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September 2006

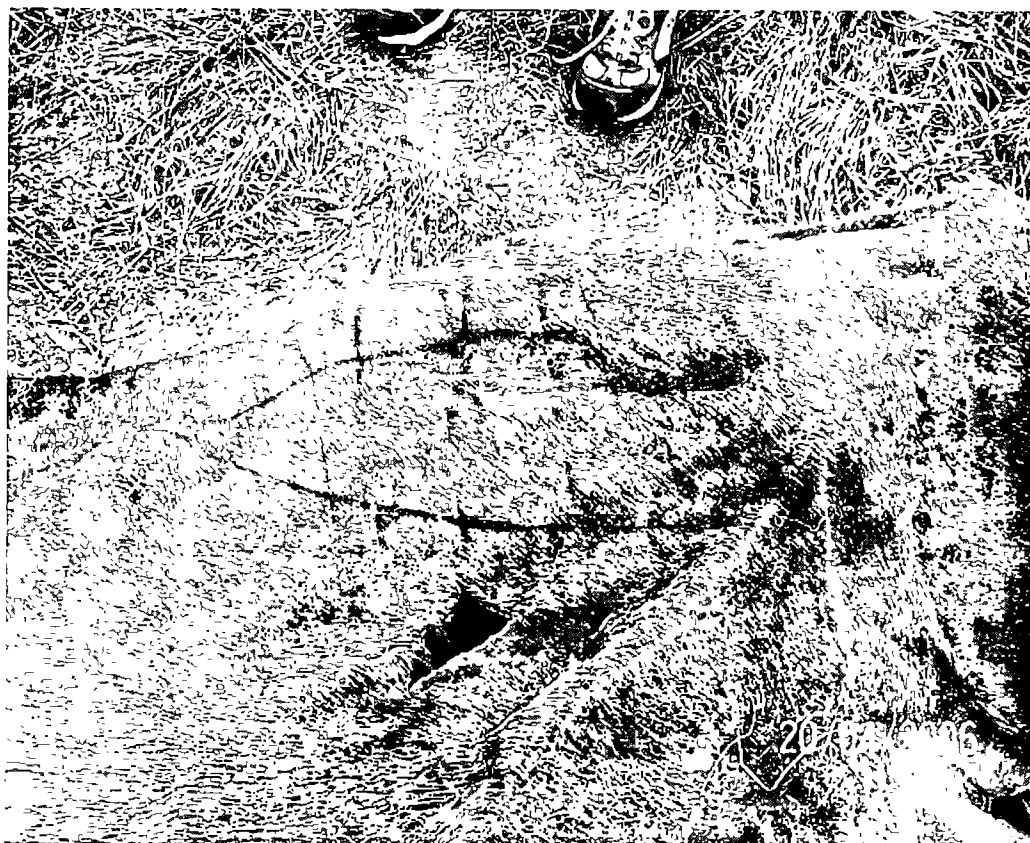
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Mutual UFO Network

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Is the design on the side of this dead cow a turnip or a UFO, or neither? The cow was next to where a UFO apparently landed on a North Dakota ranch in April. No connection has been established thus far. The article begins on page 3.

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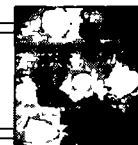
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Director's Message

By John F. Schuessler & James Carrion

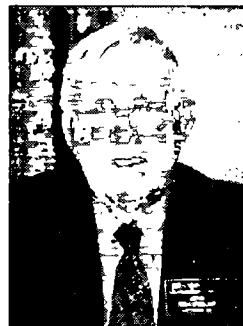


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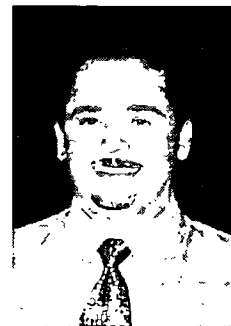
The MUFON Headquarters office will move to Bellvue, CO, effective Nov. 1, 2006. **James Carrion** has already begun the process of activating the new office. The MUFON UFO files and library archives have already been moved and are in the process of being organized.

All mail arriving after Oct. 31, 2006, should be addressed to

MUFON, P.O. Box 279, Bellvue, CO 80512-0279. The telephone number for the Bellvue office is (970) 221-1836 (970-221-1UFO) and the FAX number is (970) 221-1209.



John Schuessler



James Carrion

Introductory message by James Carrion

I am humbled by the MUFON Busi-

ness Board of Directors' vote of confidence in electing me as the new MUFON International Director.

It will be my sincere honor to serve MUFON and its membership and to succeed **John Schuessler** in managing MUFON.

Over the past 37 years, John has done an outstanding job in helping MUFON become the great organization it is today.

Undoubtedly, many MUFON members have questions about who I am and my history with MUFON and ufology, and I will be as forthcoming as possible to answer those questions.

In addition to the information in the August issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*, you can also read about my lifelong interest in UFOs as well as my

(Continued on page 22)

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Three indentations in soil may indicate landing gear

Wedge-shaped object on N. Dakota ranch speeds away as witness approaches site

A rancher's son, 15-year-old Evan Briese, was out checking on cattle during calving season just after midnight on April 18, 2006, when he observed strange lights flashing beyond a ridge in their pasture.

The ranch is located near Tappen, ND, about two and a half miles north of I-94.

Evan and other members of his family had also heard an unusual humming and whirring sound before he left the house, and the strange sound had caused the family's dogs to bark.

When he first saw the unusual lights coming from the other side of a ridge, Evan said he wondered if someone was illegally hunting deer at night by "spot lighting."

But as he and his dog, Buster, came over the hilltop, or ridge line, to get a better look, he saw that the lights belonged to a strange wedge-shaped object on the other side of a cattle pond.

A light beam from the "nose" of the object was sweeping the area, which was probably why Evan had initially thought of hunters spotlighting deer.

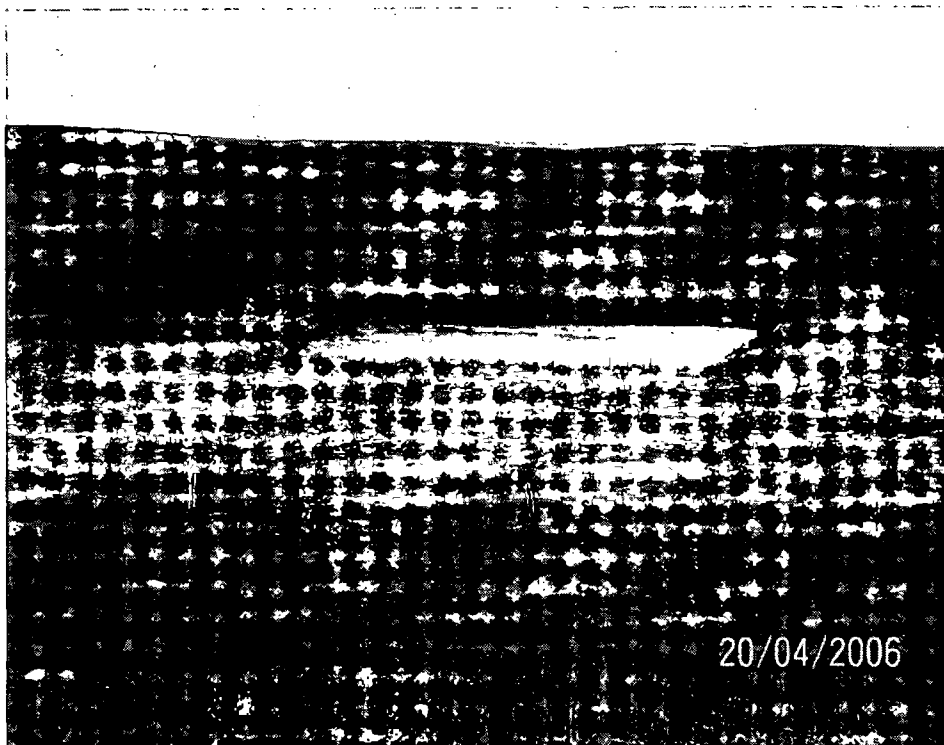
He said there were three double-convex-shaped windows on the side of the object emitting a bluish light, and these lights were being reflected off the surface of the pond.

The pond had recently thawed, and in the nearby pasture some cows were calving.

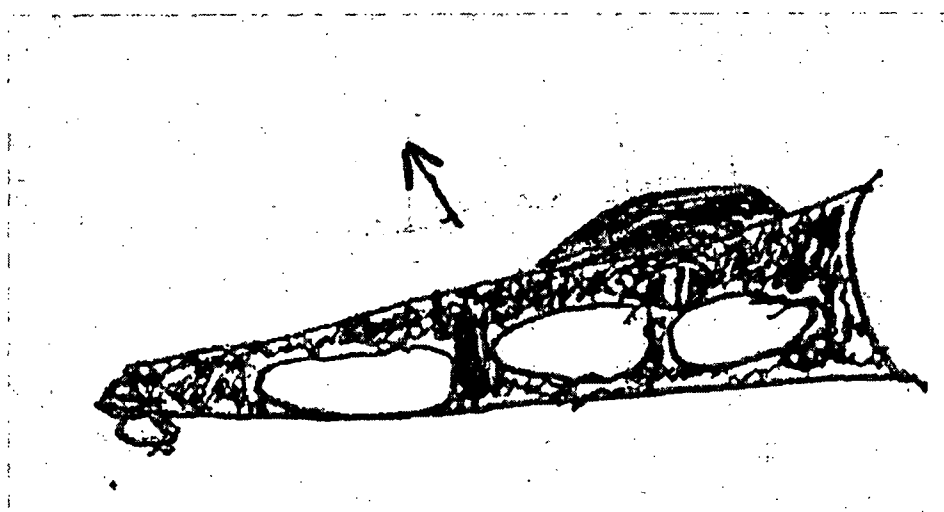
The object appeared to be smaller than a bus from Evan's position on the ridge, perhaps 150 yards away, but later inspection of the site indicated that it was probably larger, based on depression in the grass from "landing pods."

Evan and Buster, an Australian Red Healer cattle dog, stopped for some seconds to gaze down at this stunning spectacle.

Normally Buster would run right up



The pond site.



The object, as drawn by Evan Briese. The arrow indicates the direction in which the object departed.

to creatures and objects, explains Evan, but the dog stopped in apparent amazement.

Evan says he felt calm and was not

frightened at all at this time. After a little while (perhaps a half minute or so), Buster ran forth to get closer to the object. Evan decided to follow Buster's

lead and ran after him. At this point, the craft lifted off the ground, rose a bit farther, and made a "jack-brake" sound as it moved out of the area.

As Evan and his dog ran back toward the house, a loud "boom" was heard as far away as Tappen.

By the time Evan got back home, he had become agitated. His father, Torrey, had been trying to sleep, despite the barking dogs, but the whole family was awakened and told of the sighting.

Deciding that the incident should be reported, one of the three girls of the family used the internet to locate Jeff Wachter, state director of North Dakota MUFON, late Tuesday afternoon.

Speaking with Mr. Briese by phone, Jeff, who lives in Bismarck, was also told about a dead cow near the site where the unidentified object landed.

Mr. Briese pointed out, however, that the cow had been dead for a long time. He said that this time they did notice a pattern or outline on the hide which they hadn't noticed before.

