New York who came down to take some pictures of the UFO; Roger Hall, a Wytheville businessman who witnessed the UFO while travelling with Gordon, and Emma Burchett, a housewife from Austinville who saw the UFO Thursday night while driving with her husband on state Route 619.

The group reached a consensus that the object was in the shape of a large dome that was led by a large red strobe light, and other lights flitted around the large object. The object had three U-shaped panels like picture windows from which a warm yellow light emanated. No wings were apparent anywhere on the craft, and the witnesses described the main object as larger than a commercial airliner. All witnesses said the object made no noise.

Gordon said they had also come to the conclusion that the object was somehow part of a military operation from the way it seems to follow the same flight paths as military jets and helicopters.

Sightings are usually preceded or closely followed by military aircraft.

Convery said he heard one man say the jets fly over in the daytime and the flying saucers take over at night.



Danny Gordon's drawing depicts what he believes he saw.

He said when he saw the object between 9 and 9:30 p.m. Thursday, he noticed how serenely the craft was riding, flying as it were without fear of interdiction.

He also said these sightings were unique in the history of UFO sightings for their universality. He said at any store in Wythe County, one can find people who have seen the UFO. He also said most UFO sightings last a couple of days; the ones in Wythe County have gone on for nearly a month. These facts also lead him to believe that this object is part of a military exercise that has no need to fear detection from military aircraft.

He also said he has reason to believe the military aircraft are searching for something, saying the helicopters had been equipped with search lights. He would elaborate no further on why he thought the aircraft was conducting a search or what he thought they were searching for.

He said the military likes to use this area to test its aircraft because the terrain is very similar to Korea's.

However, when asked after the news conference why, if this is a

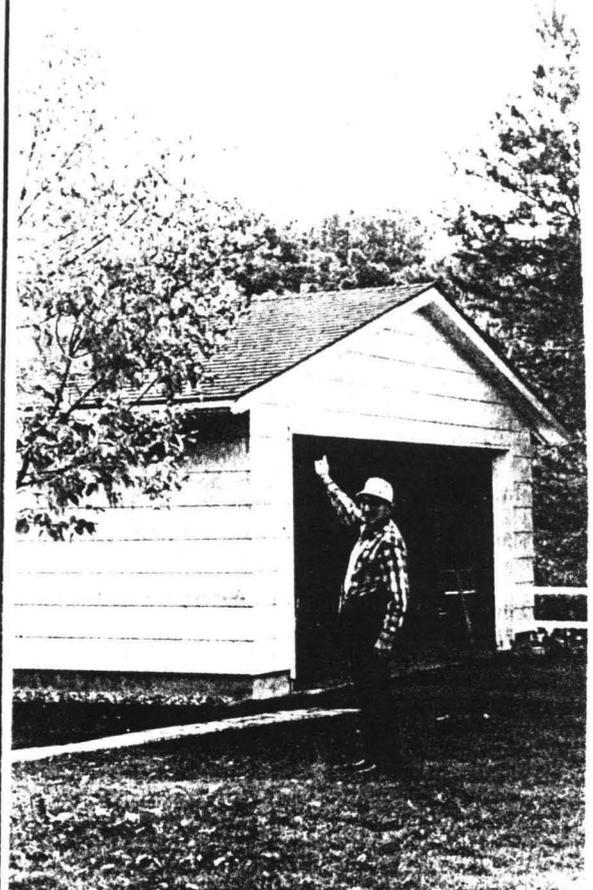
military test of a new aircraft, the military does not discontinue this test in the light of all the national attention being focused on Wythe County because of the sightings, he said it may be an operation that the military cannot discontinue.

Stember said he had made a videotape of the object as well as taking 35 mm photographs of it. The quality of the videotape is too poor to distinguish anything other than a light. The photographs have not been developed yet.

Television stations WSLs, WDBJ and WVVA taped the press conference. Representatives from United Press International and The Associated Press were also present as well as reporters from the *Roanoke Times & World News*, the *Bristol Herald Courier*, the *Southwest Times* and the *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*.

Meanwhile, the story of the UFOs continues. Two people reported seeing the object Thursday night to the *Enterprise*, and K-92, a radio station from Roanoke, will do a live remote from Wythe County Sunday night trying to track down the UFO.

FREE PRESS, Amery, WI - Sept. 29, 1987



Flying saucer . . . Frank Epley points to the sky where he saw a silver-colored, disc-shaped flying saucer on Friday at 2:45 p.m. Epley said the saucer was about 30 ft. in diameter and traveling noiselessly from south to north at about 500 feet. Epley said the saucer was flying between his home and the Apple River. This is the second UFO sighting by Epley. The first occurred in the 1950's in St. Paul. He and a co-worker spotted a UFO while installing an antenna.

CR: R. Heiden

Maryland man follows UFO trails

Investigator believes in space aliens

By LARRY PERL
Journal staff writer

Few people ever got paid full time to investigate UFOs.

"I'm one of them," said Richard Hall of Brentwood, Md.

From 1958 to 1967, Hall was director of the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

He was a college graduate with a philosophy degree and a growing conviction that unidentified flying objects were a reality.

But he was virtually alone in his conviction. He recalled that his \$9,000 salary was "laughable" — and so was his resume when he resigned reluctantly to seek a more normal, better-paying job.

"It hurt my career drastically to be involved in the subject," he said. "Some people literally laughed in my face."

Much has since changed in Hall's life. The investigation committee now exists only as an archive of reports of UFO sightings. Hall's full-time job has nothing to do with UFOs: He reads, indexes and writes summaries of congressional reports as an abstractor for the Congressional Information Service in Bethesda, Md.

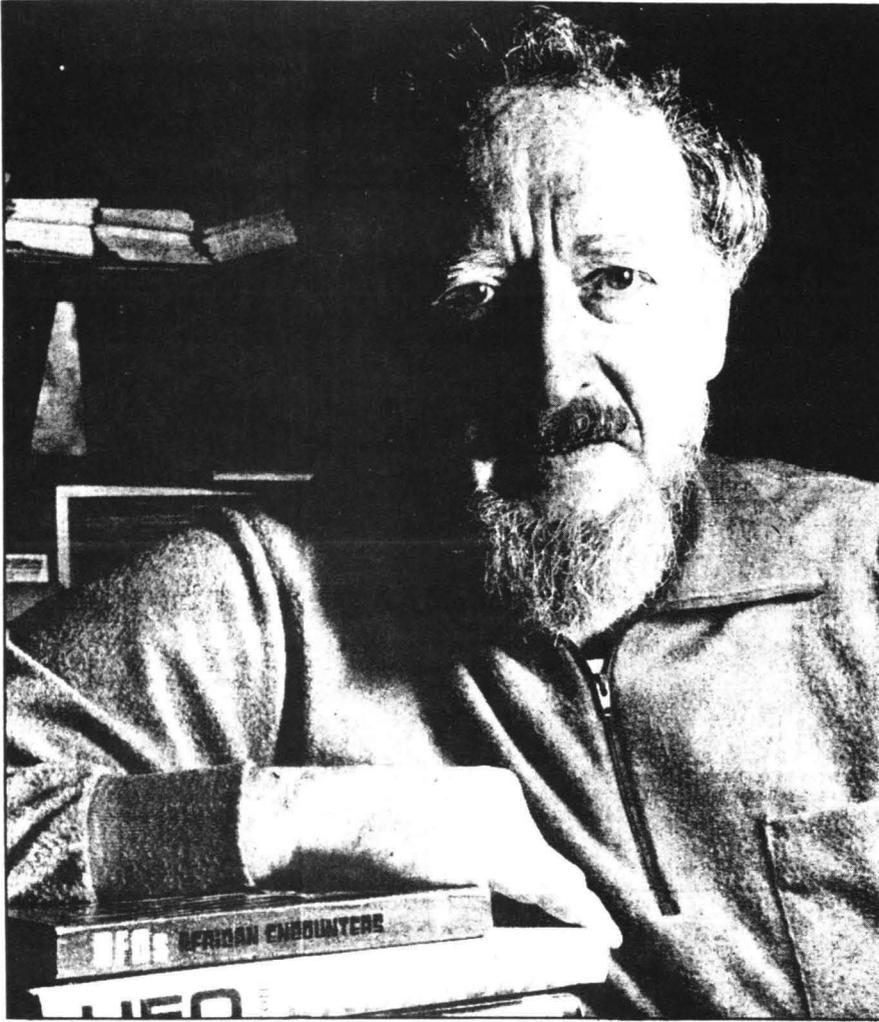
But Hall, 56, is still hot on the trail of "beings from elsewhere," as the volunteer secretary/treasurer of a non-profit corporation called Fund for UFO Research Inc., based at his house.

And these days, fewer people laugh at him. "The whole subject is more respected now, by far," he said, mentioning several recent best-selling books on the subject.

The corporation raises roughly \$25,000 a year to give to people researching reports of UFO sightings. It's good, solid research, Hall said. It includes investigations of radar sightings, analysis of photographs of UFOs and psychological profiles of people who have reported seeing them.

Only applications to research "physical trace evidence" are considered by the corporation's board of directors. Board members include two University of Maryland professors, as well as astrophysicists, theologians, sociologists and airline pilots from around the country.

Hall said the board has no use for



Ron Ceasar/Journal

Richard Hall of Brentwood, Md., devotes much of his time to the study of UFOs.

those who want to see if there are Martians living in Arizona. "They sure as hell wouldn't get a penny out of us," he said.

Hall said the corporation's post office box in Mount Rainier, Md., is usually full when he checks it three times a week.

He said he has interviewed "hundreds, if not thousands" of people who have seen UFOs.

And he said a major publisher is interested in a book he has written

on the subject.

If the book is published, it will mingle with dozens of other UFO-related books crammed into the cluttered living room of the lanky, bearded man who has become an unofficial expert on a subject he calls perhaps the most mysterious — and important — in the world.

One of the most mysterious aspects of UFO research and investigation, Hall said, is the refusal of the federal government and the

military to do any.

"Or so they say," he said.

Publicly, the U.S. Department of Defense has pooch-pooched the existence of UFOs since 1969, when the Air Force scrapped Project Bluebook, a program to investigate UFO sightings up to that time. The Air Force concluded that such sightings posed no national security threat and that there was no evidence of extraterrestrial beings.

UFO photos, Bigfoot tracks will highlight group's display

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — Photographs of alleged UFOs and plaster casts of tracks reportedly made by Bigfoot will be among the items displayed at Westmoreland Mall Aug. 15 by the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained.

PASU's display is scheduled to coincide with the 3rd annual National UFO Information Week, Aug. 10-17, a nationwide effort by the Mutual UFO Network to inform the public about the study of unidentified flying objects and other unexplained phenomena.

PASU, based in Greensburg, east of Pittsburgh, describes itself as an "all-volunteer, non-profit, scientific clearinghouse that conducts open-minded investigations of alleged UFO sightings and other phenomena."

"Here in Pennsylvania, we investigate hundreds of reports each year," said Stan Gordon, PASU's director. "After careful study, most cases are found to be naturally explainable. However, there are

some observations that remain baffling and deserve serious attention."

Of the UFO sightings in the Keystone State reported to PASU — often via the group's hotline — a high percentage actually are bright planets, stars, meteors or space debris that is burning up, Gordon said.

But some sightings "are indeed unusual," he said.

"For example, on the evening of Jan. 21 near Sewickley (Allegheny County), a person driving on a back road reported that a large cigar-shaped object came down low parallel with the car for a short time, then ascended over the trees and out of sight. Other sightings from other witnesses were reported in that area about the same time."

The biggest problem PASU faces in analyzing the reports lies in obtaining accurate, updated information, Gordon said in a statement.

"This situation arises from the

fact that the public, as a whole, doesn't know where to report these sightings without fear of ridicule," he said.

George Lutz, co-director of PASU, said the group also investigates reports of Bigfoot sightings.

"We've talked to dozens and dozens of people who have seen Bigfoot," Lutz said in an interview.

"They describe it as a great big, hairy creature, black or brown with shaggy hair. Some describe an awful odor that comes from it, like burning tires," he said.

PASU will display casts allegedly of Bigfoot's feet that are about 13 inches long and 8 inches wide, Lutz said.

Even though the existence of Bigfoot, UFOs and other alleged phenomena is doubted by most, Lutz said PASU receives few crank calls.

"People in this area and all over the country take our group seriously. Members include all kinds of professionals — doctors, lawyers, pilots," Lutz said.

TIMES & WORLD-NEWS,
Roanoke, VA
Nov. 14, 1987

Conference on UFOs planned Wednesday

WYTHEVILLE — A conference on unidentified flying objects will be held Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Bland Hall auditorium of Wytheville Community College.

It will feature a panel of UFO researchers, including Barbara Finney of Roanoke, who has written about UFOs for more than 20 years; David Bodner of the Mutual UFO Network; and a representative of Paranet, a national group that looks into the paranormal.

Danny Gordon, news director at the WYVE radio in Wytheville, organized the conference. He said it was

To The Editor,

Having read your two stories in your fine newspaper, I would like to address a few points if I may. First let me state that I have spent over 21 years researching and investigating UFO's and related subjects (plus almost 20 years as a radio newsman). These opinions are ones formed over the years and are shared by some of the top people in the UFO field.

1. Yes, the earth is being visited by space crafts/ships that are either directly or indirectly controlled by intelligent life forms. Don't get me wrong — not all UFO's are space crafts.

2. I know of no reasons for investigators not to show their ID and let their names be used by the press, UNLESS they are not really who they say they are. There have been cases like that. I carry three forms of ID with me and will gladly show them when asked.

3. As far as sightseers coming around, I can only guess, because UFO activity has been slow this entire decade and this is one of the few landings to occur in the U.S. in some time, they want to see a UFO.

4. As far as sound, most UFO's do not make much noise or it is a very low hum or whine or swish (even large ones). There have been ones that did make sound. For shape, the two most common shapes are disks, and cigar or cylinder. True UFO's don't often come back the next night, but there have been several cases over the years where they have.

5. Last, but not least, what did the fine folks see near Sylvania? First let's check what they did not see. Stars, planets and clouds do not land. Birds, kites and satellites are out. If a weather balloon comes down it does not go back up. Shooting stars are out. Judging from what I read and who the witness is I think we can also rule out weather inversions and swamp gas.

To my knowledge, add having talked with the military, they have no type of aircraft that can land or take off without making a lot of sound. There is the outside chance that it was a secret project, but I find it hard to believe that we can make propane gas tanks fly. Well, what do you have left? UFO.