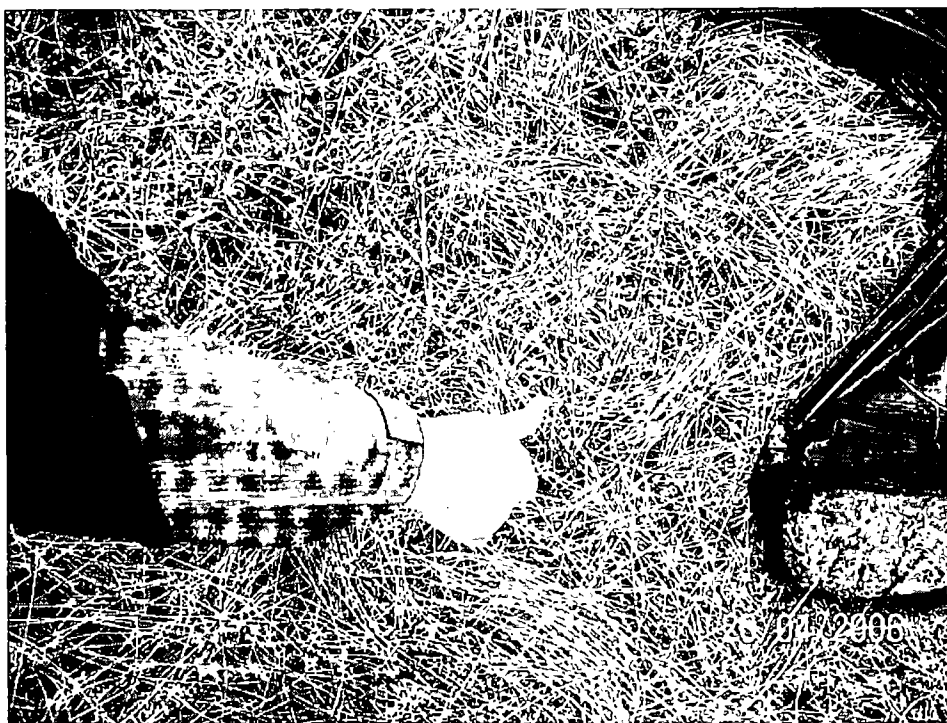
Jeff and two friends arrived at the ranch at 2:50 PM Wednesday afternoon. They were greeted by Torrey and part of his family, as well as some of the dogs—including Buster, who jumped up to greet them.

After visiting with Torrey and Evan, they traveled in the Briese van to the site of the incident, with Buster leading the way, seeming to know where the group was headed.

The group inspected two possible contact spots on the ground where the object may have extended its landing pods. Jeff photographed these, despite their lack of visual definition.

The indentations were not huge—less than 18 inches in diameter—and were not deep, impacting the grass more than the soil. The ground was very hard. It was also noted that blades of grass had been broken or cut.

Jeff also took a picture of the nearby cow that had been dead for many months. It is unknown if occupants of the craft had any interaction with the cow. There is an unusual outline on the cow's hide (see photo on cover) which looks like a turnip to some viewers and a UFO to others.



One of the three soil indentations located.

Jeff recorded statements by Evan on tape, and had Evan make a drawing of the object.

On April 26, Richard Moss, MN MUFON State Director, happened to be in Tappen for a funeral when he was told of the incident, and decided to also visit the site. While at the site they found what is believed to be the third landing pod indentation.

Measurements indicate that the indentations in the hard ground were separated by 34 ft. x 34 ft. x 25 ft, creating an isosceles triangle which seemed to match Evan's description of a wedge-shaped or triangular object.

"There were some tall, brittle weeds (within the triangle) that had not been flattened by the object," says Moss. "My only conclusion was that the 'legs' of the craft had been longer than the height of the weeds."

He adds, "There was one weed, thick and brittle, that had been partially broken off near one of the pod depressions."

Moss later went back to Tappen with plastic freezer bags and sampled the soil at the three pod locations, plus a control about 40 yards to the east, at the request of Mark Rodeghier of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS).

Part of the soil sample was given to MUFON incoming director James Carrion, who is seeking an analysis. Measurement with a Geiger counter showed no increased radiation in the area.

Moss says the cow in question was a Black Angus which had been dead for about nine months, and its hide had been sun-bleached to a brown color. It had not been eaten by coyotes, which the rancher indicated was odd.

The rancher cut out the image carved on the side of the cow, and said he believes the carving is recent because some still-black hair was now seen next to the skin in the carved gouges.

The brown hair on top had been cut or scraped away, and deeper hair had been shielded from the Sun and was not bleached.

Surgical cuts were also found on each of the cow's legs above the hoofs, and hide was missing from that point on down to the hoof. Hide had also apparently been cut off right above the animal's tail.

Torrey cut out the portion of the hide bearing the image, and Moss took it for possible testing, but was told not to destroy much of the mark making up the image.

(Continued on following page)

Nebraska disc releases smaller object which changes color and returns to disc

INVESTIGATOR: Rich Webb,
MUFON FI.

SIGHTING DATE: Aug. 20, 2005
TIME: 3:53 PM.

LOCATION: North of Council
Bluffs, IA.

LENGTH OF SIGHTING: 20 min.

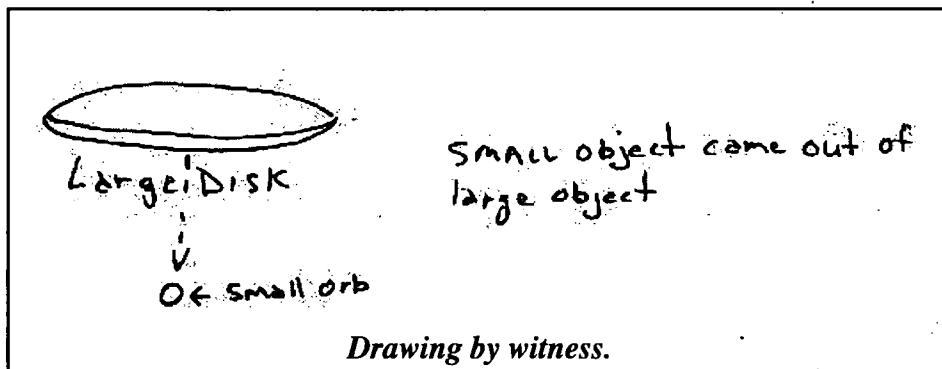
NARRATIVE: Peter Peterson was driving home from work in Omaha, NE, and was just exiting Interstate 680 onto Interstate I-80 (southbound) when he observed a large dull white saucer-shaped disc moving east, away from him.

The object was about one mile to his east and moving very slowly. Peterson could not tell the speed of the disc, since it was moving away from him, about 20 degrees above the horizon.

He then observed a small orb descend from the center of the disc. He could not tell how far the orb descended below the disc, but it was not too far below. The orb then changed colors several times from iridescent to opaque.

It moved up and down and back and forth several times, then went back into the disc.

Several moments passed, and the orb



appeared again and made the same moves as before. It again ascended back into the larger disc. Peterson observed this while he was travelling south towards Council Bluffs.

As he neared the outskirts of Council Bluffs, he observed a commercial aircraft on final approach to Eppley Airport. The jet could have been a DC-9 or MD-80.

He could not see the airline name on the plane since it was headed in a northwesterly direction, or heading towards him. The plane was about 800 to 1,000 feet above the ground, which was lower than the UFO.

It was about that time that Peterson

lost sight of the UFO because it went over the horizon. He stated that he has observed UFOs as a child and as an adult. He said that the object in this sighting was definitely a UFO.

COMMENTS: It should be noted that this investigator was unable to secure any information from the FAA at Eppley Airport as to whether radar contact had been made with the UFO. Also, no information was forthcoming regarding which airline the landing aircraft belonged to.

"Crop circle" in Sandyville, OH, ruled a hoax

A reported crop circle near Sandyville, OH, in soybeans on July 29 has been ruled a hoax by the Independent Crop Circle Researchers' Association (ICCRA), according to Jeff Wilson, director.

"We found evidence consistent with what we have seen in mechanical man-made formations," he explains, "including board marks, broken stalks in areas where visitors had not trampled, scrape marks on stalks from a board, and pathway artifacts left from the mechanical creation process.

"We found no anomalies—no unusual plant damage and completely normal radiation and E-M fields—unlike what we have seen in non-man-made formations in soybeans."

UFO sighted in North Dakota pasture...

(Continued from preceding page)

Moss notes that the original cuts on the legs indicate a much sharper knife or other device was used, compared with the cut made by Briese in removing the hide bearing the image.

Moss showed the hide with the image to an individual who had operated a cattle auction barn, who said the marks were not caused by a branding iron, suggesting that something sharp had carved the image, and that blood or other body liquids had oozed out and stained the adjacent hair a darker color.

"I no longer see any substantive connection between the dead cow and the landed UFO," says Moss. "For awhile it was easy to imagine that maybe the

UFO landed within a few feet of the cow for a reason."

A similar sighting by a rancher (name on file) south of Blaisdell, ND, was reported in the early 1980's.

A wedge or triangle-shaped UFO with blue and white/clear lights came up along the rancher's Ford Bronco, and followed the vehicle from about 100 yards away for about half a mile. The vehicle's radio went dead.

There appeared to be a light on each corner of the craft. After the craft flew off at a high speed, the radio came back on. The rancher called the Minot Air Force Base and asked them if they had noticed anything unusual on their radar screen, and they said they had not.

Large object in Maine drops from night sky and provides close-up sighting

DATE OF REPORT: April 3, 2006.

SIGHTING DATE: January, 1974

TIME OF SIGHTING: 11 PM EST

PLACE OF SIGHTING: South Portland, ME

INVESTIGATOR: Dee Gragg, MUFON Field Investigator

WITNESS: Gary Stevens

EVALUATION: Significant.

NARRATIVE BY WITNESS: It was a cold evening in January. The skies over Meeting House Hill were crystal clear with bright, well defined stars.

It was 11 PM as I was leaving Bob Chipman's house to go home. As usual, I looked up to survey the blue-black night sky with its brilliant pinpoints. As I was looking at the constellations and Venus, I noticed what appeared to be a shooting star.

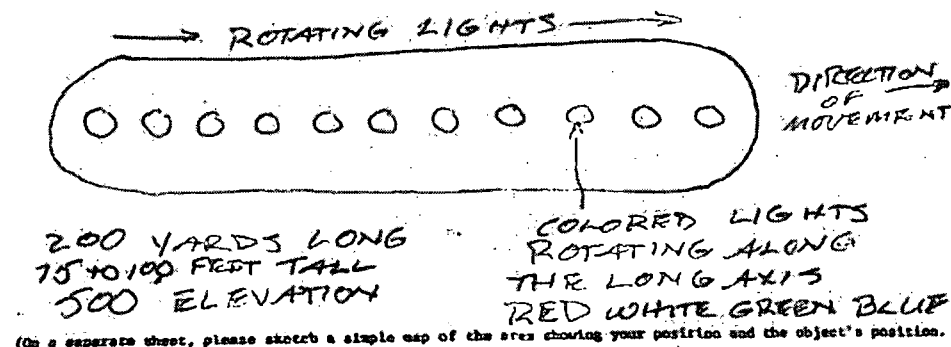
It appeared to be larger than a star, yet smaller than Venus. After a few seconds I realized that this was no ordinary meteor. It seemed to be changing direction.

As I followed its movement I saw it perform motions that I could only call zig-zag movements with acute angles. Its motion was well defined, changing direction every few seconds.

It was clear that this was not any kind of aircraft from Brunswick Naval Air Station or a man-made satellite. Our laws of physics prevent material things from radically changing direction while maintaining speed. At the very least, any people aboard would be squashed by the g-force.

I watched this craft, for that is what I came to believe it was, for about five or six minutes when I noticed that it was getting apparently larger and coming closer to the ground. It appeared, now, much larger than Venus and was obviously flying closer.

After a few more minutes, it was close enough to make out its shape. It appeared to be an elongated shape with some defined coloration. It continued



Drawing by witness.

to move closer until it was about 500 feet above ground level. At this point it slowed down nearly to a stop.

I could see it very clearly with its colored lights rotating around the long axis, white, red, green and blue (see drawing above).

It was clearly cigar shaped with a size scaled at one foot at my arm's length. I would have guessed that it might be 200 yards long. It was nearly motionless and totally silent.