I cannot speak for others, but I would never frighten anyone, and I would always answer all questions to the best of my ability. Do not think I am a know-it-all. I am not, having not been to the site myself. I can only say that this does indeed have a good chance of being a UFO.

Thank you for your time,
Billy J. Rachels, Director
UFO Bureau
516 Colton Ave.
Thomasville, Ga.

an effort to compile more information about UFO sightings reported in Wythe County for more than a month and now spreading to other parts of Southwest Virginia.

Gordon said the station has received about 50 UFO sighting reports in the past week from places like Marion, Radford, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Abingdon, Galax, Independence, Elk Creek and Bland.

— Southwest bureau



NEWS PHOTO • JIM JAGDFELD

Shirley Coyne, a member of the Mutual UFO Network Inc., answers high school students' questions about her experiences with an unidentified flying object.

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Woman recounts childhood experiences of flying saucer abductions

By LILA ORBACH
NEWS STAFF REPORTER

The dogs had been barking for three nights. But the 9-year-old girl was sleeping soundly in her Arkansas home. Her mother, awakened by the noise, peered out the window to see three bright lights shining in the garden. Grabbing her shotgun, the woman knelt by the window and fired a shot into the night. The little girl woke up.

There were two "beings" in her bedroom. Without opening the bedroom door, the intruders beckoned her out of the room, levitating her through the door. From there, they whisked her past her mother, who was still kneeling at the

window. They took her into the garden, where more "beings" lurked. Then they lifted her onto the spacecraft, a silver disk matching the traditional description of a flying saucer.

In the confines of the control room, the unearthly visitors — who had long faces with one eye and no nose — examined her body, putting objects into her nose, ears and eyes, probing her genitals and scarring her leg in the shape of a triangle, an emblem similar to the one emblazoned on her captors' chests.

The wound, which she discovered the next day back in her bedroom, was deep but without blood. Communicating telepathically, the little girl asked questions. She was told she would one day understand, was assured her every-

thing would be all right and they would not harm her. But they did.

Shirley Coyne, a member of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., solemnly told of the above incidents Thursday night to a group of more than 100 high school students from across Michigan who are spending two-weeks at Eastern Michigan University's fourth Michigan State Board of Education Summer Institute on the Arts and Sciences.

Finishing her account of the little girl in Arkansas, Coyne told the audience calmly, "Yes, I believe this story. I know this story is true. I am that little girl."

Coyne, and her husband, George, spent more than two hours speaking to the students, persuading them of the existence of unidentified flying objects and alien abductions.

For Shirley Coyne, now in her mid-50s and living in Flushing, Mich., UFOs and visitors from space are very sensitive subjects. And, in the 40 years since her first abduction, Thursday night was one of the first times she had ever spoken of her experiences.

She maintained that for years she's been bothered by childhood memories and the unexplainable triangular scar until 1985, when, with the help of hypnosis, the stories of spacecrafts and spacelings unfolded, revealing that she had been abducted on four occasions between the ages of 9 and 20.

"Yes, it did happen," she said emotionally. "And it took me a long time to admit it."

Coyne's own experiences have made her a firm believer in extra terrestrial beings and close encounters, turning her and her husband into loyal members of the UFO Network, headquartered in Seguin, Texas, with more than 60 Michigan members. Together, the Coynes have sighted more than ten UFOs.

Coyne told the young audience that those who claim to have been abducted "are not liars, are not schizophrenics or manic depressives. They have characteristics of those who have been violated like rape victims . . . There is no evidence that they are victims of mental illness," she said. "They feel dread, terror and an aching fear that it can and will happen again and again."

To this day, Coyne doesn't know why she was abducted. "I have no idea why I was chosen," she said, adding that she is not fearful of a recurrence. "There is no need for me to be afraid. If they want to take me, they will . . . You have no control, you do think what they want you to."

Coyne told the crowd that she is not alone.

"Some of you people may have been abducted and don't even know it." There have been more and more incidents reported . . . Michigan is no exception. There have been a lot of people abducted from the rooftops of New York City. They're everywhere"

Coyne's family, none of whom has been hypnotized, has not admitted to any recollections of the abductions. It's as though they were frozen, Coyne said.

In spite of her now vivid memories, Coyne said she understands those that are skeptical on the subject, admitting that she herself is at times skeptical. However, with the rising number of incidents reported, she, and others investigating the subject, are increasingly convinced.

EMU sociology professor Ron Westrum, who has studied hundreds of reports like Coyne's, said there is too much evidence to ignore.

"It's real typical in these cases that the rest of the family is frozen," said Westrum. "I have a lot of respect for Shirley Coyne. She's faced the abduction, investigated it and carried on."

Many of the students stayed long after the presentation, asking Coyne more questions about the "beings" and her experiences with them. Many of the questions she refused to answer, saying, "It's much too emotional and too traumatic for me to talk about."

But the general tone of Coyne's account was positive. "This is a wonderful and mysterious world we live in — and we are not alone."

Spotters say UFOs actually military craft

By PAUL DELLINGER
Southwest bureau

WYTHEVILLE — Several people who reported seeing unidentified flying objects over Wythe County concluded during a live broadcast on Wytheville's radio station Friday that the lights they saw were military aircraft of some sort.

"We don't think we're dealing with little fellas riding around in a saucer from outer space," said Danny Gordon, WYVE news director. "We have no injuries, we have no panic, but we do have a lot of concerned citizens."

Reporters and photographers from three newspapers, two wire services and three television stations crowded into a WYVE studio to question Gordon and others who said they had seen UFOs in the past two nights.

The others included Andrew Convery, a computer analyst from the Virginia Beach area who is interested in UFOs, and John Stember, a professional photographer from New York City who said he shot 35mm film of one Thursday night.

Stember said he had sent the film out of Southwest Virginia to avoid any chance of authorities confiscating it, and that it would probably not be developed before the middle of next week. Until then, he said, he could not be sure what was on it.

Stember said he saw a large dome-shaped craft that appeared to be towing another. He referred to the larger craft as a "mother ship" and the smaller one as a "probe" that went to and from the larger craft.

Although he described the craft in terms used by UFO buffs, Stember



STEPHANIE KLEIN/RT&WN

Businessman Roger Hall, WYVE news director Danny B. Gordon, photographer John Stember and computer analyst Andrew Convery

said they appeared to be of military origin. Although he heard no engine noise, Stember said, he doubted that a spacecraft would be using a strobe light.

Convery said the sightings indicated a search pattern to him, and he speculated that the military might be searching for a top-secret aircraft that had crashed. He said the Wythe County UFO sightings have gone on longer than any he knew of in the 40-year history of UFO phenomena.

Gordon said he had called the nearest military bases to Southwest Virginia, and that the people he talked to said they knew of nothing in this region similar to the objects described. But Gordon said it seemed to him that the military was either holding air maneuvers or searching for something.

"We're asking once again for the military to tell us something or to leave us alone," he said. "I need to

get on with my life and pursue other things."

He said he was concerned that low-flying aircraft could pose a safety hazard.

UFO fever hit Wythe County early this month, and Gordon, who broadcast the first stories of sightings, found himself at the center of the story as reporters from outside the region called him for information.

Gordon said he had received at least 300 calls from people who said they saw strange objects in the skies over Wythe County.

Stember heard Gordon's name in an NBC broadcast about the UFOs and got in touch with him before flying from New York. Stember accompanied Gordon and Roger Hall, a Wytheville businessman who also was on Friday's broadcast, on U.S. 21 south of here Thursday night.

All three said they saw the craft

with what seemed to be a strobe light flashing different colors in front and, as it passed, three illuminated square windows in the back. They said what appeared to be a red ball seemed to fly directly at the larger craft until both disappeared in a cloud.

"I got the impression that it was 747-size or larger," Convery said.

Another radio station, this one from Roanoke, will be searching the skies over Wythe County Sunday night during yet another live broadcast.

"We're going to go out there and just check it out," said Jan Jeffries, manager of K-92 FM.

"This is what makes radio great, to go out and take your audience with you," Jeffries said. "We're not going to play it up to be something it's not and, at the same time, not making a joke out of it, either."

TIMES & WORLD-NEWS, Roanoke, VA - Oct. 24, 1987

We join our heroes spaced out in Ohio

Action! Adventure! Safe sex! The stories of Cuyahoga Jones and his partner, Nikon Dave, explode before you like in a movie, only it's not a movie because it's the Sunday paper. But that's not important now.

Anyway, thrill with us as we present exclusively the daring exploits of that Roving Rogue of the Rust Belt, Cuyahoga Jones, renowned peregrinator (Ha! Ha! Look it up!) and alter-ego of a quiet, bespectacled Plain Dealer reporter. CJ loves danger, the unknown and those little free mints they keep in bowls near cash registers in restaurants.

Jones and partner/photographer Nikon Dave — a man of few words but many company-supplied cameras — traveled 1,200 miles throughout Ohio and the Lake Erie coastal towns of New York to bring you, the deserving reader, three stories about Startling But True Phenomena, which will appear in this space on consecutive Sundays.

In our first chapter, Cuyahoga goes in search of aliens. For years, Ohio has played a significant UFO role. The Air Force's primary investigation of UFOs was centered at a Dayton air base. And several people have said the Air Force has stored alien bodies there.

Sound like fun? Well, let's get rolling, as Cuyahoga Jones travels to southwestern Ohio to find the aliens. His report follows.

By **ALFRED LUBRANO**
STAFF WRITER

ON THE ROAD SOMEWHERE IN OHIO

Nikon Dave wheels the blue Adventure-Mobile south on Interstate 71, toward the Ohio River and a date with aliens from outer space.

Supposedly, 12 alien crafts have crashed to earth over the last 40 years. UFO mavens insist that the bodies of the aliens were taken to an Ohio air base, where they were kept on ice.

"Aliens on ice," I say to no one in particular. My overworked imagination provides an ugly picture: a Dorothy Hamill extravaganza with 250 European and Central American immigrants on skates.

I look out the window. Ohio south of Cleveland is as flat as the electronic curve measuring brain-wave activity among the spectators at a tractor pull. Great green acres of horizon-bumping farmland blur on each side of Nikon's stylish, whizzing vehicle.

Perhaps that is why the aliens come, I decide. Maybe the state looks like a big runway from the sky.

Ohio — specifically central and southern Ohio — has long been associated with UFOs and aliens. Among UFO cognoscenti, it's known as a UFO corridor, through which numerous unidentified objects have flown.

As Nikon pulls in yuppie rock on the radio, I check my notebook to review the Ohio-UFO connection:

■ Around 20 years ago, Cincinnati reported more UFO sightings than any other American city at the time, with person after person saying they



PD/EDWARD S. FRESKA

saw strange crafts diving toward the Ohio River. Some even thought there was an alien base underwater.

■ Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton was the center of Project Blue Book, the Air Force's 20-year study of UFOs between the 1940s and the '60s, which concluded that no extraterrestrials ever have been to a Cincinnati Reds game, or anywhere else on Earth, for that matter. Several UFO experts call Project BB a sham and say the U.S. intelligence community is covering up important UFO information. Why? Don't ask us.

■ Columbus-based Battelle Memorial Institute, one of the largest private research firms in the world, did a UFO investigation for the Air Force in 1953. It reportedly concluded that nearly 50% of UFO sightings then filed could not be explained.

The controversial report was sent to the National Archives in Washington. Archivist Ed Reese told me recently the report was "missing." Battelle isn't talking, at least not to me. Maybe the aliens have it.

Reese also casually mentioned that the CIA holds 900 pages of UFO info that it won't release to the Archives or anyone else "for reasons of national security."

■ The Ohio State University Radio Observatory in Delaware, O., conducts the only continuous, long-term search for cosmic life — the only one by Earth creatures, anyway. In 1974, the lab received what astronomer Bob Dixon calls a signal "of truly intelligent origin, truly from outside the Earth." The beam lasted only a minute and never repeated. Nicholas Sanduleak, an astronomy researcher at Case Western Reserve University and an avowed UFO debunker, says scientists classified the mystery signal as a "Wow" event.

■ Finally, UFO researchers claim that clumsy aliens crashed into the Earth, and their bodies have been taken to Wright-Patterson.

Nikon's most fervent wish is to high-five an alien. I'd like to help him attain that goal.

Our first stop is the suburban Cincinnati home of Leonard Stringfield, a former Air Force intelligence officer who has devoted much of his life to UFO research.

He greets us warily. People still believe UFO "experts" are foot-sucking chuckleheads with tile grout for brains, although Air Force pilots, astronomers and even a U.S. president (Jimmy Carter) have claimed to have seen UFOs. I assure Stringfield we'll keep an open mind.

At 67, he's a distinguished presence, with a white beard and formal air. While Nikon shoots the man, I listen.

He tells us he saw UFOs in the service; they made enough of an impression to fuel his lifelong fire on the subject.

Stringfield gets up from his chair and walks Nikon and me into his indoor garden, a humid glass box filled with tropical plants, lizards and toads. He chooses this strange setting to continue his odd tale.

"This is the biggest story since Jesus," he says as a thunderstorm rages. Jesus was a pretty big story, I concede.

"I'm not just a kook talking about UFOs," Stringfield continues. "I've spoken with 28 firsthand witnesses who have seen alien crafts and bodies. I don't have proof, but my sources are good."

"All witnesses say the same thing: Wright-Pat has been involved with investigating the aliens, and bodies were sent there. I talked to many guards who've seen them. By 1966, there were 30 bodies there."

Nikon and I exchange puzzled glances. Stringfield goes on to explain the so-called Roswell incident, in which several witnesses saw a disc-shaped object crash into the desert in New Mexico in July 1947.

(continued on page 12)

Authors Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore wrote a book about the occurrence, in which the Air Force and an independent radio reporter initially corroborated the crash scenario.

The next day the Air Force said, heck no, fellas, that was no alien craft, that was a weather balloon. Sorry about that.

Military disinformation notwithstanding, the aliens on board didn't survive the crash, so they and their craft were brought to Building 18 at Wright-Pat, Stringfield says.

After delivering this information, he lets fly another bombshell: He says he's interviewed a doctor who's done an autopsy on the aliens. The findings:

The alleged dudes are 4 feet tall, with large heads, webbed hands, no digestive tract, no voicebox, gray iguana-like skin and long arms reaching their knees. They also are emaciated and their sexual organs are atrophied. Nikon begins to have second thoughts about that high-five thing.

Could we maybe talk to the doctor, I ask Stringfield. No, he's sworn never to reveal his sources, most of whom have "disappeared."

Oh great, I tell him. We ask for the witnesses, and he says they're gone.

If it's all a hoax, Nikon and I determine, it's pretty elaborate. About three years ago, Jaime Shandera, a California television news producer working with author Moore, received a copy of a purported memo from a mysterious government group known as Majestic 12 — MJ 12 for short.

The memo, which was a briefing on UFOs directed to then-President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower, refers to the Roswell incident and the transfer of aliens to Wright-Pat.

"All dates on the document check out," Shandera has told me from his Los Angeles home. "All individuals listed tie in with one another."

Is this MJ 12 business baloney? The CIA told ABC's "Nightline" it was just that in a broadcast June 24. But Shandera is sure he's onto something.

Nikon and I say goodbye to Stringfield. We plan to travel to Wright-Pat the next day.

At dinner that night, we meet a waitress who admits to having dated aliens (I'm not kidding). We leave her a big tip.

In the morning, Nikon glides the Adventure-Mobile to a visitors' gate at Wright-Patterson. We demand to see Building 18, where the aliens allegedly

'We investigated for 22 years. It's ridiculous to say the government possesses flying saucers. We can't hide the Iran-contra thing; you think we could hide this?'

Lt. Tim Cothrel

were kept iced down like the day's catch. We are sure we'll be thrown out.

Instead, a crewcut public relations officer pulls up in a 1966 drop-top, white Bonneville with fuzzy dice on the rear-view mirror and empty Mountain Dew cans in the front seat, and he says the strangest thing Nikon and I have heard during this adventure:

"Follow me."

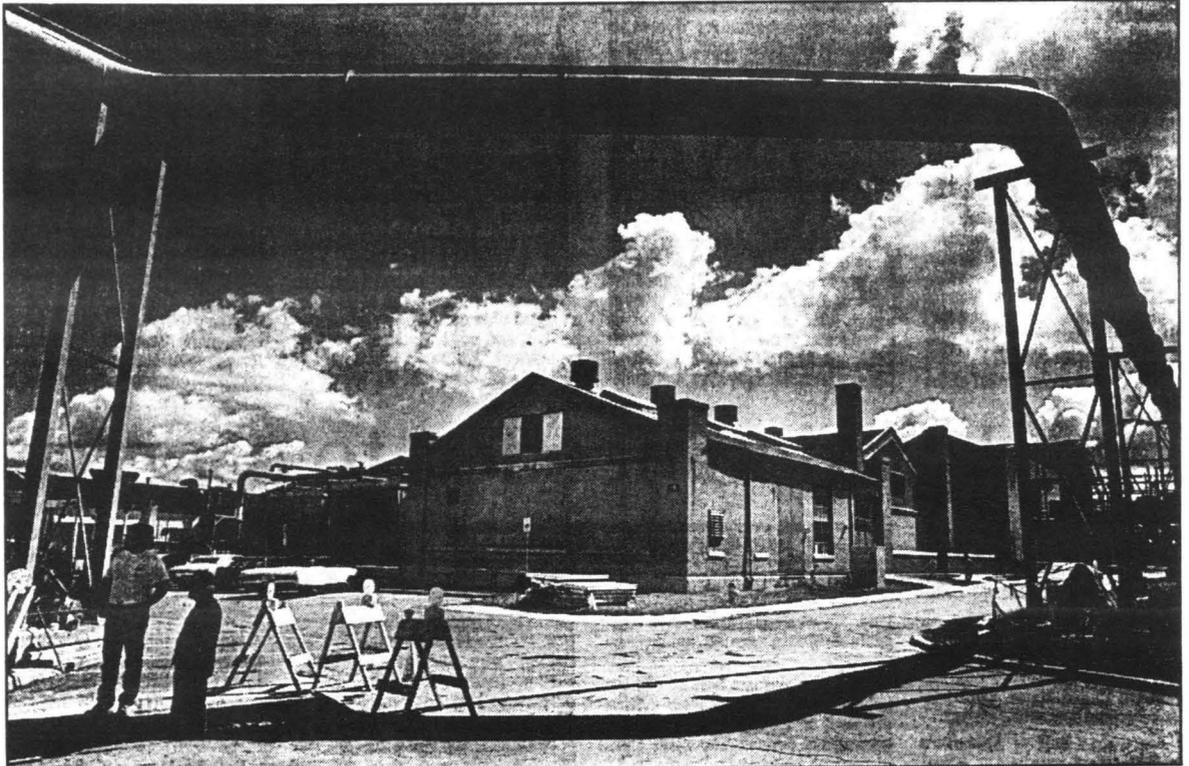
Well, all right, let's go boogie with spacemen! We drive behind Lt. Tim Cothrel along air base roadways. Nice golf courses, Nikon notices. We imagine aliens and officers lounging in a 19th hole clubhouse. Perhaps we've been at this too long.

We reach the building. "If we were gonna collect UFOs," Cothrel tells me, "this would be the place. We do high-tech research and development here. There are some parts of the building almost no one is allowed into."

So, where are the little guys, huh? Nikon readies his camera for the moment of revelation.

"Oh, no," Cothrel laughs. "We investigated for 22 years. It's ridiculous to say the government possesses flying saucers. We can't hide the Iran-contra thing; you think we could hide this?"

Of course, you wouldn't know about what happened here 40 years ago, Lieutenant, when the first aliens supposedly were brought in.



Building 18 at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

DAVID I. ANDERSEN

"True," he answers. "I just pray we're correct. Otherwise, I've been lying to a lot of people. Actually, it is a fun story. I'd love to believe it's true. And we have 8,000 acres and 4,000 buildings, so there's no way to prove we don't have aliens here. So this story'll go on forever. It's got legs."

We ask to enter the building. UFO lore holds that former Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona once tried the same thing, but the base commander prevented him. The place is off limits to civilians.

Besides, Cothrel gives us a look that says the armed guards would Swiss-cheese us in a heartbeat if we so much as open Building 18's front door. Nikon and I instantly decide it makes little sense to die for The Plain Dealer. We leave Wright-Pat and head back north.

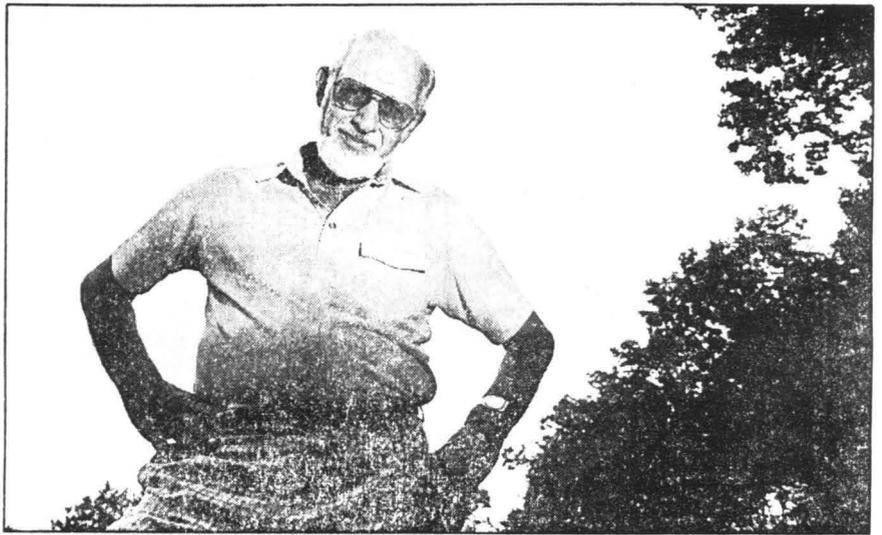
As we ride, Nikon and I realize something significant: We have discovered nothing.

Sure, we talked to some interesting people and heard a bunch of swell stories, but where's the cosmic beef, you know?

That's precisely the problem with this UFO stuff. You learn all these titillating details that might be plausible, then you ask for proof and the UFO-logists say, well, the government's got it. Go to the government, and bureaucrats laugh in your face.

That's why Nikon and I decided to cut out the middlemen and make a straight pitch: If there are any aliens around who managed not to die in a fiery collision with Earth, give us a jingle at The PD.

We'd be happy to print your message to world leaders in the Living section, then maybe take you out for beers in the Flats. It's not Miami, but it beats getting dissected by internists.



LEONARD STRINGFIELD: "I'm not just a kook talking about UFOs. I've spoken with 28 firsthand witnesses who have seen alien crafts and bodies."

PD/DAVID I. ANDERSEN

NORTHERN VIRGINIA DAILY, Strasburg, VA - Oct. 24, 1987

Witnesses: UFOs are military craft

By The Associated Press

WYTHEVILLE, Va. — Five people who claim to have seen UFOs said Friday a secret military operation has stirred up the recent flying saucer craze in Wythe County, but they offered no evidence to back the assertion.

"It appears we are dealing with something of a military nature," said news director Danny Gordon of radio station WYVE. He and four other people talked about sightings they said they made Thursday night.

"A lot of people are scared," Gordon told reporters. "Will the military please tell us where they are?"

Spokesmen for various branches of the military have denied knowledge of operations that would have prompted the series of flying saucer reports that began in September.

One of the members of the panel assembled by Gordon, New York photographer John Stember, said he took a videotape and still photographs Thursday night of a dome-shaped object flying in tandem with a smaller, roundish object.

"I saw this large, sort of orange glow," Stember said. "The first seemed to be a large domed shape, with an ambient light behind it."

He said his still pictures were being pro-

cessed, but the pictures would be available to reporters. But when approached after the news conference, Stember said he had removed his film from the area to protect it.

Another member of the panel, Andrew Convery, a systems analyst with the Virginia Beach-based Navy software contractor Computer Dynamics Inc., said he believed there had been some kind of crash in the area. He refused to elaborate and refused to say why he would not elaborate.

"We have very substantial reasons, we just can't produce any proof," Convery said.

Convery said he had come to Wytheville on his own time because he for years has followed UFO stories. He said he thinks the military is operating the mysterious flights because other military craft operate routinely in the area.

Convery said he does not think the military would fly its jets at low altitudes in the area of flying objects it could not identify.

"They fly aircraft over the top while these things are flying down below," Convery said.

Gordon said some of the UFOs have swooped down and harassed motorists in the county, at times chasing them down the road with spotlights on them or even running some people off the road.

"Imagine you're a bored fighter jock," Convery said. "To relieve the tedium you chase a local around."

CR: R. Bonck

TIMES, Little Fork, MN
Oct. 28, 1987

A UFO IN LITTLEFORK

The Times received a call Monday about a possible UFO which hovered over the airport and Green Forest before taking off. It was spotted 7:30 on Sunday evening. According to Mark Trompeter, sane person and a pilot, a green ball lit up the airport and Green Forest and lasted about four seconds. It moved over the fairgrounds and it became so bright that Trompeter compared the light to a "field of arc welders." When it left it left quickly, taking off like a green ball with a tail. Frances Enarson also received some similar reports. Did anyone living on Lindford Road spot or see this green light? Please let us know at The Times, if you did.



**NEW SERIES
STARTS TODAY**

JOAN TRACKS WEST'S UFOs

JOAN AMOS has a substantial file of UFO sightings all over the West Country — detailed descriptions by men and women who are shy about subsequent publicity.

I had come to Lucy Cottage, Peter Tavy, where Joan Amos and her husband live. It is a delightful Devonshire village sitting high above Tavistock on the edge of Dartmoor.

Joan, who is in her early 60s, told me how her interest in the subject took root at 6.30 on a bright April morning in 1978.

The sun was shining out of a clear blue sky and Joan was in Tavistock Hospital with four other women waiting for the day to begin — and the early morning tea to arrive.

One of the group suddenly pointed into the sky above Cox Tor and asked: 'What's that?' 'We all recognised it as a UFO in the halo of light as bright as the sun. It hovered and then moved away towards the moors.

'Though we were all in hospital, we were perfectly okay. None of us was ill at that moment. All five of us had our full faculties,' said Joan.

Other events intensified Joan's deepening interest. In May a policeman saw a 'green fire ball' hovering over Mary Tavy, not far from the Amos's cottage. Then a terrified fisherman, fishing for trout, was chased across a field by a flying saucer.

Hovering

Even more astonishing, though, was the experience of Denise, a 19-year-old girl from St Budeaux, Plymouth.

This is how she recalled her frightening experience to the Plymouth UFO Research Group: 'I was coming into my house at approximately 11.15pm, and as I approached the corner of the bungalow I saw some lights behind the house.

'When I got to the back door and could see up the hill behind our house, I saw an enormous UFO hovering above the houses on top of the hill.

In **SUPERNATURAL ADVENTURE**, a new book published by Bossiney, price £2.50, Cornishman **MICHAEL WILLIAMS** investigates a whole range of Supernatural subjects. Today in a **SUNDAY INDEPENDENT** series, extracted from this, the 151st title from the cottage publishers of St Teath, Michael Williams concentrates on the subject of UFOs.

'The object was unlit and a dark metallic grey, but coming from underneath and shining down on the rooftops beneath it were six or seven broad shafts of light.

Frightened

'These were lovely pastel shades of pink and purple, and also white. I saw all this in an instant and I was terrified.

'I hurriedly reached for the

It was as if a film had been stopped then started again. I had been stopped in mid-stride and when the beam went off continued the same movement. I opened the door and rushed into the house.

'As I did so the UFO lifted into the sky slightly and moved away and out of my sight.

'Rubbing my hand I ran in and told my sister. We went

'A lime green pencil of light hit my hand'

door but as I put my hand on the handle, from the unlit side of the ship, a lime green pencil of light came down and hit the back of my hand.

'As soon as it hit my hand I couldn't move. I was stopped dead in my tracks. The beam stayed on my hand for at least 30 seconds, in which time I could only stand and watch the UFO.

'I was very frightened, although the UFO was a fantastic sight to see. It was huge and silent. In fact, the whole area seemed very quiet.

'The green beam, which didn't give off any illumination and was rather like a rod of light, then switched off and I continued to open the door.

back outside but there was nothing to be seen. Coming in again my sister examined my hand but there was nothing there.

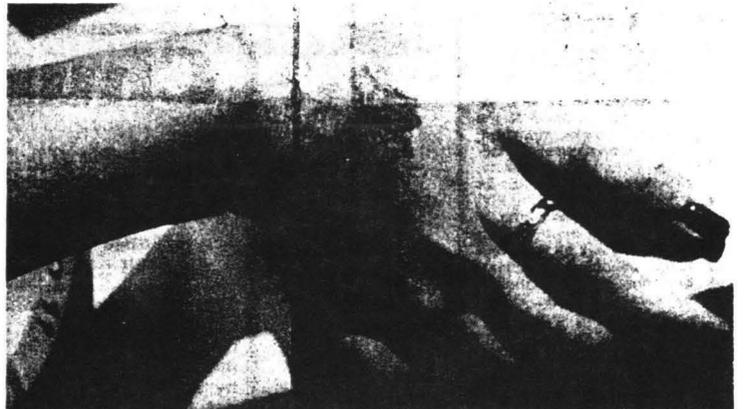
Sting

'I went and sat down, and a few minutes later my sister's dog sniffed my hand making it sting. On looking at it I noticed spots of blood and after washing I saw it was a burn,' her account says.