It remained in about the same position for about two minutes. It then started silently and slowly moving north down the side of Meeting House Hill towards Casco Bay and Portland beyond.

By the time that it moved a quarter of a mile, it disappeared from my view, as it was following the contour of the Hill and moving towards the waterfront below. That was the end of my sighting. The total time of this sighting was about 12 minutes.

I firmly believe that this was a bona fide sighting of a craft that originated somewhere other than our own planet Earth. I believe that this was a sighting of a craft from another planet.

Casco Bay, off Portland, Maine, is a very large deep water port with over 300 islands. It was large enough and deep enough to be the parking lot for the entirety of the Navy's North Atlan-

tic Fleet during World War II. A German U-boat was sunk 12 miles off shore near the end of the War.

The Brunswick Naval Air Station is at the north end of the bay, 20 miles north of Portland. These past and present activities, along with the active movements of oil tankers and fishing trawlers, might have caught the curiosity of our visitors from afar, making my sighting possible.

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTES: My first contact with the witness was on Dec. 12, 2005, at an instructors meeting at New Mexico State University—he teaches guitars and I teach UFOs. He also has some engineering training, and is completing a degree in journalism.

On April 2, 2006, I did a formal interview at his home. He had previously given me the written narrative.

Gary, 52, was relaxed and talked freely about the incident, and seemed really happy to find someone who would seriously listen to him.

My impression was that he was truthful and held nothing back. This does not appear to be either a hallucination or a hoax. He has 20/20 vision.

NATURAL PHENOMENA? Rejected due to closeness and details.

MAN-MADE OBJECT? Cannot be ruled out, but highly unlikely, given the characteristics reported.

Russian truck driver reports strange encounter with landed UFO

**Based on a report
by Dr. Valery Uvarov**

Two Russian professional truck drivers, Oleg Kirzhakov and Nikolai Baranchikov, were driving their truck on a cold night on Nov. 2, 1989, from near Arkhangelsk to Moscow.

In the vicinity of Emtza railway station the road was blocked by construction, and they had to take a dirt road detour. On a bend in the road, their headlights picked up a large object at the side of the road.

When they got to within 80 or 90 feet of the object, their motor stalled, and they coasted to a stop. The headlights, connected to a back-up power source, remained on.

Cautious, but curious, Oleg, the driver, left the truck and walked toward the object, but asked Nikolai to stay in the truck.

As Oleg walked past the hood of the truck, he says he "began to feel, with each step I took, an increased resistance from the air. My body seemed to melt. It became difficult to move, and I knew that if I got any closer to the object I would not be able to move at all."

He retreated, but decided to try to approach the object from a different angle. Again he felt the same resistance, but got to within about 30 feet of the object.

In front of him was an object that was disc-shaped, and about 130 feet in diameter. It had a metallic sheen. There was a dome on top, and what appeared to be dark "portholes," about a foot in diameter, along the perimeter.

Two structures which seemed to support the object extended from the bottom. The back edge of the disc seemed to be sitting on some birch trees, two of which were broken.

There was no light or sign of life, and Oleg could see no evidence of doors or windows, other than the dark "portholes."

As he pondered what the object could be, a glimmering red dotted line formed a transparent screen about six inches square and about three feet in front of him.

On the screen were words in red. Oleg does not recall the exact wording of the message, but says it was a request for "burning fire."

The inscriptions had remained on the screen only long enough for Oleg to read them, then they were replaced by additional words.

As he turned to look at Nikolai, Oleg saw that the screen remained in front of him, and was now between him and the truck.

Still feeling the strange pressure, Oleg decided to do what he was told, and returned to the truck for a box of matches and some alcohol (used as anti-freeze in the truck's braking system).

However, when he tried to open the passenger side door, it would not move. Even with Nikolai's help, he could not get the door open for a time. Suddenly the door opened quite easily.

Carrying the box of matches and the alcohol, Oleg returned to where he had stood before on the shoulder of the road. This time he did not feel any resistance.

He gathered some leaves, poured the alcohol on them, and lit the pile. The heat felt good, as the temperature had dropped to below freezing.

Looking up from the fire to the object, he saw that an opening had appeared, revealing a corridor.

At the end of the corridor there was a bluish light. "At first I had the impression that a shadow was moving inside the corridor, but then I realised that something was moving in the corridor towards the opening," says Oleg.

A dark mass approached the opening, reminding Oleg of a bag or sack.

"When I finally realized what was

About the investigator

Dr. Valery Mikhailovich Uvarov is head of the Department of UFO Research, Palaeosciences and Palaeotechnology of the National Security Academy of Russia.

He has been involved in ufology for more than 14 years, and has also studied the legacy of ancient civilizations. He is the author of numerous papers published in Russia and elsewhere.

happening," he explains, "I began stepping backwards, and fell into the ditch along the road." He jumped back onto his feet and continued to observe what was happening.

As the mass moved, it swayed and bent from side to side. A shaft suddenly extended from the object, and the mass slid down the shaft, increasing in size.

As the mass approached the burning leaves, Oleg says he was paralysed with fear. The mass stood by the fire a moment, picked up the box of matches, and returned to the corridor via the extended shaft.

Oleg, still frightened and disoriented, extracted himself from the ditch, and looked back at the truck. Nikolai's frightened face was pressed tightly against the windshield.

In spite of the frightening encounter, Oleg was still curious enough to remain near the object.

He says he had a sudden urge to see inside the object, and immediately an invitation to do so appeared on the screen which had remained in front of him.

Oleg approached the object, and observed various features closely. There were no steps, and he could see no elevator.

He examined what appeared to be

one of the support legs, noting that it seemed to be a three-sided channel beam made up of two parts.

The two parts were connected at an articulating joint, and the lower part was smaller, apparently to allow it to be folded into the upper part. Just above the upper part of the support "leg" was a recessed area which appeared to be contoured to hold the "leg" when retracted.

Since the back side of the object was resting on trees, the front side was tilted toward Oleg, and the opening was just above his head. A shaft, about two inches in diameter and tube-like, came out near him.

Oleg grabbed the shaft and noticed it was cold and felt metallic. As he got hold of the tube, he felt himself inside the opening. A message on the screen assured him that he had nothing to fear.

Moving along the corridor, which was wider than the opening, Oleg noticed that there were no doors. He felt he was walking on a flat metallic floor, but noted that the walls and ceiling were oval. The walls appeared to have a structural purpose.

At the end of the corridor he saw the shimmering bluish light he had observed from the outside, and moved toward it. About 25 feet from the entrance to the corridor, he entered a round room which was about 50 feet in diameter, entirely white in color.

On the periphery of the room were five doorways similar to the entrance he had just used. The ceiling was domed, and a soft blue light was shining from it. Between some of the other entrances to the room were panels of flashing lights, each made up of five or six vertical elements.

To the left of the entrance that Oleg had used, the walls between the entrances had dark horizontal recesses. Also to the left, he observed two dark masses which looked like bags, similar to what he had observed coming out of the object earlier. They began to move toward him.

Ever curious, Oleg's constant questions were answered on the screen which remained in front of him, but he "heard" the answers in his head before

reading them on the screen. The masses remained motionless during this question and answer period.

"Several answers were accompanied by demonstrations of the operation of those structures that interested me," he reports.

He says that one of the dark horizontal recesses in a wall was used as a three-dimensional screen on which he was shown "the interior of another sister ship, with the same moving masses. Then they showed a ship in space, among the stars, and at the end of the demonstration they showed the presenter of a Soviet television program called *Vremya*."

To Oleg's right was an oval control panel or desk containing numerous switches and lights. All of the lighted buttons had a flat square shape, some elevated above the control panel, and some flush. There were geometric symbols featuring circles, triangles, and so forth on the upper surface of the lights. Black switches on the panel looked like toggle switches. He saw no meters or scales.

Next to the control panel, which was about five feet out from the wall, was what appeared to be a long, straight divan.

Oleg also noticed a circular track in the floor which surrounded the central part of the room, suggesting to him that it allowed the floor to rotate, thus positioning the panel in front of any of the vertical panels along the walls.

The same types of lights were on the vertical panels, and many of these were flashing.

Oleg asked about the nature of the soft blue light, while trying to locate its source, but did not receive an answer.

In response to his question, "Who are you, and where are you from?" the dome of the room began to dim and a star map similar to a planetarium appeared on the domed ceiling.

One of the stars in the star map began to pulsate and slowly descend. Then the star ascended back into the map and the room was again illuminated by the pale blue light.

Unable to understand the star map, Oleg asked where the pulsating star was

located. He was told, "This is in your galaxy." In answer to additional questions, he was told that he was in a scout ship, and that it used electromagnetic fields for propulsion.

He was also told that they were studying Earth because they need it as a springboard to the future.

Oleg says that he "suddenly noticed that a third mass had appeared in the hall, and then a fourth. I watched a conversation take place between them, and came to the understanding that the time for me to leave had arrived."

He took off his watch, wanting to leave some memento, but it was refused. He was told that they had a complete knowledge of the Earth and needed nothing. They did ask, however, why he used a watch made in another country.

When Oleg asked if he would ever see them again, they reportedly told him, "If you are in danger we will find you within 15 seconds."

He left the object by again using the projecting tube, and moved to the shoulder of the road. When he looked back, the tube and opening had disappeared.

After a few seconds the outer rim began to move in a clockwise direction, and about 30 seconds later the dome began to move in a counterclockwise direction. As the revolutions increased, the craft became more and more illuminated until it became a ball of light. There was no sound.

The arrival of two cars distracted Oleg, but the sound of trees cracking brought his gaze back to the object.

The ball of light slowly shifted position and began to rise. Quickly accelerating, it shot out of sight towards the northeast.

Nickolai got out of the truck to join his friend, as did drivers and passengers from the cars. Oleg says he was too shaken to talk with anyone.

When he attempted to drive the truck he discovered that he was unable to shift the gears or even to work the accelerator, so he had to let Nickolai drive.

Looking at the watch which he had tried to give to the visitors, he noted that the entire incident had taken only about 20 minutes.

Project to study DNA of Neanderthals launched by US and German labs

U.S. and German scientists have launched a two-year project to decipher the genetic code of the Neanderthal, a feat they hope will help deepen understanding of how modern humans' brains evolved.

Neanderthals were a species that lived in Europe and western Asia from more than 200,000 years ago to about 30,000 years ago.

Scientists from Germany's Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology are teaming up with a company in Connecticut to map the genome, or DNA code.

"The Neanderthal is the closest relative to the modern human, and we believe that by sequencing the Neanderthal we can learn a lot," said Michael Egholm, a vice president at 454 Life Sciences Corp. of Branford, CT, which will use its high-speed sequencing technology in the project.

There are no firm answers yet about how humans picked up key traits such as walking upright and developing complex language. Neanderthals are believed to have been relatively sophisticated, but lacking in humans' higher reasoning functions.

The Neanderthal project follows scientists' achievement last year in deciphering the DNA of the chimpanzee, our closest living relative. That genome map produced a long list of DNA differences between humans and chimps, and some hints about which differences might be crucial.

The chimp genome "led to literally too many questions, Jonathan Rothberg, 454's chairman, said. "There were 35 million differences between us and chimpanzees. That's too much to figure out.

"By having Neanderthal, we'll really be able to home in on the small percentage of differences that gave us higher cognitive abilities. Neanderthal is going to open the box. It's not going



to answer the question—but it's going to tell us where to look to understand all of those higher cognitive functions."

Over two years, the scientists aim to reconstruct a draft of the 3 billion building blocks of the Neanderthal genome, working with fossil samples from several individuals.

They face the complication of working with 40,000-year-old samples, and of filtering out microbial DNA that contaminated them after death.

Only about 5 percent of the DNA in the samples is actually Neanderthal DNA, Egholm estimated, but he and Rothberg said pilot experiments had convinced them that the decoding was feasible.