Joan Amos, on my visit to Lucy Cottage, handed me a coloured photograph of Denise's hand, clearly showing the burn.

Moreover, Joan had no doubts about the authenticity of Denise's experience.

Bob Boyd, chairman of the



UFO BURN: a Plymouth girl's hand she says was burned by a UFO

Plymouth UFO Research Group, had taken the photograph and had interviewed the girl between 3.15 and 5am that night — the family having been given his telephone number by police.

Joan has personally had as many as five UFO sightings: two, on separate occasions, in the vicinity of Brentor Church on the edge of Dartmoor.

I asked her how she had felt. 'It's like being alone in a bubble,' she said. 'You're somehow isolated. We call it the OZ Factor. It's a special state of consciousness.'

Joan is as Devonshire as the moor itself. Plymouth born and bred, her maiden name was Exworthy and her family originally came from the Hexworthy area of Dartmoor.

But there's nothing narrow or parochial about Joan when it comes to UFOs. Her files contain reports of sightings from all over the world.

Kidnapped

One account by UFO investigator Gordon Creighton, editor of *Flying Saucer Review* claims that extra-terrestrials are visiting our planet to make love with earthlings.

One report in his casebook

refers to a Brazilian farmer and a beautiful alien girl.

The farmer was kidnapped in a field and taken aboard a flying saucer. There he was stripped, washed and left naked in one of the cabins. Half an hour later a naked woman alien with bleached hair, very high cheekbones and cat-like eyes came into the room and made love to him.

Gordon Creighton says it is one of many cases of sex between man and aliens and he further reflects: 'Usually a post-hypnotic suggestion is given to people who are kidnapped so they don't remember what happened.

'Maybe the aliens want to salvage our stock in case of a nuclear war, or they may need some of our genes to revitalise their own stock.'

Inspired

The whole UFO business has been treated seriously in that the 8th Earl of Clancarty, an expert, has spoken on the subject in the House of Lords and chaired the all-party UFO study group in the upper chamber.

According to the Earl, Stephen Spielberg's films *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *ET* were inspired by extra-

terrestrials.

Close Encounters was based on a real life meeting between UFOs and President Eisenhower, who is supposed to have met aliens by arrangement at a secret base, claims the Earl.

'Five aircraft of different shapes flew into the base. The aliens looked like us but were dressed in outfits similar to motorcycle clothes.

Sightings

'Eisenhower decided that the aliens were so advanced that the world was not ready for open contact yet. But the aliens suggested an education programme should go into operation to prepare the way.

'I believe *ET* and *Close Encounters* are part of that education programme.'

Joan Amos, for her part, believes UFOs could be keeping an eye on us on Earth. The number of sightings has leapt dramatically in recent years while we have been developing nuclear weapons and rockets.

'I believe they have an interest in Earth,' said Joan very seriously, 'and they would probably intervene in the event of a war between the Super Powers. They would want to stop all-out war and save us and our world.'

Fortean imprint

The UK journal on strange phenomena *Fortean Times* has launched a publishing imprint, calling it Fortean Tomes. The imprint will reflect the eclecticism of the journal, which is now over 10 years old and carries stories by contributors from all over the world.

UFO 1947-1987 (£12.50) is a large format paperback anthology of reports commissioned by the British UFO Research Association to mark 40 years of research on the subject. *Lost Lands and Silent Cities* (19th November, £12.95/£8.50) by Nigel Pennick examines the evidence for the existence of the lands described in British mythology. *Lake Monster Traditions* (end November, £14.95/£11.50) by Michel Meurger with Claude Gagnon was first published in Canada, and demonstrates that stories about large lake creatures are not based exclusively on Loch Ness, but have a strong tradition in North and South America, central Europe and Scandinavia as well.

For the moment Fortean Tomes plans to publish around four titles a year. The imprint's address is 1 Shoebury Road, East Ham, London E6 2AQ (tel 01-552 5466). Sales and marketing are by Chris Lloyd.

Time out for ghost hunters and UFOs

by Reg Little

Ghost hunters planning to hold a midnight Hallowe'en vigil in the ruins of an Oxfordshire ancient monument could be in for a real shock tomorrow night.

For members of the British Psychic and Occult Society planning to raid Minster Lovell Hall, near Witney, may end up meeting angry guards rather than ghouls.

The society has organised a Hallowe'en visit to the ruined 15th century ancestral home to seek out one of Oxfordshire's best-known ghosts, 'The White Lady'. The group intends to hold a night-time vigil with the intention of photographing the spirit and plan to make a psychic communication with 'the phenomenon' by holding a séance in the ruins.

But English Heritage, which preserves the site, has uncovered the plot and is determined to put a stop to the ghostly goings on.

English Heritage custodian for the Thames Valley, Mr Tom Oman, said he had been shocked by the news of the plan. 'We have certainly not granted permission to allow this to happen. We would certainly want to discourage this sort of thing.

'We are now making further inquiries and we will put a guard on duty if necessary,' said Mr Oman, who said he had never heard of the society before.

The president of the psychic group, Mr David Farrant, says he has been leading an investigation into reports of the ghost since April. And members had already kept a number of nightly vigils at the ruins where he claims a transparent figure has been seen.



Mr. David Farrant... ghost hunter

The Rev Donald Thomas has been casting his eyes to the heavens more often than usual this week.

The former rector of Hanborough has had the week marked in his diary for four years, ready for the fifth coming — by UFOs.

Mr Thomas is firmly convinced that late October has become a remarkably popular time for visitors from outer space wishing to see Oxfordshire.

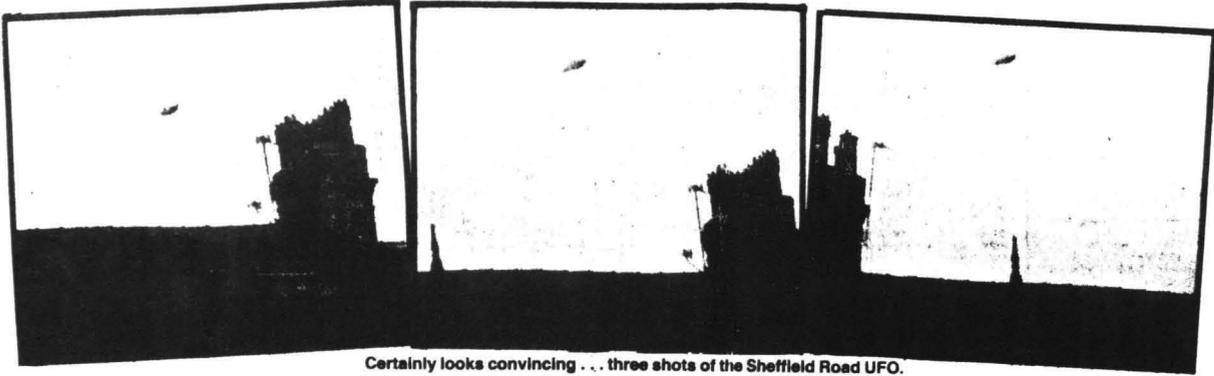
He maintains that his well-kept files show UFOs have been dropping in on the Oxford area in October since 1967. And they appear to stick to a four-yearly pattern with sightings in October 1971, 1975, 1979 and 1983.

Mr Thomas, aged 68, who still lives in Long Hanborough, where he served as rector for 17 years, says October 24 and 28 seem the most popular dates, almost as if they were inter-planetary bank holidays.

'There seems to be an on-going saga of what was seen by police and other intelligent observant people. Not unnaturally one asks will this sharp increase in UFO sightings occur once again in October 1987 to maintain the four-yearly October pattern,' he says.

Now more than used to coping cheerily with the incredulity of parishioners, he has made an appeal to anyone who can add to his long list of sightings in the county. So far he has been disappointed. But then the cost of getting away on bank holidays these days...

Yes...you are seeing things...



Certainly looks convincing... three shots of the Sheffield Road UFO.

... but we're not sure what!

BACK from a long fishing weekend in Wales, a week or so back, a local angler was busied by a flying saucer.

"I was in bed most of Monday and Tuesday, but I was woken up at about five o'clock on Wednesday morning by a buzzing sound," he told the Chronicle. "It sounded like a fly buzzing on a window."

To spare the ridicule of his unbelieving friends, he wants to remain anonymous, but he knows he saw something.

And, if not an Unidentified Flying Object, it was in the sky and he couldn't identify it.

"I don't know how long it was there," he said, "but I had time to get out of bed and get my camera."

As soon as the extra-terrestrial craft was snapped by the fisherman, it made off: "The One That Got Away".

AND just in case you're thinking it's all bunkum, a 19-year-old Barnsley woman yesterday spoke of her terror after seeing two UFOs in the night sky over the town centre on Wednesday.

Amanda Senior saw the two oval-shaped objects with two lights at the front and around the sides from the back garden of her home in Old Mill Lane between 11 p.m. and 11.15 p.m.

Amanda said: "I couldn't believe it. I was so frightened I didn't sleep. I have seen planes in the sky and I am convinced I could not have mistaken this object for a plane."

TELEGRAPH, Seymour, Victoria, Australia - Sept. 1, 1987 CR: P. Norman

UFO society's probe

A representative of the Victorian UFO Research Society arrived in Seymour today to investigate the latest reported sighting of an unidentified flying object.

Trevor and Cheryl Kerslake of Reedy Creek sighted what has been described as a possible UFO at the intersection of Elliotts Rd and Broadford-Strath Creek Rd last Thursday.

The incident has been widely reported in the Australian media.

The couple were travelling with their two children at about 9.30 pm when they sighted the object which they described as a "big thing with arm like things sticking out of the top of it and lights all around it."

As soon as they saw the object they drove to the Broadford police station and reported the incident to

the police who then investigated the area and found no trace of anything unusual.

At the time of the sighting it is believed that army trucks were seen travelling through the area.

A check with the Army Public Relation Officer, Lt Col Kevin Wolfe saw that there had been some activity in the area and it may have been involved with that.

At a later stage he said that there was no activity in the area.

A representative from the UFO Society today arrived in Seymour to investigate the matter further.

He is seeking any information in relation to the sighting and has an advertisement in the paper today with a contact number.

He has investigated the frequent sightings in Victoria in the past and believes that this area has one of the highest number of UFO sightings in Australia.

NEWSLETTER, Stafford, England - Oct. 2, 1987 CR: T. Good

Mystery sighting prompts UFO hunt

UFO experts are sifting through radar traces in a bid to explain a mystery object sighted in the Midlands.

The Birmingham office of UFO investigations was flooded with calls from people claiming to have seen an 'oval orange object with a green band, travelling at great speed.'

One of the calls was from a retired police officer in Stone.

The group's chairman John Hurley said: "There were about 130 calls all within an hour of each other."

"Virtually all claimed to have seen the same thing. There was an oval, orange object with a green band. It hovered above the ground

before shooting off at great speed."

One explanation put forward for the sightings was an expended fuel tank from a Russian satellite.

But Mr Hurley said: "That must be wrong as the thing was seen to hover. It seems very strange that so many

people saw it."

Mr Hurley has asked RAF bases in Shropshire and Humberside to provide radar traces for the night the sightings were reported.

"When they come back we should have a better idea of what the object actually was," he said.

WESTMORLAND GAZETTE, Kendal, England - Oct. 23, 1987 CR: T. Good

UFO lights in the hills

Strange UFO-type "lights" have been spotted in the Pennines, it has been claimed. "We already have documentary evidence that strange lights have been seen in various Pennine locations for as long as records have existed," says Mr David Clarke of Project Pennine.

He hopes to gather details of lights which will be analysed by universities to test a theory that the appearance of the lights is linked to geological faulting and earth tremors. Light spotters should contact a UFO hotline on 0924 444049.

TIMES, London, England - Aug. 8, 1987

Circles back again in UFO country

By Andrew Morgan

Unexplained symmetrical circles have reappeared in cornfields near the Westbury white horse in Wiltshire, close to celebrated prehistoric sites and the scene of many a UFO sighting.

The circles were first seen seven years ago and appeared every 12 months in the same fields, near Salisbury Plain, until last year when they were absent. This year, on cue, they are back with a vengeance, confounding any rational explanation.

The most concentrated group is on farmland belonging to Mr Peter Gale and his

wife, Angela. The most prominent circle has a diameter of 25 yards, with four smaller circles around it.

The corn has been crushed flat with the tautness of thatch and it has not escaped residents that the shape resembles an H G Wells spacecraft.

Mrs Gale said: "I suppose it could be a practical joke, with people using ropes, but no footsteps have trodden down the corn elsewhere. It seems a freak of weather is more likely, but families have been here for generations and nobody saw the circles until 1980."

More mystery surrounds the circle on the land of Mr

Geoff Cooper, where a flawless shape has appeared on the north side of the Bratton-Westbury road.

Mr Cooper's circle is particularly special because the grain has been crushed in an anti-clockwise direction.

Mr Cooper, aged 50, used to have several circles each year but he sold the most prolific circle land to the Gale family.

Mr Cooper said: "At first, we complained to the Army because we thought the helicopters were doing it on exercise. But they sent an expert round and he said a helicopter could only make that shape if it was flying upside down and stationary."

Mr Cooper listed local theories: herds of hedgehogs rotating in unison, with approximately 40,000 required; rutting deer, sadly out of season; pranksters who, inexplicably, missed out last year; or a freak of the weather.

Mr Bob Moger, aged 40 and farming adjoining land, has been confronted with a circle for the first time. He remains stumped. "In Africa, they call minor cyclones 'dust devils' but they suck up straw while the forces in Wiltshire are crushing", he said.

"The only safe comment is that little green men are not behind it."

CR: T. Good

Tuesday People

Trying to solve the great UFO mystery



● UFO investigator, Denis Harriman, with a photo sniper ever at hand to record strange objects in the skies.

Salesman, Denis Harriman, has been watching the skies for signs of life from outer space for 20 years. He openly admits he would love to have a "close encounter of the third kind". But he has only twice come near and those were run-of-the-mill experiences, he says, with no attempt to hide his disappointment.

Not that such a low sighting rate would deter the 34-year-old self-employed businessman who sells hydraulic equipment for a living.