At the Max Planck Institute, the project also involves Svante Paabo, who nine years ago participated in a pioneering, though smaller-scale, DNA test on a Neanderthal sample.

That study suggested that Neanderthals and humans split from a common ancestor a half-million years ago and

backed the theory that Neanderthals were an evolutionary dead end.

The new project will help in understanding how characteristics unique to humans evolved and "will also identify those genetic changes that enabled modern humans to leave Africa and rapidly spread around the world," Paabo said.

California man says lights formed triangle

**Investigator: Kathlyn Bunyard
MUFON SSD**

Yuba & Sutter counties, CA

At 10:34 PM on Dec.10, 2005, in Woodland, CA, a 20-year-old man parked his car in front of his home and at 40-45° above the horizon saw two rosy-orange lights in the clear night sky.

They traveled from north to south and then southwest. The witness saw a third rosy-orange light in the distant north.

The first two lights slowed down, allowing the distant third light to catch up with them. Then the three lights formed a vertical line above the witness.

Next the witness saw one of the rosy-orange lights change its position so the three lights formed a perfect, point down triangle.

A small plane flying from the south to the north flew directly through the triangle center and continued flying north.

Thereafter, over a period of five seconds the rosy-orange lights blinked out one at a time. The sighting lasted for ten minutes.

During the sighting the witness used his cellphone to photograph the lights, but the picture was completely black with no lights. He describes his cellphone as a poor quality one.

The witness found the sky so clear that he could identify constellations.

Ufology Profile

Phyllis Budinger

By Dwight Connelly

Journal editor

Phyllis Budinger is, as *Journal* readers know, one of the key players in scientific UFO research.

With a B.S. in chemistry from Baldwin-Wallace College, an M.S. in chemistry from Miami University, and 35 years of experience in the petroleum industry, she has been the "go to" person when it comes to analyzing possible UFO chemical traces.

With a lifelong interest in space and UFOs, she decided in March of 2000 to launch Frontier Analysis, Ltd. and lend her expertise to the scientific study of UFOs.

Her first big case was the 1971 Delphos, KS, incident involving traces left by a hovering UFO in a barnyard.

Although the case had been analyzed by scientists in the U.S. and the UK over the past thirty years, Phyllis wanted to do an independent analysis.

"To my knowledge," she explains, "none of the analytical data were examined by an analytical chemist with specialization in the identification of unknowns and an in-depth knowledge and experience in correlating data from numerous, different tests to define the substance."

She adds, "It would appear that as each different test was done, the investigator arrived at a different opinion. A few conclusions were erroneous.

"However, I did not have to start entirely from the beginning," she explains, "as Erol Faruk of the UK had done some very revealing initial analyses in the 1970's—but he had used 1970's technology, which has advanced over the past 30 years."

Ted Phillips, who had investigated the case originally—and who continues to re-investigate it periodically—was totally in favor of another independent analysis of the Kansas site, but could not locate any soil samples for Phyllis.

A conversation Phyllis had with John Timmerman at a MUFON meeting in Ohio revealed that Timmerman, who had worked with the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), had some of Ted's soil samples from both the ring and control soils which he would share with her.

The testing was completed, and Phyllis determined that the object had released one or more substances as an aqueous solution as it hovered near the ground.

For the first time, the white fibrous-appearing material was identified as calcium oxalate. The humic substance coating the soil surface "appears to be fulvic acid," she explains.

"After releasing the Delphos report," says Phyllis, "everything started falling into place, and I began receiving a variety of things to analyze—everything from UFO cases to crop circles to animal mutilations to angel hair to even possible implants."

At one "animal mutilation" site, micro traces of a substance identified as bovine hemoglobin were found. Since it is generally believed that this cannot be produced outside a laboratory, researchers were excited. Budinger, however, is more cautious.

"As I'm not a biochemist, I can't say for certain how the hemoglobin may have gotten there. Could it be something natural? I don't know. We need specialists to look at such cases. Maybe even people trained in forensic medicine. I wish Colm Kelleher was still active in these cases."



Phyllis Budinger prepares a report at her Frontier Analysis, Ltd., laboratory in northern Ohio.

[Dr. Kelleher was formerly with the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), and was involved with animal mutilation cases.]

Phyllis says her most interesting work involved analysis of the dress Betty Hill was wearing during Betty and Barney's 1961 abduction.

"When I began to see the results of my testing," she explains, "it affected me emotionally. I immediately knew that DNA testing should be done. The dress was new, and had not been laundered, so any DNA might still be present."

With help from CUFOS investigator Mark Rodeghier, Phyllis sought funding for the DNA testing, but eventually became frustrated with delays and dead ends, finally choosing to fund the \$3,500 testing out of her own pocket.

It took another six months for the testing, and unfortunately the DNA found was not traceable to Betty's abductors. "I still think there may be more DNA worth testing somewhere on the dress," she says, "just not in the areas already tested."

Another case which has provided

considerable interest and many analyses for Phyllis is the ongoing Stanley Romanek case, but researchers are not releasing the results of the many tests and other aspects of the case until all the results are all in—and some of the testing on several elements of the case is still not complete.

As for the “implant” cases, she has found no smoking guns. “Of the three or four cases I’ve analyzed,” she explains, “all have been common objects. One woman thought that an object that came out of her mouth was an implant, but it turned out to be lead shot from a shotgun shell. I have no idea how it got into her mouth.”

Phyllis says she gets few cases that are hoaxes, as these usually disappear as soon as the hoaxer realizes they will be tested scientifically.

One exception to this was the 2002 Urandir Oliveira case in Brazil in which Phyllis analyzed bedding allegedly burned during the alleged abduction. She feels her report was misused in that case by the “investigator,” and she will not handle cases from that person in the future.

Despite the occasional frustrations, Phyllis says she gets great satisfaction from applying her expertise to the UFO phenomenon.

“My husband, Bruce, not only provides great support for all the testing I do, but has gotten interested in the UFO phenomenon himself.”

2006 Ozark Conference tapes

Video tapes featuring sessions by Forest Crawford, Norman Oliver, Linda Moulton Howe, Grant Cameron, Dr. Paul Von Ward, Wendelle Stevens, Dr. Rudy Schild, Joe Lewels, speakers panel, and Sunday morning mini-session are available for \$20 each, or \$80 for the full set, including 4th Class shipping. Make checks payable to: Ozark UFO Conference Fund. Mail to: Ozark UFO Conference, #2 Caney Valley Drive, Plumerville, AR 72127. ozarkufo@webtv.net

Details at ozarkufo.com.

Another witness emerges more than six years later

MUFON Field Investigator Judy Kulka says it is apparently never too late to find witnesses to a UFO incident.

On Nov. 16, 1999, at least eleven individuals in Michigan’s Antrim and Grand Traverse counties witnessed unexplained sightings of what may have been the same aerial object.

The object was described as “humongous,” round, with one or more dominant green lights (some white in the background), hovering over nearby trees in one instance, before nosediving and gliding silently away.

[Complete details of the sightings are in the June, 2001, *Journal*.]

Although Judy was able to get reports from a number of witnesses, some did not want to talk, and at least one did not recall anything unusual, although other witnesses had placed the object nearby.

Judy updated this story while attending the recent MUFON Symposium:

“This spring, 2006, when I was in the Landscape Nursery, over which the very large UFO was seen in November, 1999, I spoke with the co-owner, telling her that I was the UFO investigator who had phoned her 6 1/2 years ago about the alleged UFO seen over her business.

“She said to me that, thinking about it in retrospect, she did remember seeing ‘fog’ and ‘bright lights,’ like searchlights, but in her mind had attributed them to a helicopter.

“She said there was no sound, but she thought nothing of that because the windows were closed. She had been in an upstairs bedroom reading a book to her young children.

“I pointed out to her that when the Coast Guard or other helicopters come over, one can hear them coming from quite a distance away, even with windows and doors closed. She wholeheartedly agreed.

“I also explained to her that there had

been no fog that evening (minutes after 7 PM), and it had been a dark, moonless night.

“She told me that she had thought about it since, and that she probably had witnessed the UFO event after all.

“Following this discussion, she stopped several of her employees and excitedly told them that I was the one who had called her about the alleged UFO event. She was very open in discussing it with the others present.”



Sept. 16-17—Mothman Festival, Point Pleasant, WV, 740-286-4772, www.mothmanlives.com.

Oct. 9-10—Bay Area UFO Conference, Santa Clara, CA, featuring Dr. Nick Begich, Dannion Brinkley, Victor Camacho, Jeronimo Flores, Ruben Uriarte, Stanton Friedman, James Gilliland, William Henry, John Lear, Dr. Roger Leir, Sean-David Morton, George Noory, John Rhodes, Peter Robbins, David Sereda, Michael Schratt, Freddy Silva, Rob Simone, Ryan Wood, June Steiner, Les Velez, and Yvonne R. Smith, 209-836-4281. www.thebayareaufexpo.com.

Oct. 28—Mysteries of Space & Sky III, near Annapolis, MD, featuring Don Berliner, Rob/Sue Swiatek, Anna Jamerson, Dr. Charles Emmons, and conference organizer Dr. S. Peter Resta (spr100@aol.com) 410-360-1168 X 8.

Nov. 10-12—UFO Crash Retrieval Conference, Las Vegas, NV; 720-887-8171, www.ufoconference.com.

Nov. 17-20—Crop Circles & Keys to Higher Consciousness, Tempe, AZ, featuring J.J. Hurtak, Russell Targ, William Henry, Jim Marrs, Linda Moulton Howe, Francine Blake, Nancy Talbott, Flordemayo, Philip Gardiner, Bert Janssen, Heather Cléwett, & Chet & Kallista Snow. www.chetsnow.com, 928-204-1955.

A walk-in?

From Sirius to Earth—a Therapist Discovers a Soul Exchange by Evelyn Fuqua, Ph.D. and Athor, 1997, Inner Eye Books, Oughten House Publications, 6 x 9 soft cover, 168 pages, \$14.95.

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

Journal editor

"Because the case of Athor will be difficult for most readers to believe," says the author in the Introduction, "I feel a need to establish my credibility as a rational person."

Dr. Fuqua's background is solid, with a traditional upbringing, a traditional undergraduate education, an M.A. in counseling at California State in 1964, public school teaching and counseling, and counselor for an Air Force dependent school in Japan.

In 1970 she began a private practice as a licensed marriage, family, and child therapist.

The following year she read *A World Beyond* by Ruth Montgomery, which introduced her to reincarnations, and seemed to open up new vistas for her. She later learned to use hypnosis in her practice.

At the age of 48 she earned a Ph.D. in psychology from the Professional School of Psychology.

As this is a book about an alleged soul exchange (sometimes referred to as a walk in), there is little evidence to back up the claims.

It is based on four months of "intensive therapy," followed by periodic therapy sessions over the following

three years, with details coming through hypnosis of an individual identified only as "Rose," who is supposedly also an individual named Athor, from Sirius.

"In retrospect," says Dr. Fuqua, "this therapy seems to have been part of a master plan orchestrated by the Council of Sirius."

Maybe. But given the fact that "Rose" has a background in which she was exposed to Eastern philosophies and had other opportunities to pick up similar material, it is possible that this is the basis for what came out of the hypnotic sessions, rather than a Sirius connection.

Those interested in the possibility of soul exchanges may want to read this book and come to their own conclusions as to its validity.

Religion or close encounter?

Celestial Secrets—The Hidden History of the Fatima Cover-Up by Dr. Joaquim Fernandes & Fina D'Armada, translated from the Portuguese by Alexandra Bruce, edited by Andrew D. Basiago, and Forward by Jim Marrs, 2006, EcceNova Editions, Victoria, BC, www.eccenova.com, soft cover, 6x9, 253 pages, \$19.95.