At his Derbyshire home, three high speed cars (one temporarily out of action) stand by to whisk him day and night to reports of unidentified flying objects, passed on to him by police and other sources, including newspapers. Hopeful of catching a glimpse of an alien craft, he has several long lens cameras, binoculars, metal detectors and geiger counters at the ready to record and check out evidence of extra terrestrial activity.

As co-ordinator of the National UFO Investigation Society, his brief is to collect and investigate reports of unidentified sightings in the sky from all over the country, as well as abroad. With doctors and scientists among its ranks, the Society has the sort of connections needed to probe the mysterious world of UFO's.

He concedes it sounds glamorous: "It's a bit like being a spy, especially with this photo sniper I've got. Sometimes people think I've got a gun because it's got a trigger on it for taking pictures."

Only last week in Burton two unexplained red trails were seen over the town. Denis Harriman was called to look into the case. What at first seemed like lightning, is now baffling the tall, wily investigator. Despite this, all reports to the Society are thoroughly vetted before they are officially recorded as UFO sightings. Witnesses have to be cross examined and given a lie detector test if necessary or sent to a hypnotist to

relive what they saw.

Astronomers, weathermen, air traffic controllers, aircraft firms, working on secret weapons, farmers, farmers' associations, electricity boards, forensic scientists, police all provide information on request to eliminate earthly explanations for the appearance of a strange object in the sky.

Denis Harriman's first brush with UFO's came in 1979 on Hallowe'en at Rolls Royce's Hucknall factory, where he was on business. He was standing with a group of workers when they saw a long trail of white light appear above them.

"There were about seven of us there and we watched it as it started flashing red and bobbing up and down over this field for 30 minutes. Then another white light appeared and did the same thing. It was the first thing I saw myself which I couldn't explain."

He had to wait another six years before he got his second UFO sighting. This time he was probing the case of a Sinfyn social worker who was

Society's Nottingham headquarters dozens of files contain reports which he confesses might seem beyond belief.

"We get reports which are fantastic, especially the close encounter stuff, but there are things which even the Government can't explain. If we get a report of a landing usually there is radiation left

ignition had turned itself on and they carried on with their journey.

"Our ends are to inform the public of what is happening and to try and explain some of the UFO's, to find out whether they are natural phenomenon or not. Ours is an honest approach. We do our best to cover all the possible explanations. Sometimes people are mistaken. Sometimes aircraft, seen at different angles, look like UFO's."

The standard type, spotted on dozens of occasions, is usually a disc 50ft in diameter with a dome with portholes and a ring of light underneath. They can travel from 0 to 1,000 miles an hour and are mostly spotted in rural areas, near power stations military bases and close to military manoeuvres, according to Denis Harriman.

He currently has 25 cases of strange sightings on his books. Last month reports started coming in of an egg-shaped object with a black matt finish, 100ft long and 30ft wide which was banking at 90 degrees to the right and left again over a Rolls Royce factory at Sinfyn.

"Since then ourselves and another UFO research organisation have had 50 witnesses to the same object, seen from Dovedale, over Shelton Lock, Alvaston, Sinfyn, Chadderston and Spondon in daylight and at night. It also flew over East Midlands Airport but they didn't pick it up on the

radar. It was last seen flying over Kegworth by 30 witnesses. So that's a total of 80 witnesses."

The life of a UFO investigator can be dangerous. Odd lights, flickering in woods, can turn out to be poachers or black magic circles.

A couple of years ago NUFOSIS began receiving accounts of sheep being mutilated in Wales. Eventually investigators discovered a black magic circle was operating and retreated hastily.

The Society, however, recognises it has to be on its guard against cranks and other non-reputable UFO organisations. Time delayed photographs of the moon, hoax tapes of alien machines landing on earth, and weird postcards from the Fiji Islands in garbled writing are just some of the kind of things which get sent to the group.

"People have tried to explain UFO's away as weather balls, hot air balloons, airships, aircraft, even Venus and the Moon. There have been cases of mistaken identity and that's a good thing. I'm glad the public is aware. But there have been inexplicable sightings and I keep an open mind. Curiosity is my motivation."

Denis Harriman, sightings co-ordinator of NUFOSIS, can be contacted by ringing Draycott 03317 4961.

Sky spy Denis is poised for action

regularly seeing a strange white light at 10 O'clock in the evening. Separate eye-witness accounts of a similar light had also been recorded, travelling from Burton over Etwall towards Ashbourne, and on other occasions from Belper to Spondon, where it was seen near sewage works.

"It was moving steadily between five and ten miles per hour below the clouds and a pencil-thin beam of light shot out of it. The Burton Mail published reports of a similar cigar-shaped object going over Burton," explains Denis Harriman in matter-of-fact tones that defy incredulity.

At the National UFO Investigation

behind. We've had reports in this country of people having radiation effects after seeing a UFO. It's like a very intense sunburn, causing bumps in the skin."

One of the most spectacular UFO stories to surface in recent years happened in 1981 when American airforce men allegedly repaired an alien craft, operated by two three foot men after it had landed in a Suffolk forest.

More recently a couple, travelling from Macclesfield to Stoke-on-Trent by car, went missing for three hours at night. They claimed they had woken up in Ashbourne in the early hours of the morning. The car's

WORDS BY CLAIRE SHANAHAN

PICTURE BY RON GEARY

Probe into flood of UFO reports

Reports of a mystery object seen in the sky over the Midlands have been pouring in to the local office of UFO Studies Investigations.

Mr John Hurley, the chairman of the British Aerospace-funded organisation, said today he had received reports from people

in Sutton Coldfield, Solihull, Bromsgrove and Stone in Staffordshire.

"All of the sightings were within 30 minutes of each other, around midnight on Monday. Most of the people contacted their local police station or Birmingham Airport and were then referred

to me," said Mr Hurley.

"The first sighting was by a woman who was travelling from Birmingham to Bromsgrove on the A46 when she saw an object which she said seemed to light up the sky.

"It was orange with a green light on the top.

Mr Hurley said all the reports had come from reliable witnesses.

"The couple who reported the sighting in Stone had just gone to bed and were woken by the bright light in their window," he said.

"Apart from the first sighting everyone reported

the object, which was about the size of a caravan, travelling at great speed and then suddenly stopping."

Mr Hurley is still checking the reports and wants anyone else who saw anything to contact him on 021-360-4580.



מאות סקרנים ביקרו בשטח שבו "ריחך" עב"מ

לדברי עד ראייה חיפני, הוא הבחין לפני 10 ימים בגוף, עטוף ניצוצות אש" סמוך לשפת הים מול שכונת שער העליה



מאת כתב ידיעות אחרונות -
השטח התרוקן שליד שפת הים בחיפה, אשר לפי סיפורו של עד ראייה, ריחה מעליו גוף בלתי מזוהה, החד למקום, עליוה לרגל למאות סקרנים, הבוהנים כל סיבת הקרקע, במאמץ למצוא עדויות נוספות על ביקורם של יצורים מהחלל החיצון...
עמי אחראי מחיפה, בן 27, היה זה שגילה את השטח החד לפני 10 ימים הוא הבחין בגוף, עטוף ניצוצות אש כגוף בה 7 מטרים בסמוך לשפת הים, מול שכונת שער העליה בחיפה. המראה לא נתן לו מנוח והוא יצא לשטח.



הוא גילה את הקרקע החד ורכה ובתוכה שטח שלא נחרד, ושצורתו מזכירה אדם היושב בתנוחה של טיס. במרחק 30 מטרים משם ישנה פיסת קרקע חרוכה נוספת ובה חורים שגם אותם מייחס אחראי לאותו עב"מ (ועצם בלתי מזוהה).
למעלה: המקום שבו נחת העב"מ. למטה: הדסה ארבל עם שרטוט של העב"מ. (הצלמים: רון סולומון)

Haifa buzzing over UFO visit 'evidence'

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter
HAIFA. - UFO fever has gripped the city. An eight-metre patch of scorched sand, stones and thistles a few metres from the waterline near the Kiryat Sprinzak quarter, has local believers in outer space habitues convinced that "at last" they have palpable evidence of a visit by an unidentified flying object. Several UFOs have been reported by Haifa residents this past week.
"It's only reasonable that we're not the only inhabited planet in all the giant cosmos, and here we have down-to-earth evidence," Yossi Borovsky, 50, a travel agent and active member of Haifa's 40-strong "supernatural students," told *The Jerusalem Post*.
Borovsky, shouting to make himself heard over the noise of visitors at the site on Wednesday, said he was anxious to see and evaluate the evidence. While some scoffed that "the evidence" was nothing more than a chance fire - possibly caused by a Navy flare or a suspicious-looking bottle nearby, which might have been used in smoking pot - Borovsky insisted that it is significant that most of the sightings had been over the Naveh She'anan quarter, where the Technion is situated. "They may be after some secret research, that we know nothing about, going on at the Technion," he said.
Moreover, he said, the quarter is where Haifa UFO-group leader

Hadassa Arbelle, lives. Arbelle, 41, who heads City Hall's volunteer services department, has been a student of UFO literature for 20 years.
In her opinion the scorched patch was caused by radiation, or some kind of "cold fire" from the UFO, which she claims had apparently suffered engine trouble. She continued that the oddly-shaped thistle patch that had remained untouched was the silhouette of the UFO pilot, or navigator - his hand outstretched to pull some button.
"He was about 90 to 100 cm. tall, and his silhouette remained unburned as he was obviously wearing some protective clothing, shielding him from the radiation," she said.
Arbelle, who was called in by the police as a consultant, after the UFO sightings started here last month, said that though not surprised by the evidence it was the first time she had actually seen any. The UFO was sighted at 10.25 last Monday night by garage manager, Amy Achrai, while driving home from Tel Aviv. "Suddenly I saw a bright light, about 50 metres above the sea for about 15 seconds," he said.
"I never believed in UFOs before, but I do now," the burly-27-year old said. His wife, Aviva said he had come home "all excited and as white as a sheet."
A senior naval officer said yesterday that the navy had been firing flares at the time of the sighting.

UFO spotted in the night

SEVERAL sightings of a mysterious UFO with six bright lights have been reported in Torquay and Newton Abbot. A woman from East Street, Newton Abbot, said she spotted the strange craft in the early hours of Tuesday morning. It hovered motionless over her house before disappearing into the night.

TRANSLATIONS

City and country of incident: Shar Aliyah, Israel
Date of incident: September 30 (?), 1987
Name of newspaper and date of clip: YEDIOT ABARAAOT, Oct. 9, 1987
City and country of newspaper: [City Unknown], Israel
[CREDIT: Cynthia Hind & B. Hammar]

HUNDREDS VISIT "UFO" SITE

An eyewitness in Haifa said that 10 days ago, he saw an object surrounded by fiery sparks near the beach opposite to the neighbourhood of Shar Aliyah.

The burnt earth near the Haifa beach where an eyewitness said he saw an object floating above his head, has become a place where hundreds of people come to visit, examining every bit of earth in order to find additional evidence of the visit of creatures from an outer planet.

Ami Achrayi, 27, from Haifa, was the man who discovered this burnt earth 10 days ago. He saw an object surrounded by sparks of fire at the height of 7 meters, near the beach opposite the neighbourhood of Shar Aliyah. He was so upset that he went to the site, and discovered that the earth was burnt. Inside this area, it was reminiscent of a person sitting like a pilot would. About 30 meters from this site, there is another piece of burnt earth, with some holes in it, which he thinks belong to a UFO.

City and country of incident: Shar Aliyah, Israel
Date of incident: September 30 (?), 1987
Name of newspaper and date of clip: DAVAR, October 9, 1987
City and country of newspaper: [City Unknown], Israel
[CREDIT: Cynthia Hind & B. Hammar]

IS IT A UFO OR.....

Correspondent - Yossi Leibowitz, DAVAR correspondent in the Galil.

We see clearly the imprint of a flying machine. The symmetry between the wheels is very clear. It seems that before it landed, it succeeded in enveloping itself in rays, therefore these strong rays burnt the earth and left a strong imprint.

Thus described on the Eve of Succoth by H. Arbel who works in the Haifa Municipality and researches unnatural appearances connected with UFOs, what the man from Kiryat Motzkin had seen. He said he had seen on Monday at 10:30 P.M., a UFO very similar to a flying machine and it burnt the earth.

The incident, says the eyewitness, happened on the beach near the Shakuvin neighbourhood which is on the southern entry to Haifa. He is Ami Achrayi, 27 years old, who called the Haifa police.

Following this discovery, the second in the last two weeks, the first being when a citizen of Newe Sha'anana in Haifa, saw a lighted object on the eve of Rosh Hashana, which was similar to half a crescent flying about in the skies. It has been decided to convene a tour of journalists on Wednesday at lunch-time during the hours when the UFO was seen.

Hadassah Arbel believes that the UFO or flying machine, as she calls it, was in her opinion, in distress, spun around several times until it burnt the earth. As she says, you can see the imprint of the pilot, all the instruments inside the cockpit and other parts of the plane, including the wheels.

Ami's wife, Aviva, said that on Monday night, he came home very pale and distraught and "in the beginning was afraid to tell me anything so that I wouldn't think him crazy, but afterwards, when he told me, I asked him to speak with his father who understands these things. He started talking to his father in a loud voice on the phone and I asked him to speak quietly so the neighbours wouldn't think he was crazy." Ami said that he never believed in these things but "now that I've seen it with my own eyes, I am sure someone from another planet visited us."

A great crowd from the neighbourhood came together with the journalists and a lot of jokes were flying about, e.g. where are those from Outer Space and some replied they went to Haifa Festival Fete.

The Haifa police have checked with the Air Force whether there were any planes in that area at the time and the answer was negative.



Abominable Snowman Wins Another Believer



The New York Times/Edward Hauser; Anthony B. Wooldridge

Anthony B. Wooldridge and a photograph he took of a vaguely man-like figure silhouetted next to a small bush.

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE

MOST of the unicorns, griffins, sea serpents and other fabulous creatures that once tinged the everyday world with romantic mystery have succumbed to the withering touch of rational inquiry. But the Himalayan yeti (and his American cousins, sasquatch and bigfoot) die hard, and an Englishman is offering skeptics what he considers to be fresh evidence that abominable snowmen may, in fact, exist.

He is Anthony B. Wooldridge, a soft-spoken physicist employed by Manchester's electric power network, who encountered what he believed was a yeti in the Himalayas last year. He described the sighting at the annual New York meeting of the American Alpine Club yesterday.

A Vaguely Human Figure

His main evidence consists of two sets of photographs taken on March 6, 1986, on an 11,000-foot-high Himalayan trail near India's border with Tibet.

One shows fresh tracks in snow made by enormous feet with widely splayed big toes. The other, taken from a distance of 150 yards through a wide-angle lens, shows craggy mountains and a snowfield in which an ambiguous, vaguely human figure is silhouetted.

Although the photograph is sharp and well exposed, the figure in question is so distant that an enlargement of the image reveals little detail.

"I had never thought much about yetis until that day," he told a report-

er. "But actually seeing one of these creatures changes one's perspective."

At the time, Mr. Wooldridge, an amateur runner, was making a marathon run between the hamlets of Gangaria and Hemkund in northern India for charity.

His photographs, published in *The Journal of the International Society of Cryptozoology*, which studies such "hidden" creatures as the Loch Ness monster, have prompted skeptical comment even from self-proclaimed yeti believers.

Sasquatch Believer Is Skeptical

According to Dr. Grover S. Krantz, an anthropologist at Washington State University, "Those pictures are definitely not of a yeti." By his own account, Dr. Krantz said, Mr. Wooldridge never positively saw the thing move.

Besides, he added: "There are other details that look wrong, too. The head, for instance, doesn't appear to join the spine at an angle one would find in a primate, if that's what it is."

Dr. Krantz said he was sorry to cast doubt on the pictures. "I am absolutely convinced that the North American sasquatch exists," he said.

Will the yeti and sasquatch legends ever be put to rest one way or the other?

"The only way to prove their existence is to shoot one of the creatures," said Dr. Krantz.

Mr. Wooldridge strongly disagrees. "To shoot one might endanger the survival of all of them," he said. "The best way to protect the yeti is probably just to leave him alone."

Isaac Asimov

Siberian Explosion: Meteor or Mystery?

Scientists are still wondering about an incident that took place in central Siberia 80 years ago. They are still poking around in the area and, even today, are uncovering new evidence concerning it.

On June 30, 1908, the skies over central Siberia, near the Tunguska River, lit up and there was a terrific blast. Hundreds of square miles of forest were leveled—every tree down. A herd of reindeer was wiped out.

Fortunately, there were no people within many miles of the explosion in that desolate area so that no human being was killed. However, a person at a trading post 50 miles away was knocked out of his chair by the blast's force, and other distant observers saw, heard and felt the effects.

It took a long time for scientists to make their way out to that all-but-inaccessible place, and things weren't helped by the fact that World War I came along, followed by years of revolution and civil war in Russia. It wasn't till well into the 1920s that Soviet investigators finally reached the scene.

That was when the real mystery started. Everyone assumed that a large meteorite had struck Siberia, one that weighed anywhere from 100,000 to several million tons. It might have been a lump of rock about 250 feet across, or a lump of iron about 80 feet across. In either case, as it came speeding into the Earth at 20 miles a second or so, it would have done the damage of a large-sized hydrogen bomb (minus the radioactive fallout, of course).

Such an impact would have gouged out a large crater and would have perhaps left the meteor buried in the Earth, or strewed the landscape with pieces of iron or meteoric rock. Investigators found the exact point of impact, since all the fallen trees pointed away from it, but at that point there was neither a crater nor meteoric pieces.

The only reasonable conclusion was to suppose that the explosion had taken place not on impact with the ground but in the air.

That would be a strange way for a meteor to react, however. Stone or metal would not explode in midair like that. But what if it were not stone or metal, and not a meteorite? It might have been a small comet, about 300 feet across, or a fragment of a larger one.

A comet is made up largely of icy materials—frozen water chiefly. As it raced through the atmosphere, air

resistance would raise its temperature. Rock or metal would begin to glow and we would see a "shooting star." Ice, however, would vaporize. If the comet got hot enough quickly enough, the sudden vaporization could produce a huge explosion, shattering whatever portion of the comet had not yet had a chance to vaporize. The resulting gases (chiefly water vapor) would spread through the atmosphere. Nothing would reach the ground, except the blast, and there would be no crater and no meteoric fragments.

This seemed a completely satisfactory explanation. Of course, other explanations of the Tunguska incident were advanced. It might have been a tiny chunk of antimatter exploding when it reached the ordinary matter of Earth's crust, leaving nothing behind. Or it might have been a nuclear spaceship from some other world that exploded. Such alternate explanations, however, were never taken seriously.

But in early 1987, a group of Soviet investigators reported that they had detected abnormally high traces of the metal iridium in soil obtained from the impact point. Iridium is rare in the Earth's crust, for most of it has settled down in the Earth's central core. It exists in considerably higher concentrations in meteorites, so the presence of higher than usual traces in the crust is considered a relic of a meteoric impact. Comets, however, do not contain any iridium to speak of. The new Soviet finding, therefore, seems to indicate the Tunguska event was caused by a meteor, not a comet.

Then where's the crater? The Soviet investigators suggest that the invading object was a comet that was surrounded by dusty material rich in iridium. That would account for the combination of the presence of iridium and the absence of a crater. Not everyone is going to accept that, though. The event remains a puzzle.

Two points can be made. Central Siberia is about the only place such an event could have happened without human casualties. If it had happened at sea, it would have set off tidal waves. Almost anywhere else on land, people would have died, perhaps in vast numbers.

Second, suppose such an event happened now in the Soviet Union—or in the United States. Such a blast might be taken to be an enemy nuclear bomb, and a vengeful counterstrike might be ordered at once. The horrors that would follow would be indescribable.

Ice falls through photographer's roof

FORT WORTH — A large chunk of blue-green ice, apparently from a jetliner's leaky toilet, fell through the roof of a newspaper photographer's home, creating an eight-inch-by-16-inch hole and breaking a light fixture.

It was the second such incident within 48 hours. A brown ice-bomb gouged a two-foot hole Friday in the roof of a home in northern Virginia.

Gene Gordon, a photographer for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, said he was in his back yard at 3:36 p.m. Sunday when he heard what sounded like a shotgun blast. He discovered a hole in his roof and found chunks of blue-green ice melting into the insulation in the attic. (UPI)

ARKANSAS GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR Nov. 24, 1987

Pyramids' blocks poured on site, professor says

By JUAN A. BORRAS
Cox news service

ACHEMIST and archeologist at Barry University in Miami Shores, Fla., believes he has found the key to one of mankind's oldest mysteries: How the ancient Egyptians built the Pyramids.

Prof. Joseph Davidovits says we can forget the old notion that thousands of slaves hauled huge blocks of cut stone up steep inclines from miles away.

He says his deciphering of ancient hieroglyphics in the last several months has proved his long-held theory that the tremendous blocks, relatively unscarred for nearly 5,000 years, actually were poured on the spot using a kind of super-strong cement.

Although many experts on ancient Egypt scoff at Davidovits' theory, he said he held 30 patents for chemical processes for ceramics and for binding materials together that came directly from ancient Egyptian formulas he uncovered by deciphering hieroglyphics.

Davidovits, an adjunct professor of chemistry at Barry, said in an interview from France, where he is doing chemical research at the Geopolymer Institute, that the hieroglyphics he was studying come from a stone tablet found in 1889 on Sehel, an island in the Nile.

The tablet shows that 29 chemicals, minerals and ores were processed with the limestone of the area to form the 5,000-pound blocks for the pyramids, he said. Once the mixture was poured into a mold, it hardened within a few hours into a material comparable to limestone, he said.

Using a formula he thinks is much like the one described on the stone tablet, Davidovits said he had created a concrete stronger than that now used in roads and buildings. He is still experimenting to find the exact mixture used in the pyramids, he said.

Davidovits first presented the idea in 1979, but began deciphering the stone only two years ago.

He said his theory helped explain one of the major mysteries that has surrounded the pyramids: How, con-

sidering the crude stone carving techniques known to exist at that time, were the stones quarried to fit together so snugly?

Many of the mineral names he recently translated from the stone were not deciphered during an official translation in 1953, probably because the minerals were described by such characteristics as the smell they produced when heated, Davidovits said.

"Many of the arsenates (minerals containing arsenic) used were classified as ores that smell like garlic, onion or horseradish," he said. "That's different from today, when we classify them by color."

Yale University archeologist Mark Lehner, who for the last several years has been working at Giza, site of the three most famous pyramids, said he was skeptical of Davidovits' findings.

"His story has been around for years," Lehner said. "But it's really up to him to prove that the stones were created on the spot rather than up to us to prove that they weren't." Lehner said he first met Davidov-

its at the pyramids when they both were working there a few years ago. At that time, he said, he asked Davidovits why the stones were different sizes and shapes if they were poured into a mold, as Davidovits claims.

"He said they did not build one mold, but poured it into compartments that were not necessarily the same size," Lehner said. That explanation didn't make sense to him, Lehner said.

Lehner said the appearance of the limestone used in the pyramids showed it was not crushed, as Davidovits has suggested. If it had been, Lehner said, the pyramids would not have the natural grainy appearance of quarried limestone.

Davidovits said one reason archeologists and Egyptologists disagree with his findings is that they haven't taken time to study his work.

"They don't want to study it, because it was not invented by an Egyptologist," he said. "They are waiting for one of their colleagues to accept it. Then they will believe."

CHINA

Wild man exists, report says

Scientific tests on strands of hair prove China's "wild man" exists, a newspaper says.

Tests on six strands of hair found in central and southern China, where numerous sightings of the "wild man" were reported, showed the hair did not belong to humans or scientifically known animals, reported the *Wenhui Daily* in its Saturday edition.

The paper quoted a recent edition of *Nature* magazine that carried the report by Li Mu, Zeng Xianzhou and Hua Tianwei. It said Li collected the strands of hair over four years in Hubei, Hunan, Sichuan and Guizhou provinces.

The "wild man," or "yeren," known in the West as the "abominable snowman," is said to live in the Shennongjia Mountains of Hubei.

CR: C. Parcelt

Andrew Rothovius

Deadly pitted windshields

Last week I examined in this column how, 40 years ago this month, the coming into the public consciousness of the UFO's — the Unidentified Flying Objects or "Flying Saucers" — was accompanied at the very beginning by the setting of a precedent of denial of facts and concealment of what it was decided by a few that the many should not know, in the case of the mysterious wreckage that then crashed from the skies near Roswell, NM, and to this day remains just as mysterious and officially non-existent.

Coincidentally, and perhaps I might even say fittingly, even while my readers were scanning my analysis of this cover-up of four decades ago, they were watching and hearing the self-glorification of this art of denial and deception, into a high patriotic virtue.

Today I'd like to relate another instance of official covering-up, one that has resulted in serious illness and death for a high number of victims who had done nothing to bring such a fate upon themselves; and which at the time — 1954, seven years after the initial manifestation of the UFO's — was widely thought to be somehow connected with them.

That, it can be said and in fact has long been known, was definitely not the case, weird and unearthly though the first appearances were, of the phenomenon I am discussing.

Starting in the first few days of April 1954, a strange pockmarking of automobile windshields started to be noticed at scattered locations in the Pacific Northwest and the northern Great Plains.

Reported for the most part only in local news, little notice was taken at large, until on the 19th this pitting of glass began occurring on a much wider scale in the lower peninsula of Michigan, with its dense urban population.

To take a typical example, a salesman in Pontiac was driving along slowly along a well-paved street, with no vehicle ahead of him, when he suddenly felt sharp needle-like jabs on his face and then heard odd ticking noises that seemed to emanate from his windshields; on which pockmarks began to appear even as he watched. He drove to a police station to report the occurrence — I have remarked more than on once, on previous occasions, about our peculiar American trait of resorting to the police when anything strange happens, such as earthquake or tornado or falling meteor, subjects on which one would not expect them to possess any expertise — and the pits continued to increase and widen while the car was parked there.

The next day, plate glass windows in an office building in Middlevale, Mich., were suddenly and badly pitted, to the accompaniment of a snapping noise; peculiarly, the pits seemed to be mostly in the interior of the glass panes, instead of on either of their outer surfaces.

By the 23rd, hundreds of reports of pitting had flooded into police stations all across southern Michigan. In one large municipal parking lot (at Mount Pleasant), nine of every 10 cars had their windshields damaged by pitting, as did seven of the eight police cruisers sent to investigate. In some cases, the pitting was accompanied by a fall of silvery or ashy flakes, about as wide as a pencil, and extremely thin; these would fall on the windshields or on the hoods, and when wiped off — they would disintegrate in the act — pitted glass or paint would be found underneath.

Paint, however, was usually pitted only very slightly, compared to the actual damage incurred by glass, often necessitating its replacement.

After all the usual tired old explanations had been routinely trotted out, of vandals seemingly possessed of supernatural invisibility and agility, or of wind-carried dust from the overplowed Great Plains (how was it that the dust had never pitted glass

before?), the official attitude became one of attributing the whole thing to "popular hysteria"; and after a while, when the pittings ceased, of saying that it had never happened at all.

A few scientists noted that hydrofluoric acid, a product of hydrogen bomb explosions, could cause glass pitting — it is, after all, used commercially to etch designs into glass — but only slowly; they could not see how the acid was able to form the pits instantaneously.

Nevertheless, the guess was in the right direction. On March 1, the US had detonated at the Eniwetok test site in the Marshall Islands in the Central Pacific, an enormous hydrogen bomb; this was followed by two somewhat smaller test blasts on March 26 and April 6. It was the airborne fall-out from these tests, carried out before meteorologists had worked out any adequate theory of radiation dispersion in the atmosphere, which caused the pitting and the silent deadly effects which followed.

The prevailing belief then was that radiation dispersed uniformly and thus it could be readily calculated that any harmful effect would be quickly dissipated and washed out, in ratio to the square of the distance it was carried from the blast.

Actual experience from the March 1 explosion — code-named Bravo — soon demonstrated otherwise; radiation tended in fact to clump into pockets and parcels, some of which would fall out quickly and others be carried long distances, remaining in suspension sometimes even for years while continuing to retain some of their deadly potential.

Fall-out from Bravo hit with devastating and fatal effect the inhabitants of one side of the Marshall Islands, who had been supposedly well within the protected ring of nonexposure, where the radiation was being blown up far into the stratosphere and away from them; on the other side of the island, only minor illnesses resulted, indicating the small dimensions of this particular parcel of rapid fall-out.

Another one fell on a Japanese fishing vessel, the misnamed "Lucky Dragon", with severe effects on its crew, who had been assured they were in a safe zone. The ensuing protest from the Japanese Government, which refused to heed our request to keep the incident secret, resulted in a brief flurry of public notice and alarm, but it was soon forgotten; what had happened to the unfortunate Marshall Islanders, took nearly 30 years of investigative journalism to uncover.