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

Journal editor

This is the second book in a trilogy about the sightings in 1917 at Fatima, Portugal, of what was either the Virgin Mary, according to the Roman Catholic Church, or a close encounter of the fourth kind, according to the authors.

The first book in the trilogy, *Heavenly Lights*, was reviewed in the October, 2005, issue of the *Journal*.

This book, like the first one, has been thoroughly researched, with the authors having been given unprecedented access in 1978 to the original records of the Fatima incident which had been

held secretly by the Catholic Church in archives located at the Fatima sanctuary since 1917.

The main thrust of this book is that the Fatima incident was taken over by the Catholic Church for its own purposes, even to the point of sequestering one of the three little girls who witnessed the initial event, thus turning it into perhaps the most significant religious event of the 20th Century.

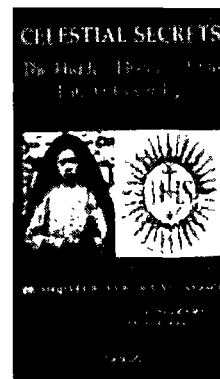
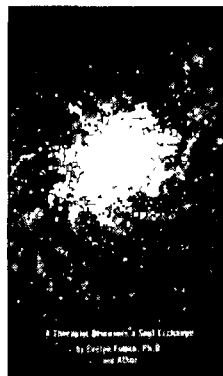
Nearly as interesting, however, is the revelation that the Fatima apparitions may have been predicted on the pages of at least four of Portugal's most prominent newspapers, as early as two months prior to the event. These predictions seem to be the products of two different self-described "spiritualist" groups of psychic individuals in Lisbon and Porto.

Both groups predicted that an event of historic significance would take place on May 13, when the first apparition appeared at Fatima.

One of the predictions came in the form of automatic writing which was done right to left and backwards, mostly in Portuguese, but partly in Latin.

The Catholic Church, despite endorsing and using the Fatima apparitions, and despite the fact that the word "God" was part of the prediction conveyed through the automatic writing, never acknowledged or took advantage of these predictions—apparently because doing so would give credence to the psychics.

In comparing the Fatima incident with a close encounter of the fourth



kind, the authors deal with the specific testimony of the witnesses and the similarity of the event to typical descriptions of UFO events.

If true, the event, of course, pre-dates Roswell by three decades.

The three initial witnesses were children: Lucia, 10; Jacinta, 7; and Francisco, 9. Only Francisco went to school.

Lucia saw a "very pretty lady," but not necessarily "Our Lady," and supposedly understood what the apparition said, apparently in Portuguese.

Jacinta saw the apparition and heard her, but understood little of the conversation. Francisco saw the "lady" speak, but without moving her lips.

According to Lucia, the "very pretty lady" said she was from the sky. Thus Lucia, who later became a nun, was the principal witness to the initial event—and also became "a pawn by which the Vatican 'spun' its 'Marian' interpretation of the event," say the authors.

Fernandes and D'Armada also discovered that Lucia reportedly had a "pre-apparition" encounter with "an angel" in 1915. In addition, a fourth child, Carolina Carreira, had seen a strange entity at the time the three other children had their initial sighting.

The "lady" in the initial sighting was described as about 15 years old, about 3' 6" tall, and emitting sounds similar to bees buzzing.

Other phenomena reported over the course of the sightings included the observation of three beings "in the Sun," unusual sounds, unusual odors, wind, clouds, and miraculous cures.

According to the authors, "The paranormal became the supernatural, and the supernatural became religious."

A part of the Fatima tradition is the presence of three "secrets," and these seem to have taken on a life of their own, the third one not being revealed by the Vatican until the year 2000—and this revelation brought additional controversy.

Those interested in historical UFO events, as well as those fascinated with the interplay of religion and ufology, should enjoy reading this well-researched book.

Silent auction at Symposium sets new record: \$4,600

With additional work and additional items up for auction, we have outdone ourselves. And that's good; especially for MUFON's general fund.

Last year we raised just over \$3,300—and this year \$4,600. That's an increase of 39% over last year, and that's a real WOW for MUFON.

This success was possible only through the generosity of MUFON members donating, and MUFON members and guests at the Symposium bidding, on the diverse collection that was amassed over the past year.

Our Keynote speaker, Linda Moulton Howe, was auctioned off for a "Go Dutch" dinner, and brought in \$200. Thanks to Linda for being such a good sport.

A surprise to us all was the bidding for a set of five 1961-66 space-related scrapbooks that ended up going for \$250. Thank you Rosemary Ellen Guiley for donating that part of your life. (Rosemary is a consulting editor with *FATE Magazine*).

Speaking of surprises, a six-pack of Alien Ale went for \$30. Yes, indeed, everything seemed to get higher bids this year, and I hope the trend will continue into next year's auction.

Unfortunately LesLee and I won't be able to be at the tables next year, and we will have to pass the baton to someone new. We will be there, however, to guide and assist.

We have learned some valuable lessons, and will be very happy to pass them on to our successors. For anyone who may be interested in taking on the Silent Auction, please contact me or MUFON Headquarters.

The original intent was well carried off. We have—all together—made a meaningful contribution to the well being of our organization.

Finally we need to thank those who helped us at the auction, the bidders, and most of all the donors. In alpha-



This year's silent auction at the MUFON Symposium in Denver in July again served as a magnet for attendees. Located in the back of the hall where speakers gave their presentations, bidders made frequent trips to check the status of their latest bids, doing considerable socializing in the process.

betical order: Asheena, Gail Barton, Dwight Connelly, Tom Deuley, Leo Dworshak, George Fawcett, Stanton Friedman, Virginia Gallenberger, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Betty Hill Estate, Linda Moulton Howe, Madison Vineyards, Lee Merrick, MUFON, NorCal MUFON, Misty Orlando, Olav Phillips, Nick Roesler, Ginger Sawatzki, John Schuessler, Shalam Colony Museum, Peggy Taylor, Unknowns (several), Bruce Widaman, and Katharina Wilson.

If we missed someone, please excuse us and let us know.

—Tom Deuley



FILER'S FILES

By George Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



Note: These reports are presented in order to keep readers informed of some of the vast number of sightings being reported. However, these cases have not been officially investigated, unless noted.

New Jersey bright white ball

Sandy Hook Beach—"On July 13, 2006," says the witness, "when I first noticed there were planes flying below this object, the object was stationary for about 20 minutes.

"But at one point, it seemed like it was flying in the same direction, parallel to a plane. Then it stopped. It just hovered, then started to move south slower than any aircraft en route to Newark or La Guardia.

"It was also much higher than the airplanes, because it only looked like a bright white line. After a few minutes moving south it stopped and became the shape of a bright white ball that started moving northwest towards the beach.

"When it was over land it looked like it had a long straight gray extension which didn't shine bright like the bright white ball-shaped light it was attached to." Thanks to Peter Davenport, National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC).

Cigar shape in New Jersey

Clifton—"My husband and I were driving on RT 46 at 9:23 PM," the witness reports, "when I happened to see this weird thing hovering in the sky. It was sort of cigar-shaped, and it was yellow and orange colored.

"It seemed to be giving off light, and it was vertical. I only saw it for about a minute or so because then the highway curved and there was a tall brick wall.

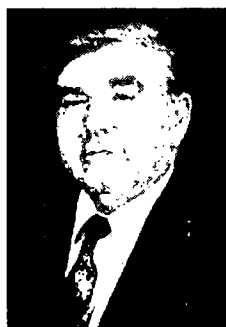
"About two minutes later there was a clearing, and I could see the sky again, but whatever it was, was gone. My

husband was driving and couldn't really see it."

Thanks to MUFON CMS.

New Mexico videos

Lordsburg—Benjie Medina writes, "For several months we have had a great deal of UFO activity going on day and night near the Mexican border that Ramon Ortiz is capturing on video.



George Filer

"The light hovered in the sky, and periodically changed shape, but stayed in the area for over five minutes."

Ohio object close in

Xenia—On July 7, 2006, a registered medical technologist was called into the hospital for an emergency at 2:20 AM, and was driving on Route 380 when she noticed two bright "headlights" in the sky to the northeast.

She stated, "After a couple of minutes I began to realize that this object was not moving. I stopped, and indeed the object was hovering about a half to a mile away.

"I drove on toward it, and it remained stationary. As I neared, it appeared to be just above the treetops, and the lights were very bright. I stopped my car again and stuck my head out of the window at 2:35 AM.

"There was no engine noise, but I could not make out a distinct shape because of the light and a foggy mist, which enhanced the bright light effect, but my impression was it was long and shaped like a cigar or cylinder.

"I was afraid to leave the car, and was aware that I had a patient waiting

for me in the ER. The craft then began to move to the southwest (behind me) at a slow rate of speed."

South Carolina bright lights

Litchfield—On July 13, 2006, bright orange triangular-shaped lights were spotted far out over the Atlantic Ocean at 10:30 PM, according to the witness.

"They would blink, separate, and seem to break into a pattern. Sometimes we would see only two, but another time we counted up to nine. They would then disappear after about 4 to 5 seconds.

"This happened four times over the span of about a half hour. Each time they seemed to get brighter. Approximately 30 minutes later, we saw about 4-5 blinking white lights flying back and forth across the sky very equidistant and at a high speed.

"They went back and forth across the sky at least twice. Once these much smaller white blinking lights appeared, but the orange lights did not reappear."

Washington triangular lights

Hoquiam—"At 11 PM on July 12, 2006," the witness reports, "we were driving over the bridge back to Aberdeen when I saw lights that at first I thought were the hospital lights.

"I told the person driving to look out the window, and he said it was an airplane because it had two small flashing lights and three big white lights in a triangular shape about 50 feet wide.

"We slowed down on top of the bridge, and it was 200 yards away from us, just sitting above the bridge at a very low altitude.

"We rolled down the window to hear noise, but there was none.

"Once we got off the bridge, we took the first left to turn around the block, but in seconds it started to move lower.

It was flying away, but we thought it was going to crash into the local grocery store it was so low.

"Once it started moving, it turned off the white lights and had left on the two red lights, but the red lights weren't flashing.

"After it glided over the grocery store it just disappeared into thin air, and it was gone like it crashed into the bay. The event probably lasted no longer than 45 seconds." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Wisconsin green tube lights

Dundee—The observer spotted what looked like "a pair of fluorescent green ceiling lights flying north in line formation on July 15, 2006, at 10:14 PM.

The lights were pulsating, and had a length and shape similar to two fluorescent bulbs flying parallel to each other.

"The objects appeared solid when viewed through a pair of 10x50 binoculars during lapses between light pulsations. The shape could not be recognized.

"A single object with pulsating green lights was visible traveling 25 degrees true north, followed in less than a minute by two more identical objects in rough trailing formation.

"The last two objects were visible for three minutes through binoculars at an estimated speed of 24,000 feet per minute.

"In the next hour and a half, solid green intense single points of lights were visible having the color and intensity of an emerald laser or targeting laser of Russian design moving northeast.

"These did not appear attached to a solid object like the first three objects, and on occasion emitted an aura or laser-like luminescence that rotated or changed relative position to the point of light intensity.

"The speed of these lights appeared slower than the first three objects. None of the objects or lights produced audible sound, and were devoid of conventional aircraft running lights."

Thanks to MUFON CMS.

Kansas UFOs exit larger craft

Kansas City—The witness reports, "I was at my mother's house staying overnight on June 26, 2006, when I awakened at 3:47 AM and had a nagging feeling to go outside and look up.

"I went out on the back patio and saw a white round-shaped object traveling southwest almost straight overhead. The night sky was clear with a few scattered wispy clouds, and stars were clearly visible.

"The object appeared to be a satellite, but I thought it a little large. It was traveling fast, but was very high up, so it took a while to move across the sky as I watched it travel along a straight line from 45 to 30 degrees from the horizon.

"The thought that it could be a UFO came into my mind. It started wavering, then stopped dead and immediately reversed direction, traveled a short distance, then stopped.

"Two smaller objects came out of it and moved downwards, one to the right and one to the left in an upside down V pattern. I kept my eyes on the larger object for 17 minutes and watched as it faded out as if moving away from the Earth out into space.

"I did not find the other objects in the sky after that, and don't know where they went. When I returned it was 4:05." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Massachusetts silver disc

Randolf—"I was driving on Route 95 heading down to the Cape on June 26, 2006, at 11 PM," says the witness. "I was driving about 77 MPH, and looked up and saw a disc with a hole in the middle.

"It was shiny silver, thin, and it was not very big. The way that it was moving across the sky reminded me of a Frisbee that was thrown sloppy." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Michigan oval

Sault Ste. Marie, MI—The witness reports that "on June 28, 2006, I was preparing my backyard for concrete about 11 AM when a big object flew over my neighbor's house at about 750 feet al-

titude. There was a 300-foot tall radio tower right under the object. I grabbed my 12 x 50 binoculars and viewed the object for 35 minutes without it showing any movement or creating any noise at all.

"I made a drawing on my clipboard of this unbelievable object, which was tall and slender with a long shaft coming out from the bottom. On the top, at an angle from the top and side, was a chrome-mirrored dome. A chrome gold reflection came from around that same area.

"The dome turned towards me, then stopped, and a small object came out from the bottom of the long shaft and floated towards the top. It stopped beside the top of the craft, and orbited around it twice before connecting itself to the top.

"Then, the dome turned back towards the northeast and it never left that position the whole time. Right then I called my father-in-law and the police dispatcher to send someone over. The dispatcher laughed.

"My mother-in-law arrived by herself five minutes after I called, but the police didn't. She viewed it through the binoculars as well, and couldn't believe it, as we both watched for 20 minutes.

"My neighbor came and viewed it for over ten minutes before it disappeared into the sky. It would move a little bit and stop. It did that about three or four times, heading south, and then it just moved slowly and disappeared behind a cloud.

"My mother-in-law called the police department and talked to one of the officers at the desk and asked why they didn't go out on the call, and they said they were never dispatched. The officers came over later, but did not see the craft."

Disc-shaped UFOs in Virginia

Mechanicsville—"On June 26, 2006, I was trying to trace a drawing when I saw the UFOs," says the witness. "I had put the real drawing underneath a blank piece of paper and held it up to the window to try and use the sunlight to trace it.

"That's when I saw one disc-shaped

UFO that looked like it was kind of far away, and then about seven seconds later another UFO appeared.

"This time I grabbed my camera and snapped a picture at 3 AM that didn't come out very good because they were moving pretty fast, but you can still see them. Then another ten seconds and they were gone.

"Since everyone who lives near me had gone to work this morning, I think I was the only one to see them."

Missouri UFO in near collision

Springfield—"My husband and I were letting our dog out at about 10:25 PM on July 14, 2006," says the witness, "and noticed a very large bright light in the sky. It was lower than you would expect an aircraft, but the cell phone tower in the distance was at least three inches below it.

"I said, 'It's too bright for a plane.' The object slowly moved straight down, and then seemed to 'float' back up again. It did this for about four minutes.

"We didn't see a defining shape because it was so bright. My eyes actually started to hurt, looking at the bright light the size of a softball at arm's length.

"We saw a helicopter circling the light, and after three very wide circles around it, it headed straight for it. The bright object ascended slowly, and we heard a very deep loud rumble, similar to the sound of a large plane.

"As they approached, my husband said, 'Oh my God, they are going to hit.' But the helicopter passed underneath the huge light that dwarfed it.

"This giant ball of light was HUGE and sped up and raced away to the northwest, then suddenly switched to flashing lights in a very fast strobe along its flat bottom.

"It was continuously flashing so the bottom of the object appeared to rotate. I have never seen something so bright and large. Thanks to MUFON CMS.

Nebraska UFO releases pods

"Late on July 1, 2006," says the witness, "I was outside my house talking

with my neighbors when we all noticed a large star-like shape floating back and forth.

"It darted in different directions and descended upon our house very quickly. Without warning it was silently floating above my home with many lights and a weird radiation emanating from it. Everyone could see it, and we tried to call the news, but none of our phones would work.

"The ship had what looked like pods on the bottom of it. It released them, and they abruptly fell on my lawn. They immediately released some kind of bright light that disappeared in a flash. My neighbors and I stood there in shock as it disappeared." Thanks to MUFON CMS

Caribbean Cutter Acushnet UFO

An officer writes, "I saw a UFO in 1977, while serving on the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Acushnet as I was coming on watch when the General Quarters alarm went off.

"We had lost steering while towing a giant new 'meteorological' buoy toward Cuba. As I entered the bridge I was also informed that the electronics, compasses, and auxiliary were malfunctioning.

"It was an old ship, so I wasn't overly freaked until I saw that everyone was staring up at a prototypical saucer with lights hovering at 190 degrees to port, and at 1,000 yards elevated.

The tow line was limp, and the buoy shrouded in a bizarre fog.

Two Phantom F-4 fighters sped toward it at an angle above/abeam and it moved at incredible speed in a vertical zigzag until out of sight in four seconds.

"After a brief meeting in the CO's cabin, the log I was keeping was replaced, and I was told by a 1st class Petty Officer that it never happened, and if I know what's good for me I won't say anything more about it.

"They know all about what's going on, and may have been told to cover it up. Considering how these things have the brains to know what to observe, I'm afraid there isn't a damn thing we can do about it, except pray that they're friendly."

Canadian bovine incisions

Saskatchewan—A year after a cow mutilation was reported near Paradise Hill, another case has surfaced in the Hillmond area.

John B. Spigott reports, "A farmer discovered the animal on June 16 and contacted Barb Campbell at the Saskatchewan Provincial Paranormal Research Centre."

Campbell says, "It shows all the classic signs of being a mutilation: eyes gone, ears gone, certain incisions in the body—all of which are very suspicious."

After taking some samples and investigating the carcass, Campbell is convinced this cannot be the work of a predator. She says the incisions are very fine cuts, ruling out a predator attack.

The carcass had its back legs totally behind the animal, and her whole spine is twisted. There is no sign of a struggle. It appears the cow was just dropped from the air.

There are no vehicle marks, human tracks, or predator markings nearby. Campbell also said that the rest of the 55 animals in the herd, including her calf, will not go near the deceased cow. Thanks to Lloyd Minster, Alberta, Canada T9V.

Hungary landing and circle

Lajoskomarom/Mezőkomarom—"July 5, 2006, was a warm night," says the witness, "and I had a tooth pain, so I went to my garden to rest. Then I saw a light coming down to the earth and entering a nearby field.

"The light went out, but after five minutes the light turned on again in the field, and then flew up into the sky. The next day we went into the field and there are crop circles. The entire sighting lasted for ten minutes." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Poland circle & electrical failure

CHLUDOWO—Between July 2 and July 7, 2006, another crop circle appeared, preceded by electrical failure and a flash of pale yellow light. The symbol under investigation is 20 meters away from an electric line powering Chludowo.

BLT Research using science in study of crop circles

BLT Research Team, Inc. is arguably the leading organization in the world in the scientific study of crop circles.

Headed by Nancy Talbott, former associate of William Levengood, BLT emphasizes getting the best scientists involved in the various facets of soil and plant analysis.

Following are two of BLT's current projects, in addition to keeping up with ongoing crop circle events. The BLT website is bltresearch.com

Growth study

During the summer of 2003 several crop formations occurred in the U.S. and Canada in corn (maize).

Although there have been a number of such events in corn over the years (particularly in the U.S.), in recent years fieldworkers have documented increasingly intense damage to the plants.

The plants in two specific formations in Canada in 2004, both in hybrid field corn, show a massive incidence of expulsion cavities—holes blown out at the plant stem nodes—often occurring literally all the way down the plant stem.

Since the corn in these cases was 9-10 ft. tall many plants have 7-8 blown nodes in each stem.

The cobs inside the formations were also observed to be significantly smaller than in the control plants elsewhere in the fields, with many of the flattened plants producing only one cob, or none at all.

Additionally, initial examination revealed that many of the corn stalks had snapped cleanly at the nodes, a situation that was found to exist in nearly all of the flattened crop.

After sampling, it was clear that the



Fieldworkers in England with plant and soil samples which must be hung and dried before shipping.

plants were so brittle that very light pressure caused all of the nodes on the flattened plants to snap similarly.

Certain hybrids, if the amount of rainfall is excessive during particular growth phases, are known to be subject to a condition known as "Brittle Snap," in which a few nodes near the top of the plant can break in this manner.

However, Brittle Snap has never been seen to affect the nodes lower down the plant's stem, and certainly not the node lowest on the plant stem—as was observed repeatedly in the Canadian formations.

Also, the variety of maize involved in these cases was not one known to be subject to this problem.

There were also multiple other abnormalities observed in these maize plants which seem to indicate a definite increase in the intensity of the energies involved in the crop formation process.

In an effort to learn more about the effects on the plants, BLT consultants, in conjunction with a Canadian Crop Circle Research Network (CCCRN) field team, have begun a growth study using seeds from one of the most af-

fected of these Canadian formations.

At the completion of the study, results will be presented by BLT Research and CCCRN (www.cccrn.ca) on both web-sites.

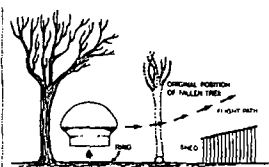
Mycorrhizal fungi study

A University of California, Davis, mycologist/soil chemist has suggested a study to determine whether differences occur in the presence/absence of mycorrhizal fungi, percentage of infection, and/or differences in internal root structures in plants from within crop circles as opposed to those outside.

In addition to answering these questions, this study will look for significant differences in arbuscular mycorrhizal spore abundance and variety within the circle soils, as compared to the controls.

Roots & soils from a number of crop formations will be collected this summer and examined at the University of California. Physical and chemical analyses of the soils may also be carried out, depending on funding/time constraints.

The results will be posted on the BLT web-site when the research is completed.



Physical Traces

By Ted Phillips

Marley Woods—Conclusion

In previous columns I discussed some of the strange reports—sightings, animal mutilations, and ground traces—related to an area of Missouri which I call Marley Woods.

There are some newer things that I have been working on which I think you will find interesting, but first I want to finish the Marley Woods chronology:

Oct. 6, 1999: at the cabin—Just after 8 PM an extremely bright amber light was seen hovering above the tree horizon south-east of the cabin front gate.

The light was huge, and after about five minutes it very slowly rose higher and higher and began to move northeast toward us. After watching it move very slowly for two to three minutes, it disappeared.

Video was taken of the object, stationary and moving, for several minutes. About two minutes later, another bright amber light in the same area as the first was observed.

However, it appeared at a much greater distance. It also appeared to be getting larger, brighter, and closer.

After viewing the light for five minutes, it was now almost as bright as the first one. The light began to ascend and, after getting fairly high, it began to move northeast, over the cemetery in a straight path.

The object moved as if it were sliding on ice with no effort and no sound. It appeared to be no more than 1,200 feet away.

The object grew larger and brighter as it got closer. It continued on toward

the north over the caretaker's trailer, and was now moving horizontally. It traveled on its course, slowly dimming and getting smaller until it disappeared slowly in the north.

Oct. 30, 1999: 1,200 feet southeast of the cabin, a deputy sheriff (witness 103) was at a small cemetery south of the cabin when he saw a large, white, brilliantly lighted object the size of a bus. It was moving at high speed over the cabin area from west to east. There was no sound.

November, 1999: 18 reported sightings, all multiple witness, and all "normal" sightings.

November 6, 1999: at the cabin—10:35 PM. R and his wife saw a "tremendous burst of light appearing about 1,000 feet east-northeast. It appeared the glow was at the end of a small patch of woods where his farm and B N join. The glow lasted just a few seconds.