It was not until 1959 that it became realized that one of the most dangerous radiation products, Strontium 90, had become present in the soil, water and grass of the Dakotas and Minnesota to an extent that through human consumed milk and wheat could cause irreparable genetic damage.

Lester Machta of the National Weather Service developed a stratospheric model that explained how pockets of severe radiation from the 1954 and other tests continued to be carried aloft in the tropopause — the boundary between the clouds and the stratosphere — and remained dangerous, possibly for years, when they finally fell out. And it became understood that the beta and neutron particles, in the highly concentrated densities they would have had in the period immediately after the 1954 blasts, would disorder the molecular structure of glass — especially on a slanting surface, such as a windshield — thus enabling the hydrofluoric acid formed in the same explosions and carried aloft in the form of ash-like flakes, to very quickly enter and pit it.

All these considerations, and the further discovery that it was in a band a few hundred miles wide along the northern tier of the United States, that the prevailing upper-air wind flow

would deposit the greatest amounts of radiation, led to the abandonment of above-ground nuclear testing by both this country and the Soviets in 1962.

Both had come to realize that its continuation meant irreparable harm to their own peoples. Yet it was too late to undo the damage already done; for many forms of cancer, the death rate in that above-named band has been since 1960 far above the natural expectancy.

The lesson here is that official secrecy, which first downplayed and then denied the evidence of the windshield pitting contributed to those needless cancer deaths.

And since the Chinese commenced above-ground nuclear bomb tests in 1967 and have continued them at irregular intervals, there have been further occasional and unpublicized instances of windshields pitting in the Mid-West, attesting that further dangerous radiation is still being added, even if on only a relatively minor scale to that already present.

There is no indication that we are using any of our new leverage with Mao's heirs, to get these tests halted.

Last year's Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union provided further proof of the wrongness of the old notion of uniform radiation dispersal — though a great many officials still seem to believe it, in their pointless arguments about whether 1 mile or 10 miles is a safe zone around Seabrook (in no way can it be predicted with any accuracy in advance, for it would depend entirely on the winds at several layers of the atmosphere.)

Locations in places as far apart as Wales, Lapland and Italy had severe radiation effects; others in between, and much nearer Chernobyl, had little or none.

Spence's Column

By Kenneth Spencer



Think the thing to do is let everyone know that what I'm about to write was done in a same frame of mind and Helen and I were neither one on the juice so when ya come to the lumpy part just say to yourself, "Oh well, Spence is so darned unpredictable he's liable to say most anything."

Whole thing started 'bout two years ago when Helen began collecting various information on some very strange what they call "Spook Lights". Ever hear of Spook Lights?

Anyway these strange things were said to appear nightly down south of Joplin, Mo. Finally not bein' able to stand it any longer and ashamed to admit to anyone where we were goin' we took a few days off and decided to find out for ourselves. Two hundred and eighty-seven miles down the road and we were in Joplin. (Thought to myself this trip's 'bout as useless as tryin' to strangle a panther by pokin' hot butter down his throat with a needle.)

Got there 'bout 7 p.m. and that's when we dug out some crude directions to get to this lonely country road where the "Spooks" performed. Four miles south of Joplin to state road BB which goes but directions said we go west till we come to a "T" and turn north 'bout two miles. Then with the help of a picture we had we found ourselves lookin' down Spook road which is a real narrow roller coaster road which leads west into Oklahoma and is bordered on both sides with dense woods.

Well this was the place and we were there and there we sat, Helen and me and the Spooks. Then it got darker and darker and darker and there we sat only now we had all doors locked and our money poked under the seat cause all signs indicated this was a perfect place for an armed robbery and when a car load of questionable characters drove slowly by I for one wished ta heck we'd stayed home.

Picture yourself two hundred and eighty miles from home parked with your lights turned off on a lonely country road. Then here came a Lincoln Continental and pulled up behind us and turned his lights off. (Thought for a minute it was probably the Mafia with a back seat full of tommy guns.) Then here came another and another till I expect there were probably forty cars and several motorcycles parked on that lonely road. (Now and then someone tryin' to edge around for a better position.)

People gettin' out and whispered conversations. "Have ya seen 'em?"

Now and then someone flicked their lights on long enough to get

lambasted by others. One or two had cameras set up in the middle of the road. All in all the kind of people you'd never expect to see in a setting like this on a Monday night on a God forsaken country road.

General feelin' was not to talk to anyone in any thing other than a whisper which made it all the more spookier. One couple I talked to had seen the Spooks perform before and had driven a hundred miles from Bartlesville, Oklahoma bringin' two doubting friends along. (Noone hawkin' souvenirs or tryin' ta make any money out of the show.)

Long 'bout eleven o'clock most everybody was settin' in their cars and some were even asleep. By this time I'd come to a very firm conclusion that this was one big wild goose chase. We'd sorta half way dozed off when someone pecked on the car door and whispered, "Here they come." Holy Gehosafet! We both set straight up and glared goggle-eyed out through the windshield and sure 'nough here came those lights dancin' all over that road.

That's when Helen blasted out one door and I went out the other. Believe me I never ever believed in Spooks but I'd already seen enough ta have second thoughts. Looked ta me like maybe five or six of these things sorta dancin' along. One had kind of a bluish tinge. (Probably the head honcho.)

Slowly advancin' in our direction and 'bout that time I was kickin' myself for not turnin' the car around for a quick getaway. Now and then we would see only one sorta swing back and forth like someone carryin' a lantern. Someone down there told us that they brought a school bus load of kids out there one night and those lights actually got up on the hood of the bus. Like to scared the kids to death and I'll have to admit that after hearin' this tale it sorta hastened our departure.

These "Spook Lights" have been featured in Ripley's "Believe It or Not" as well as various other publications. Everyone from college scientist to the Corp. of Engineers have tried to come up with an explanation but no one to this day has ever figured it out.

All kinds of theories but the one I like best is that it's caused by a Civil War soldier who had his head blown off and he's out there with a lantern somewhere lookin' for his head. All in all it's quite an experience. Doesn't cost a dime and all that's required is a lotta nerve. Huh!

CR: L. Whitehurst

POST, Denver, CO - Oct. 19, 1987

Loch Ness denizens may have been hiding

The recent report in The Denver Post (Oct. 12) concerning the use of sensitive sonar devices on Loch Ness to attempt to detect the possible presence of lake creatures warrants comment.

In this effort, a fleet of power boats moved down the loch in a line, using a sonar sweep in an attempt to detect moving objects in the water body. Based on studies of the members of NCIPS, a local lake phenomenon society, the Loch Ness creatures, similar to many other large bottom-dwelling creatures, would most likely sim-

ply burrow into the bottom sediments and muds with the intense noise and disturbance caused by this fleet of motorboats and would not be observable.

Such behavior has been noted with many different bottom-dwelling organisms, and would not be unexpected of these creatures, which can be assumed to be extremely acoustically sensitive. Thus the lack of positive results may be a result of the techniques used in this effort.

To be more successful, silent monitoring procedures would ap-

pear to be required. This is an important element for improving the possibility of a successful observation of the Loch Ness Monster, and of similar organisms in other water bodies, which apparently was not considered in this most recent effort.

In this regard, a meeting of NCIPS, the sixth since 1975, will be held early in 1988 to discuss the most recent scientific findings in this research area.

DONALD A. KLEIN
Northern Colorado Ichthyological
Phenomena Society, Fort Collins

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT,
Little Rock, AR
Dec. 9, 1987

Soviets join 'Abominable Snowman' search

MOSCOW — Soviet mountaineers will join the search for the so-called "Abominable Snowman," which is said to haunt the Himalayan foothills, the *Sovietskaya Rossiya* newspaper reported here Tuesday.

A Yeti society has been established in Leningrad in hopes of unraveling "the greatest mystery of our age," the paper reported. The group will hunt the yeti in "inaccessible mountains" on Soviet territory. (DPA)

Tracking Bigfoot

Does trail of mystery lead to Fayette County?

By PAUL SUNYAK
Herald-Standard Staff Writer

You remember him, don't you? He was big — make that real big — in the 1970s, but he doesn't make the news much these days. If you're guessing that he's Donny Osmond or Bobby Sherman, you're close, but try a little harder.

This guy was tall and had long dark hair. Frank Zappa, you say? No, this fellow has been seen in Pennsylvania 160 times, usually at night near woods and almost always by himself.

Jimmy Hoffa? C'mon, get serious. The Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research hasn't forgotten about him, and how could you let slip from your mind the memory of ... Bigfoot.

He was big stuff in the early- to mid-1970s, but did you know that 90 percent of his reported Pennsylvania sightings came from western sector of the state, and that Fayette County ranked fourth among the state's 67 counties in that regard with 11?

Those facts and many more have been compiled by a Duquesne University chemistry professor in a 95-page book that chronicles each sighting and provides intellectual fodder for discussing this mysterious creature.

"I wrote the book primarily because there are Bigfoot enthusiasts all over the country who knew there were sightings in Pennsylvania and kept calling me for information," says Dr. Paul G. Johnson.

"We wanted to share our information with other Bigfoot buffs around the country. It contains a chronological listing of all of our sightings, and it goes into some theory detail."

Johnson, who serves as director of the 15-member research center, co-authored the paperback text with Joan L. Jeffers, a veteran field investigator with the center's Creature Study Group.

Generally described as a 7½-foot-tall biped who walks erect with long strides, Bigfoot is said to have a large and hairy head, arms that hang to

sits knees and glowing red or orange eyes.

Bigfoot sightings:
The most reported Bigfoot sightings in the state occurred in 1973 (28), 1975 (14), 1977 (15) and 1980 (12). The number tapered off to two each in 1983 and 1984, but Johnson says the center still gets a handful of reports each year.

"Sightings still occur," says Johnson. "One of the reasons they're not being reported now is that people don't know who to report it to."

"I don't think it was a fad that caused people to report these sightings in the 1970s. I think it was a matter of public relations: when these things occur in concentrated form we get a lot of publicity, and people know who to call."

The data shows that Bigfoot reports comprise less than 5 percent of all reported strange incidents. Sixty-eight percent of Bigfoot sightings occur at night, and 70 percent of them take place near woods.

The sulfur-smelling creature with long brown or black matted hair and a hairy face is seen alone 90 percent of the time. In 10 percent of cases it gets close to a residence, and in 40 percent of those cases the structure was a mobile home.

The ape-like Bigfoot takes long strides and sometimes appears to float or glide as it walks. Its foot has between three and five toes, and is twice as wide at the front as in the back.

The nonaggressive creature has been reported to smell like rotten eggs and is said to issue low-pitched grunts or high-pitched screams. It sometimes lurks in woods it uses as cover, breaking branches and pounding rocks together.

"There may be a few cases where somebody puts on a monkey suit for a prank," says Johnson, "but there have been cases where the creature was shot at point-blank (range) and apparently walked away. If someone's dressing up, they're taking their lives into their own hands."

Johnson says he had two phone calls this summer regarding Bigfoot sightings, and one of them was from some young people who said they

saw the creature on a road near the Jumonville Summit.

However, they did not want to give their names for fear of being embarrassed by the publicity. The Jumonville mountain area is a hot spot on the list of Fayette County Bigfoot sightings, which include:

► Oct. 31, 1972 — Jumonville Summit, several people in a car saw a gray-haired creature with long arms, short legs and illuminated eyes when it looked into the car's back window.

► November 1972 — Jumonville Summit, a group of kids threw stones at a 6-foot tall creature that growled at them.

► July 1973 — Jumonville Summit, a group of people observed an ape-like creature with large shoulders; they lost sight when fog rolled into the area.

► Oct. 25, 1973 — North Union Township, a man and two boys saw a UFO land in a field and two tall hairy creatures with glowing green eyes walking along a fence line. The man fired shots that didn't faze the creatures.

► November 1973 — Unspecified location, a man shot twice at a Bigfoot-type creature; the first time it disappeared and the second time it grunted and cried.

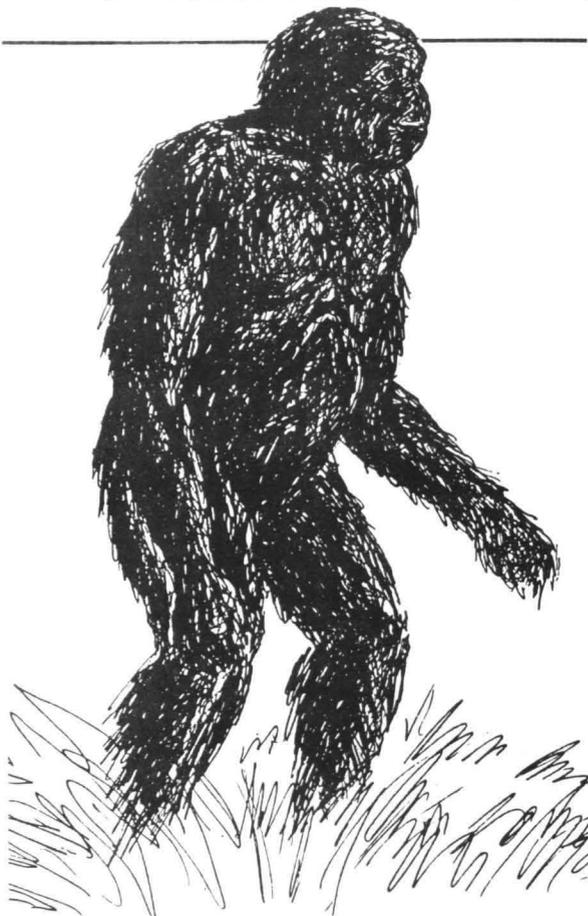
► 1974 — Unspecified month and location, a man saw a hairy, ape-like creature cross the road in front of his car.

► February 1974 — Unspecified location, a woman opened the door of her trailer after hearing a noise and saw a 7-foot tall apelike creature in the doorway.

► May 15, 1977 — Footedale, a man and woman saw a 7-foot tall hairy creature walk across the road in front of their car and disappear into a ravine.

"We simply do this because we like the mystery of it all," says Johnson, whose center hotline is (412) 823-1834. "It's a harrowing experience for most people; many of them are visibly shaken and highly puzzled."

"What they want from me is to give them an answer. But I can't really do that, because I don't know what it is or where it's from."



An artist's depiction of the legendary Bigfoot, which is described as being tall, dark, hairy, long-armed and smelly.

STAR, Auckland, New Zealand
May 7, 1987 CR: R. Collyns

Yeti footprints?

British and Norwegian climbers who failed to conquer an unscaled Himalayan mountain returned yesterday claiming evidence of the existence of the legendary Yeti. Chris Bonington and Jim Fotheringham took photographs of prints in snow, "foot-shaped, hand-sized and measured about 0.18 metre by 0.10 metre."

DEMOCRAT, Tallahassee, FL - July 21, 1987

'Bardin Booger' brings worry, some laughs

Billy Crain, a country music band leader in Palatka, wrote, sang and produced a record about the Booger and said he has sold more than 1,000 copies in about six years.

"Hey, Mr. Bardin Booger, Bardin is your home and every day you love to roam. You run through the bushes and you run through the trees. Hey, Mr. Bardin Booger, don't get me, please," are the lyrics to the chorus of his song.

Crain has never seen the creature, but he said he's talked to others who have.

"I've got out in those woods at night on horseback and it gets pretty spooky out there. You start to think about that old Booger and you can psyche yourself up to where you get real scared. I've talked to people who have seen it. They say it has a real bad stink."

The legend also has been good for a few pranks. One young man cut a piece of plywood into the shape of a large foot and stamped tracks down a dirt road.

Pranksters rigged up a sound system on a truck to produce strange noises outside the home of Margaret Warren.

"We called it the Bardin Booger truck," she said.

Bud Key, who owns Bud's Grocery in Bardin, has made a few dollars off the Booger by selling T-shirts featuring the creature. The T-shirts show a heavily muscled creature carrying a lantern. Its long tongue is sticking out.

it, but his younger brother-in-law, Ronny Cone, who was with him when the Booger was spotted, has talked throughout the piney woods community, west of Palatka in Putnam County.

"I tried to keep quiet because I knew people would doubt me," he said.

Bud Key, who owns Bud's Grocery in Bardin, has made a few dollars off the Booger by selling T-shirts, caps and records featuring the creature.

The T-shirts show a heavily muscled, furry creature carrying a lantern. Its long tongue is sticking out. The shirts also advertise Bud's Grocery.

Key's creature holds the lantern because there is another old tale that an eerie light will follow you down back roads near Bardin.

BARDIN — A large hairy creature called the Bardin Booger is said to roam the deep pine forests in the Northeast Florida community of Bardin, striking fear in some and laughter in others.

"This thing came out of the woods. It was big and hairy and looked like a bear, but it had a pug nose and walked upright, like a man. The way it walks, a bear couldn't walk like that. Its arms were swinging, just the way you and I walk," said Randy Medlock, a Bardin-area farmer who claims to have seen the Booger.

"It walked across about 30 feet in front of the car. We were on a big sand hill. It looked sideways at us and kept walking. I knew it was strong because when it walked back into the woods, it just slapped these pine saplings out of its way like they were nothing. We were scared."

"After a while, we got out and I tried to step in the tracks. They were a lot bigger than my foot and I wear a size 13. It stretched as far as I could and I couldn't reach between them," said Medlock, who stands 6-foot-2.

Medlock said he's tried to keep quiet about

Vanished pilot may be found

By ED LION
United Press International

LONDON — Officials trying to unravel a mystery "right out of 'The Twilight Zone'" say they may have found the body of a missing pilot whose unmanned supersonic jet flew 700 miles before crashing in the ocean.

Authorities said a body wearing flying clothes and a parachute was found in a meadow Friday in Wiltshire in southwestern England, but the Defense Ministry said it could not immediately be identified as that of the missing test pilot.

A British Royal Air Force spokesman said authorities lost contact with the pilot shortly after takeoff Thursday night, and a plane that intercepted his British Aerospace Harrier jump jet found the cockpit empty and the pilot gone.

Officials said the pilot, who was not identified, had worked for British Aerospace for at least eight years.

Britain's Royal Air Force and Navy launched a massive air and sea search Friday over a large swath of the jet's flight path, trying to find the civilian test pilot, who apparently ejected from the cockpit, an Air Force spokesman said.

"An American Air Force transport plane was flying near the area at the time and it intercepted the jet but there was no one in the cockpit and the cockpit seal and ejector seat were also gone," the spokesman said. "It's a complete mystery that seems right out of 'The Twilight Zone.'"

Authorities said the new Harrier GR-5 vertical takeoff jet, capable of surpassing the speed of sound, was owned by British Aerospace, which was testing it from an airfield in southern England before shipping it to the British military.

"Six minutes into the flight all radio contact was lost with the pilot and the rescue service directed a U.S. plane in the area to intercept the plane," the spokesman said.

About an hour into the flight, the intercept was made but the \$23 million Harrier jump jet, which has autopilot capability, was flying "straight and level" at 30,000 feet over the Irish Sea — without the pilot, the spokesman said.

It traveled for another hour before crashing into the Atlantic some 500 miles west of Ireland, giving it an estimated flight distance of some 700 miles without a pilot before it apparently ran out of fuel, officials said.

"We can't really immediately say its direct route but it undoubtedly passed at some point over populated areas," the Air Force spokesman said.

The spokesman said there have been cases in the past when a pilot ejected after reporting a malfunctioning aircraft and it continued flying for "quite awhile afterwards."

"But the mystery of this is that no mayday was given and we can't examine the jet because it's at the bottom of the ocean," he said.

All fired up to glimpse Bigfoot

From CHRISTOPHER FORSYTH in Willow Creek, California

WHEN the curtain of smoke from forest fires that burned across California last week lifted, it revealed some 200ha of blackened redwood forest — and no Bigfoot.

It's in the redwood forests that the legend of Bigfoot is kept alive, but despite the fires racing to within only 16km of Willow Creek, the self-described Bigfoot capital of the world, there was no sign of the elusive giant ape-man.

That could mean that the Willow Creek celebrity isn't frightened by fires; has a fireproof lair that he simply runs to at times of such natural calamities that have driven elks, racoons, deer, and mountain lions out of the forests; or that he doesn't exist.

When a reporter makes that remark to Jay Rowland, a 59-year-old retired logger from Willow Creek, he stoically ignores it.

"Over the years I've seen miles and miles of Bigfoot tracks. When you're out there in the woods all alone, seeing those tracks can make the hair stand up on the back of your neck," he said.

Well, a reporter insists, there were 13,000 firefighters out in the woods and not so much as a hairy glimpse was reported.

But Mr Rowland gave the impression he didn't hear him.

Keeping track of Bigfoot is a difficult business in Willow Creek where Bigfoot legends are a natural resource.

Surrounded by redwood forests, Willow Creek is a pleasantly grizzled town of some 2000 people. It's small enough for nearly everyone to know someone who has heard the blood-curdling cry ("Like a woman with the flesh being cut off her," says Mr Rowland), of the giant beast-man.

And it's large enough to organise and celebrate a Bigfoot Daze weekend to honour its elusive celebrity. And despite the forest fires that raged around its hunting grounds, possibly even destroying it, the big fellow was honoured for the sixth year with a parade, softball tournament, craft show and barbecue.

This year's parade had a Bride of Bigfoot, two fire engines (that could be spared from the bushfires), a few simple papier mache floats and three antique cars. It passed Bigfoot statue in Bigfoot square and took 30 minutes to go by.

There were nearly as many participants as spectators, including a gaggle of girls on roller skates, a mother-and-daughter horseback unit and a community band.

Bigfoot is good business for the Humboldt County town where in 1958, a construction team discovered a footprint in the forest that would fit something standing 2.4m tall and weighing 226kg.

A fallout of sightings soon followed, and the chamber of commerce began selling plaster replicas of the footprints to tourists.

Three years later came the first of the "Bigfoot Daze" celebrations.

"We're all enthusiasts. I won't tell you whether I'm a believer, but I'm an enthusiast," said Jess Garst, editor of the weekly Kourier newspaper.

"Whether you believe it or not, it's something that seems to keep hanging on."

And hang on it does, and after 30 years of doing that Bigfoot is about as likely to disappear as is the Statue of Liberty.

While many people still believe it's possible that a 2.3m giant lives in the dense forests around them, the failure to actually capture one, and the



obvious hoaxes perpetrated by publicity seekers over the years, has cooled the passions of the early Bigfoot believers.

It could be said that Bigfoot has matured into a comfortable middle age, no longer the attention getter of the strident supermarket tabloid headlines, more the rumination of back-page philosophers.

"I am inclined to think there might be something out there, but, at the same time, it's been too long that they haven't found something concrete," said Al Hodgson. Mr Hodgson, 63, became a minor celebrity in 1963 when he discovered an impressive set of tracks beside a local creek bed.

There is a new generation of Bigfoot believers among the tourists, New Age spiritual seekers, and filmmakers but many of their stories are considered ridiculous or absurd by the locals.

Mostly the newcomers refer to Bigfoot as a huggy-bear type, not the grotesque creature depicted by Mr Rowland, who talks of eerie nights in the redwood forest with convincing detail.

"People come in here and tell the most ridiculous stories," said Mr Hodgson, owner of a general store where 40cm long Bigfoot print casts are displayed. "One woman insisted she went up there and fed him grapes."

In 1976 a woman from a nearby town claimed to have been kidnapped by a gentle Bigfoot. Well, if New York can have a King Kong, California can have a gentle Bigfoot.

The woman's credibility was found wanting after it became known she worked for a movie company promoting its Bigfoot feature, and it was observed that her clothes were clean and she smelled of perfume after two days allegedly in the grip of Bigfoot.

Willow Creek probably should have patented Bigfoot, since there have been sightings reported as far south as Florida and as far north as Brit-

ish Columbia in Canada. Of course, it's questionable whether a patent would have been granted since the Himalayas are the known haunt of the Abominable Snowman, or Yetis, the natural cousins of Bigfoot.

Besides, if anybody had a patent claim first, it would have been the Hoopa Indians of Humboldt County, who have their own indigenous legend. Oh-Mah is the name they gave to the wild ape-like creatures they know existed at least 100 years before the California gold rush in 1849 brought a white man's version to the county.

"We believe there is such a critter, but we don't want to bother the poor fellow," said Don Trimble, a Hoopa who lives on a reservation 20km north of Willow Creek.

A San Jose film production company claims that it did bother Bigfoot, however.

The claim by Amazing Horizons — the name of the company — is linked with its planned release this year of an 85-minute film, *In the Shadow of Bigfoot*.

But some Bigfoot investigators who have seen the movie claim that footage purportedly taken of Bigfoot has been faked.

"There's a tendency for scientists to discredit anything you've got that goes beyond what they've got," said Ernest Montiel, a Cupertino businessman who said he invested more than \$US500,000 (\$715,000) in the movie.

A movie that has already been released, Steven Spielberg's *Harry and the Hendersons* tends to support the huggy bear legend that is emerging, since Spielberg's Bigfoot is cute and huggable.

So, take your pick. A wild Bigfoot, or a huggy bear — whatever, the biggest disappointment is that when nature has given mankind its best opportunity of glimpsing, or even catching, a fire-crazed Bigfoot by burning down its habitat, not so much as a 10cm toenail has been spotted.

Hairy tales? Sasquatches reported in Bellevue neighborhood

TIMES, Seattle, WA - Sept. 10, 1987 CR: R. Wallis/W. Thompson

Times staff and Reuters
 A suburban sasquatch?
 According to Northwest legend, the hairy creature called Bigfoot lurks in the far forests. But maybe it has decided to join the commuter crowd.
 Several residents of Bellevue's Eastgate area say the manlike monster has visited their neighborhood, leaving footprints from 16 to 24 inches long in their gardens.
 Joe Downham, a retired tool-and-die maker who lives on Eastgate Drive, has no doubt the two creatures he saw and heard on a bright moonlit night in 1981

were sasquatches — not bears, human pranksters or anything else.
 They looked like men at first, peering into the window of his neighbor's house, Downham said. But when he went closer to investigate, he saw two creatures — one covered with matted brown fur, the other with shiny black hair, both nearly 8 feet tall.
 When the brown creature turned, Downham said, he could see its face, "like dark, grayish skin, a flat face with a slightly protruding jaw. Then it 'let out a very peculiar howl,' like a wolf... Very mournful and loud," Downham said. "I heard the sound of it. It's nothing that a

bear could make."
 Rube Pang, a neighbor of Downham's, said she saw a big, black, two-legged animal pushing on her sliding glass door one night. It spooked her dogs, who covered in a closer, and dug a deep hole in her yard, she said.
 "I don't know what it was," Pang added. "It couldn't be a sasquatch because they don't exist — do they?"
 Downham photographed an 18-inch footprint in neighbor Gladys Toland's garden, he said.
 "It was like a human foot, but the length," said Toland. "There was a definite heel, a very definite arch, a splay

of toes — huge."
 Downham, a native of Britain, had never heard of the Northwest's equivalent of the mythical Loch Ness Monster. But since seeing the creatures, he has read Bigfoot books, written to Bigfoot "experts" and taken photographs of huge footprints that have appeared in the past few years around the neighborhood.
 But he has never contacted police about the creature sightings. "They might think I was crazy," he said.
 Skeptics dismiss sasquatch stories — like those about Abominable Snowmen, Loch Ness Monsters and other scary creatures the world over — as myth and

say that if Bigfoot were real, one surely would have been captured by now.
 But amateur investigators and even some anthropologists — 13 percent, according to a recent survey of scientists — believe Bigfoot may well exist as a hidden species of a subhuman primate that has survived for millions of years.
 There have been so many sasquatch reports in the wilderness of southwest Washington state that two areas near the Mount St. Helens volcano are named Ape Canyon and Ape Caves, Skamania County, which surrounds those sites, has passed a law making it illegal to kill a Bigfoot.

COLUMBIAN, Vancouver, WA - Oct. 20, 1987

INK



By DAVE JEWETT
 The Columbian

Bigfoot hunter to get national exposure

A Bigfoot hunter, who has come to the area to search for the legendary creature, is about to get some national exposure.

Television camera crews from ABC's "Good Morning America" will be in Walla Walla this week to interview Rene Dahinden of Richmond, B.C.

Dahinden has been tracking Bigfoot for 30 years and is looking for the beast in mountains near Walla Walla where tracks have been seen in recent years.

The Good Morning America segment on Dahinden is expected to be broadcast later this month.

DURING THE summer of 1986, the Edmonds, Wash., Arts Commission sponsored a Sasquatch Sightings Writer's Contest covering Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Prizes were awarded, but the commission members were so pleased at the response and the quality of the entries, they wanted to do more.

The result is a newly published book, "Sasquatch Sightings: Imagined & True," which collects nearly

140 of the stories and poems about the legendary wilderness creature called Sasquatch.

Imaginative accounts of sightings far outnumber true accounts.

The book is available from Edmonds Arts Commission Books, 700 Main St., Edmonds, Wash., 98020, for \$8.95, plus 70 cents state tax, and a postage and handling charge of \$1.25 for the first book and 25 cents more for each additional.