"A few minutes later," says R, "we saw a dim, white light inside the woods and somewhat closer than the glow previously seen.

"While watching the dim light, suddenly the burst of light appeared again behind the dim light. Again, the glow lasted 3 to 4 seconds. After the glow disappeared, the dim light became very bright.

"The white light was very bright with a hint of orange. It never moved, never cast a beam. At one time, the light was so bright I videoed fifteen seconds of it.

"The next afternoon J and I drove near the area where we had seen the light. I crossed the fence at the location and walked the area. The lay of the land is flat, fairly open with tall pine trees, scattered small and large cedar trees and scattered thin brush.

"I came to a place that had several fresh broken pine branches within an eight-foot diameter area. There, eight

to ten branches from six to eighteen inches long (all green pine), were lying under several 40-foot pine trees.

"These branches came from the tops of the trees, as the green areas were only at the tops. All branches were left as is. The area was sampled and photographed."

Nov. 12, 1999: at 11:30 PM the cabin owner and his wife were sleeping in a small cabin south of the main cabin and just north of the wooded area where the tree light had been seen six nights earlier.

They were awakened with the small building filled with white light, and they looked out the south window to see a circular white orb in the same wooded area, except they were seeing it from the opposite direction.

It was at the top of the tall pines, and it moved horizontally and vertically over a short distance. They watched the light for thirty minutes.

Nov. 16, 1999: at 5:50 PM J observes the tree light again from the main cabin. It is located in the same area as the 11/6 & 11/12 events. Witness 8 was deer hunting from a stand several hundred feet north of the light and saw it at the same time as J, but from a different location by several hundred feet.

Nov. 24, 1999: Witness 15 called to tell me of an encounter her son had the evening before, some two miles west of the cabin. He was driving home at 11 PM and as he approached a junction on the county road he saw in front of him an object hovering near the ground.

It was about 70 yards off the road over a field. The object was 16 to 18 feet wide. It had very slow blinking lights on its right and left sides. A dark silhouette could be seen against the field.

It was thicker in the middle, and tapered off on each side. As he came



Ted Phillips

around the last open curve nearing the object, it vanished. The field was searched the next day, but no traces found. People in the immediate area reported barking dogs at that time.

Nov. 26, 1999: 9:50 PM, same location, same witness as 11/24. The object was higher and more distant.

July 2, 2000: Witness 53, owner of the site south of the cabin (cattle deaths, rings, people knocked to ground) called to report a significant event.

He had a family reunion and cook-out at the site of the old trailer and house, and during the hours after sunset the large group visited. After the group left for home, 53 took his wife home and returned after 10 PM to clean up and haul trash to the dump.

As 53 was traveling south from the farm he began seeing white lights about the size of basketballs coming upward from the distant woods. As he stopped and watched, he said more than 50 of the "soundless" balls of light went up, side by side, and down into the timber.

He then started his pickup and drove in the direction of the lights. As he neared the area, he could not see them. He sat for a short time, then drove back to his first observation place, and again he saw the same white balls of light. After a time, they quit.

Aug. 8, 2000: Significant events began at 11:30 PM. Two witnesses left the cabin and were driving on the road heading west when, at a point less than two miles from the cabin, they saw an approaching light.

It was a single white orb traveling at about the height of an automobile headlight above the left side edge of the road. It was the size of a basketball, and seemed to plunge in the left ditch.

A second or two later it went quickly onto the road surface, then appeared to bounce across the highway to the right (north) and disappear in the thicket beyond the left side of the road.

Two weeks before, at the end of July, witnesses 4 & 55, were headed west on the same road at about 11:15 PM.

They were nearing an intersection with a north-south road when they saw two very fast-moving white lights coming side by side like vehicle headlights

on the north-south road. The lights were moving north, and the witnesses thought it was a car about to hit the intersection barricade.

They watched the two lights very low to the road surface as they crossed the intersection and continued north, then disappearing.

The witnesses slowed down as they reached the intersection to see if a car had crashed in the intersection, but nothing had been damaged.

Aug. 9, 2000:—Witnesses 51 & 52 had left the cabin at 11:30 PM and were driving west on the same road. They were in about the same area as the two previous road orb events when they saw a very bright white light the size of a basketball coming from the south across the farm of witnesses 15, 16, 17, and 18.

It was traveling at a slightly higher altitude (about the height of trees on the property), and dropped down a bit as it crossed the highway directly in front of the car. After crossing the highway it entered a small clearing in the timber.

Sept. 30, 2000: Two hunters, witnesses 141 & 106, were deep in the National Forest when they observed a disc-shaped object of a metallic appearance descending over their heads.

The men were so frightened that 141 fired a high-powered rifle at the base of the object and a "vapor" sprayed on them. They suffered burns and claimed there was a burnt ring on the ground.

Dec. 18, 2000: Witness 53 observed from the second site a significant event. He saw numerous small white lights on or near the ground over a period of several minutes.

The lights were moving very rapidly along a fence line at the south edge of woods located north of his farm, and between his location and the cabin farm. The small lights appeared to be the size of headlights, circular and bright white. He saw them as single displays and as three lights moving together. He said their speed was incredible.

May, 2001: R sent me news of an interesting event that took place three miles southwest of him: Witness was driving a new car she had just purchased. She saw a bright light behind

her which followed the car for a mile.

It then suddenly went over the top of her car and landed in front of her briefly, then flew away at high speed. After the object left, her car engine died and she coasted to the road shoulder. She had to replace the ignition system and was told that the entire electrical system should be replaced. There were other reports of an object following cars in that area also.

July 9, 2001: Another interesting vehicle case involved a lady working at a restaurant who was driving home at 11 PM west of the cabin area. Three objects were seen on both sides of the car, which was traveling south. She was terrified. No other details.

Feb. 9, 2002: Another circle north of the first circle by several hundred feet, 12 feet in diameter.

As of January, 2004 the events continued. I've tried to obtain funding to continue the investigations, but nothing in sight to work with. Whatever is taking place at these sites, they should be logged and investigated and certainly photographed.

Additional events of interest: "In the 1970's my dad traveled around Missouri repairing pipe and electric organs in small town churches. On one of these service calls there was a news report in regards to cattle mutilation.

"He went into that area (not far from the Marley Woods) and took three Polaroid pictures of the cow. The owner of the cow said there had been a brilliant light on or very close to the ground the night before he found the animal. He said that he and another farmer saw the light go straight up from the woods."

Conclusions

Descriptions of all the known events would take countless pages and would, for the most part, repeat themselves. I have presented here the more significant cases.

The witnesses, all 141 of them, are credible, intelligent folks who made a tremendous effort to study the night sky in order to recognize satellites, meteors and such. The very fact that all of these people have kept this from the media is incredible. They are not looking for publicity, just answers.



PERCEPTIONS

By Stanton T. Friedman

Secrecy, UFOs, SETI

Those who follow my column know that I have very strong interests with regard to the government's ability to cover up that which it wants to keep secret for many many years.

They also know that I am not a fan of SETI (Silly Effort To Investigate), the supposedly scientific effort to discover extraterrestrials by listening for radio signals, and (as recently added) optical laser type signals from beyond.

In a kind of serendipitous combination, I read two stories the same day that illustrate the silliness of SETI and the ability to keep secrets.

I was glancing through a very important book: *By Any Means Necessary: America's Secret Air War in the Cold War* by William E. Burrows, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, NY, 2001.

Burrows had been a journalist for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*. The focus of the book is on the very extensive reconnaissance by daring pilots and crews over and near the Soviet Union, China, and North Korea during the Cold War days from the 1940s.

Information is presented about the loss of many planes to enemy action, resulting in the unheralded deaths of more than 160 crew members. Families were routinely lied to. The nature and locations of the crew members' missions were not revealed.

The fact that undoubtedly many of the crew had survived their planes being shot down, but were recovered by the enemy, perhaps tortured with impunity because we could not protest publicly, and left to rot, had not been known.

Finally, in 2001, a big meeting was held with more than 200 family members in attendance, and the uncertainties laid to rest, medals awarded, and cover-ups admitted.

Obviously, secrets were kept for a very long time, despite the fact that military personnel in the USA, the Soviet Union, China, and North Korea were well aware of the planes lost.

Many missions were very successful. Often the planes daringly headed right at the various facilities to "tickle" them into responding..



Stan Friedman

rates used, etc. Had there have been a need to invade or attack the countries, this information would have been absolutely vital in reducing plane losses, developing electronic counter measures, etc.

Obviously, enemies were just as anxious to obtain detailed technical information concerning US and allied electronic capabilities, and thus lost planes near our borders as well.

Burrows recounts a fascinating story that occurred in 1939 shortly before the start of World War II in Europe.

A German Air Force general, Wolfgang Martini, had been informed that the Brits had installed a long line (twenty 350-foot-high masts, with horizontal cross pieces half way up and at the top) of what might well be radar antennas facing east along the eastern coast of the United Kingdom.

He tried to get approval to monitor these devices, even though they did not use dish antennas such as the Germans were perfecting.

He managed to get approval to have the huge Graf Zeppelin (776 feet long) fly slowly parallel to the coast. It was loaded with electronic gear to detect and evaluate any radar signals being emitted by these masts.

The Zeppelin itself was very well tracked by the British, but the Germans detected nothing from the antennae. A second slow flight also obtained no useful data, and the Germans felt they were home free.

They never caught on that their flights of bombers and fighters were always tracked, which was a great benefit to the defending British bases and aircraft. So why didn't they detect the radar?

It seems that they were looking for high frequency signals similar to the ones they were using in their coastal radar systems. The kicker is that the British were using signals with a much lower (ten times) frequency.

The Germans were not searching at that frequency. They, of course, were equally unaware later that the Brits had broken the German codes and were able to decode and translate the German military communications almost as quickly as the Germans themselves.

This was one of the great secrets of WW II. Strangely it was not revealed until 25 years after the war, despite the fact that 12,000 people were working in secret at Bletchley Park on this project.

If the Germans had learned of the code breaking, they would immediately have changed the codes, resulting in dire effects on the allied effort. There had to be great care taken to make sure that the Germans did not become aware of the success of the code breakers.

There was a similar situation with regard to the breaking of Japanese military codes in the MAGIC effort.. This was of enormous importance during the battle of Midway, for example. Obvi-

ously breaking a code does not provide ammunition or ships or aircraft, but it certainly helps to know where and when the enemy is attacking.

It should, of course, be noted that the Germans and English were based just a few hundred miles from each other, were not that different from each other, and had common knowledge of technology development for decades.

Many US and British scientists trained in Germany between the two wars. Yet the Germans guessed wrong.

The SETI cultists seem to think they can guess just what communication techniques will be used by aliens—about whom we know very little—sending signals towards us to get our attention.

Why would aliens do that? Why would they be stuck at our level of technology, measured in decades, when some at least would be millions of years ahead? An FM radio receiver would not pick up AM signals. As I keep saying, technological progress comes from doing things differently in an unpredictable fashion.

It wasn't very long ago that most of the radio signals we received were emitted by ground-based stations transmitting in all directions. We are certainly moving in the direction of receiving signals from satellites which receive them from a system beaming directly at them rather than blasting out in all directions.

Dr. Seth Shostak in a July 20 article dealt with four reasons people suggest why SETI hasn't found a signal:

1. "You're counting on aliens using technology that's oh so last century." "If we find a better technique we will use it," he said. The corollary is that aliens can't be using any technique about which we know nothing because we are so smart!

2. "If there were advanced high tech societies, they would have already colonized us, so there is nobody out there. The Fermi Paradox." He dismisses this. I do, too, because Fermi didn't say nobody was coming here.

3. "The aliens don't want to communicate with us...." His response was, "Even aside from the fact that our television signals haven't yet oozed far

enough into space to tip off any aliens...." One would think we knew there weren't any civilizations within 50 light years.. NONSENSE. We don't know. There are almost 1,000 stars within that range.

4. Number four is my favorite: "SETI types are looking in the wrong place. We know where the extraterrestrials are on a planet around the Zeta Reticuli system." I like the explanation the best, even though it is the worst: "We did look at both stellar components during our SETI run in Australia a decade ago."

What Hubris! He himself claims SETI technology has greatly improved, and he is talking about a search 10 years ago. He is assuming frequency, modulation, and alien intent. Furthermore, he is assuming that no aliens have been here, and absence of evidence using primitive techniques is evidence for absence.

The notion seems to be that any advanced civilization would emit Sethian radio waves. Of course he has provided no data to support these baseless assumptions:

I must say I do agree with Seth's recent comments about Dr. Steven Greer's strange totally unsubstantiated claim that three senior SETI scientists have admitted that we have picked up alien signals. No names or evidence, of course.

Now Seth always claims that his group would be totally open if they picked up signals. Strange, but such an event would have no impact at all on the great majority of Earthlings, whereas flying saucer reality would have enormous impact on technology, sociology, religion, trust in governments, etc.

Often, however, noisy negativists insist secrets can't be kept. Usually these are people never involved in keeping secrets.

For example, on UFO Updates a UK debunker named Christopher D. Allan made this outrageously uninformed statement with regard to the secrecy of the details of the Roswell Incident in August, 2006.

"Debunker-think? Top secret ET

wreckage, bodies, and documents stashed away from the scientific world and the general public for six decades? (This is exactly what the 'Roswell was ET' thesis implies). That is all you really need to know about Credulity—think on the Roswell case."

One would think that all science and technology is conducted in public, and that there were no members of the scientific world involved with the Roswell incident—evaluating and testing wreckage, examining bodies, etc.

I am reminded that after my hour long interview for a TV crew working on the Peter Jennings ABC UFO special, I was asked, "Didn't it seem certain that if a saucer had actually crashed, that half of the academic scientists would be involved in testing and evaluation of bodies and wreckage?"

I said of course not. There are very large numbers of other scientists working in industry and in national labs on highly sophisticated, high tech, high security projects.

The Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion program at General Electric in Evendale, OH, on which I worked from 1956-1959, was not a black project. But the work was classified. In 1958 alone we spent 100 million dollars and employed 3,500 people, of whom 1,100 were engineers or scientists.

The Nerva nuclear fission rocket engine program, on which I worked from 1966-1969 at Westinghouse Astro-nuclear Laboratory near Pittsburgh, involved many hundreds of professionals.

The U-2, SR 71, Stealth, proximity fuse, atom bomb (60,000 people), B-1 and B-2 aircraft, the Poppy and Corona satellites, and many other projects were all developed primarily in industry NOT in academia.

The latter two projects were announced 35 and 43 years after the fact. The three nuclear weapons labs a few years ago together employed well over 20,000 people, of whom about 30% were engineers and scientists.

We didn't stop being scientists because we were working on classified programs.

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Director's Message

(Continued from page 2)

involvement with MUFON on our website at www.mufon.com.

I am currently working on transitioning MUFON Headquarters from Littleton, CO, to its new home in Bellvue, CO, where I live.

During this busy time frame, you should not experience any lapse in membership benefits, *Journal* subscription, or communication, as we have spent a considerable amount of time planning for a smooth and transparent transition.

That is not to say that there won't be a hiccup here or there, Murphy's Law being what it is, but should they arise, we will do our best to correct these as quickly as possible.

The new MUFON office manager will be **Kristen Kennington**, an energetic and enthusiastic person who has been instrumental in implementing the MUFON Pandora Project. Kristen is excited about her new role and in assisting MUFON members in any way that she can.

I am very excited about the future of MUFON and the central role it plays, and will continue to play, in ufology. I look forward to working with each of you and helping you to maximize your positive participation in MUFON, so please feel free to email me at jcarion@mntview.com with your ideas and suggestions or call me at 970-221-1836.

Position announcements

Mark Ausmus, State Director for Georgia, has appointed **Conrad Engel** of Boston, GA, to the position of State Section Director for Thomas, Grady, and Brooks counties.

Conrad tried something new and novel to reach people in his area. He ran a "support for MUFON" ad on the UFO Marketplace page in past issues of the *Journal*. People saw his ad and joined him in organizing a monthly local MUFON meeting in Boston. This is another excellent example of the creativity of MUFON members.

Bill Konkolesky, State Director for Michigan, has appointed **Lisa Shiel** to the position of Chief Investigator for Michigan MUFON. She also holds the position of State Section Director for Michigan's entire Upper Peninsula. The Upper Peninsula is a sparsely populated deeply wooded area covering 15 counties.

It is a pleasure to announce the appointment of **Dan A. Lavillette** of Burlington, VT, as the new State Director for Vermont.

New Field Investigator

Kathleen Marden, Director of Field Investigator Training, has announced that **Robin Von Olszewski** of Greenville, SC, has passed the MUFON Field Investigator's Exam and is now a MUFON Field Investigator.

All Field Investigator Trainees are urged to self-study the MUFON Field Investigator's Manual and take the exam.

The manual is available from MUFON Headquarters for \$25 plus \$3.50 p&h in the U.S. Total price for delivery outside of the U.S. is \$49.50. It may also be purchased on the Internet at www.mufon.com using PayPal.

2006 Symposium Proceedings and DVDs

Every year since 1971, MUFON has published the proceedings of the annual MUFON International UFO Symposium.

The 2006 proceedings are available from MUFON Headquarters, P.O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369, for \$33 postpaid in the U.S. and \$42 outside of the U.S.

DVDs, videos, and audio CDs of each symposium speaker are available from:

The International UFO Conference, 6160 Firestone Blvd., Suite #104-373, Firestone, CO 80505-6427. Telephone: 303-651-7136. Web store: www.ufocongressstore.com.

NASA planning crash landing on Moon

In 1959, a spaceship fell out of the lunar sky and hit near the Sea of Serenity. The ship itself was shattered, but it was a success.

Luna 2 from the Soviet Union had become the first manmade object to "land" on the Moon.

This may seem hard to believe, but Luna 2 started a trend: crash landing on the Moon, on purpose. Dozens of spaceships have done it.

NASA's first kamikazes were the Rangers, built and launched in the early 1960s. Five times these car-sized spaceships plunged into the Moon, cameras clicking all the way down.

They captured the first detailed images of lunar craters, then rocks and soil, then oblivion. Data beamed back to Earth about the Moon's surface were crucial to the success of later Apollo missions.

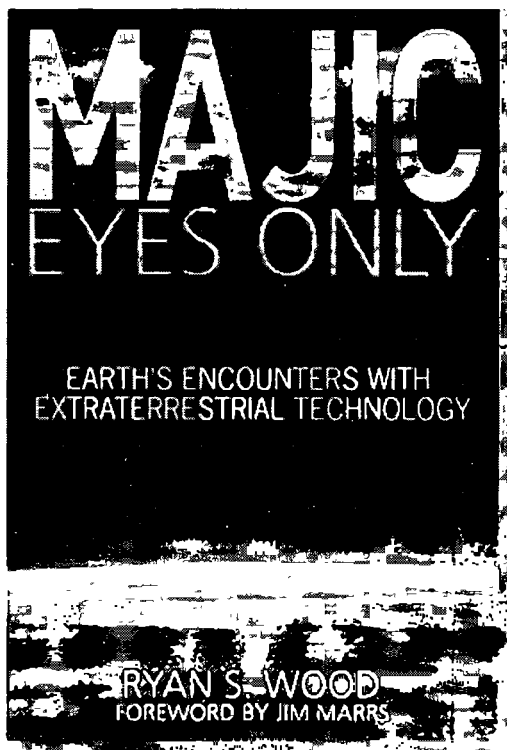
Crashing was much easier than orbiting, they discovered. The Moon's uneven gravity field tugs on satellites in strange ways, and without frequent course corrections, orbiters tend to veer into the ground.

Past experience is about to come in handy. NASA researchers have a daring plan to find water on the Moon, and they're going to do it by crash landings. Team leader Tony Colaprete of NASA Ames explains how it's going to work:

"We think there's frozen water hiding inside some of the Moon's permanently-shadowed craters. So we're going to hit one of those craters, kick up some debris, and analyze the impact plumes for signs of water."

The experiment couldn't be more important. NASA is returning to the Moon, and when explorers get there, they'll need water. Water can be split into hydrogen for rocket fuel and oxygen for breathing. It can be mixed with moondust to make concrete, a building material. Water makes an excellent radiation shield, and, of course, you can drink it.

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The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

October sky

Moon Phases:

Full Moon: Oct. 7

Last quarter: Oct. 14

New Moon: Oct. 22

First quarter: Oct. 29

Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

Mercury (magnitude -0.1 to 0.0): Moving from Virgo to Libra. For northern hemisphere observers, Mercury may be glimpsed very low in the west-southwest after sunset about midmonth.

For more favored southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will be observed low in the west-southwest evening twilight sky all month before becoming lost in the glare of the Sun by month's end.

Mars (magnitude 1.7 to 1.6): In Virgo. For northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere observers, Mars will not be observable until December.

Jupiter (magnitude -1.8 to -1.7): In Libra. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will become lost in the west-southwest evening twilight during the month.

For more favored southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will stand about 10 degrees high in the west-southwest at the end of evening twilight and will set more than two hours after the Sun.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

Venus (magnitude -3.8): Moving from Virgo to Libra. For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will be very difficult to observe until early December.

For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will be very difficult to observe until late November.

Saturn (magnitude 0.5): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will rise in the east-northeast near 1 AM and will stand about 40 degrees high in the east-southeast at the beginning of

morning twilight. For less favored southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will rise near 2:30 AM in the east-northeast and will be low in the east-northeast at the beginning of morning twilight.

Meteor Showers:

Orionids: This shower produces fast meteors (40 miles/sec.). About 20% will leave trails. While the rate is stated to be 25/hour, it can vary between 10 and 70 per hour.

The duration of this meteor shower extends from Oct. 15 to 29, with maximum occurring on Oct. 21

The point from where the Orionid meteors appear to radiate is located within the constellation Orion, and is referred to as the radiant.

The radiant is located in the northeastern part of that constellation. The radiant rises around 10:30 PM local time. At about 3 AM the radiant is about 50 degrees above the horizon.

To best observe the Orionids, lie outside in a reclining lawn chair.

The two best ways to observe the Orionids is either by pointing your feet southward (the general direction of the radiant) and looking in the region straight up, or pointing your feet southwestward and have your center of gaze around 60° above the horizon.

Do not look directly at the radiant, because meteors directly in front of you will not move much and fainter ones might be missed.

Other minor meteor showers will be going on at the time, and stray meteors, more commonly called sporadics, will frequently be seen that do not belong to a meteor shower.

When you see a meteor, mentally trace it backwards, and if you arrive at the region just northeast of the main body of Orion, it is probably an Orionid.

Fortunately the moon will be absent from the night sky, thus not interfering with observation of the meteor shower

Zodiacal Light:

Zodiacal light will be visible in northern latitudes in the east before the start of morning twilight from Oct. 19 to Nov. 2. The phenomenon is visible only from very dark locations.

Zodiacal light is sunlight bouncing off dust grains in our solar system. These grains lie mostly in the plane of the solar system.

Look for a pyramid of light in the morning sky somewhat similar to the light from a city or town just over the horizon.

Conjunctions and Occultations:

Oct. 16: Saturn 2 degrees south of the Moon.

Oct. 24: Mercury 1.4 degrees north of the Moon.

Oct. 24: Jupiter 5 degrees north of the Moon.

Oct. 25: Antares 0.4 degrees north of the Moon.

Oct. 25: Mercury 4 degrees south of Jupiter.