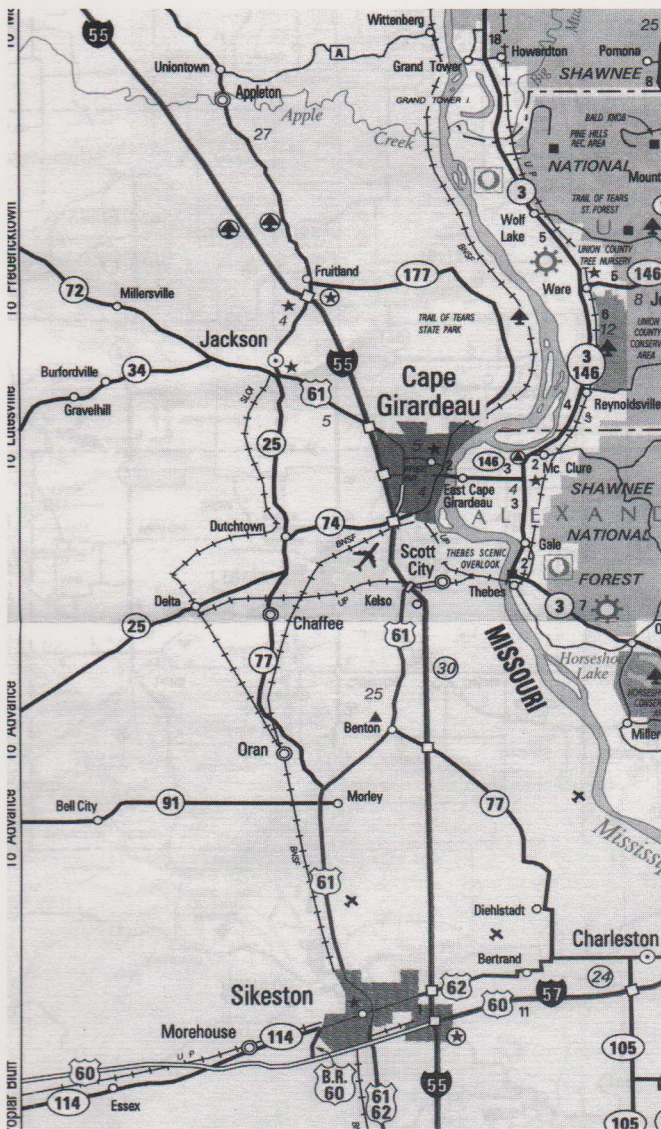


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Charlette Mann



Rev. William Huffman

UFO crash in Cape Girardeau,
Missouri in 1941?

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International Director
John F. Schuessler

Editor:
Dwight Connelly
14026 Ridgelawn Road
Martinsville, IL 62442
Tel: (217) 382-4502
e-mail:
mufonufojournal@hotmail.com

Columnists:
Walter N. Webb
George Filer
Jenny Randles

Staff Artist
Wes Crum

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MUFON's mission is the systematic collection and analysis of UFO data, with the ultimate goal of learning the origin and nature of the UFO phenomenon.

An ongoing investigation

Did a UFO crash in Missouri in 1941?

By Ryan S. Wood

rswood@majesticdocuments.com

This case was first publicized when Len Stringfield, in his book *UFO Crash/Retrievals: The Inner Sanctum, Status Report VI*, shared an astounding letter from Charlette Mann, the granddaughter of Reverend William Huffman. Charlette told of the deathbed account by her grandmother, who during the course of several days described an unusual event that Rev. Huffman attended late one early spring night just 10-15 miles outside of Cape Girardeau, MO.

Huffman was a traveling Baptist minister who had moved to Cape Girardeau and started ministering at the Red Star Baptist church in early 1941, according to church records. The quick summary of the event was that when Huffman arrived at the scene, there were police, fire, FBI, and photographers already there, and he was asked to provide blessings to the three dead occupants of an unusual craft.

During this process he observed the command mod-

ule with hieroglyphic writing inside, and prayed over each of these non-human entities. When the military arrived, everyone was sworn to secrecy, yet upon returning home to 1530 Main Street he chose to share this story with his wife and family.

With this intriguing story and later personally meeting

Editor's Note

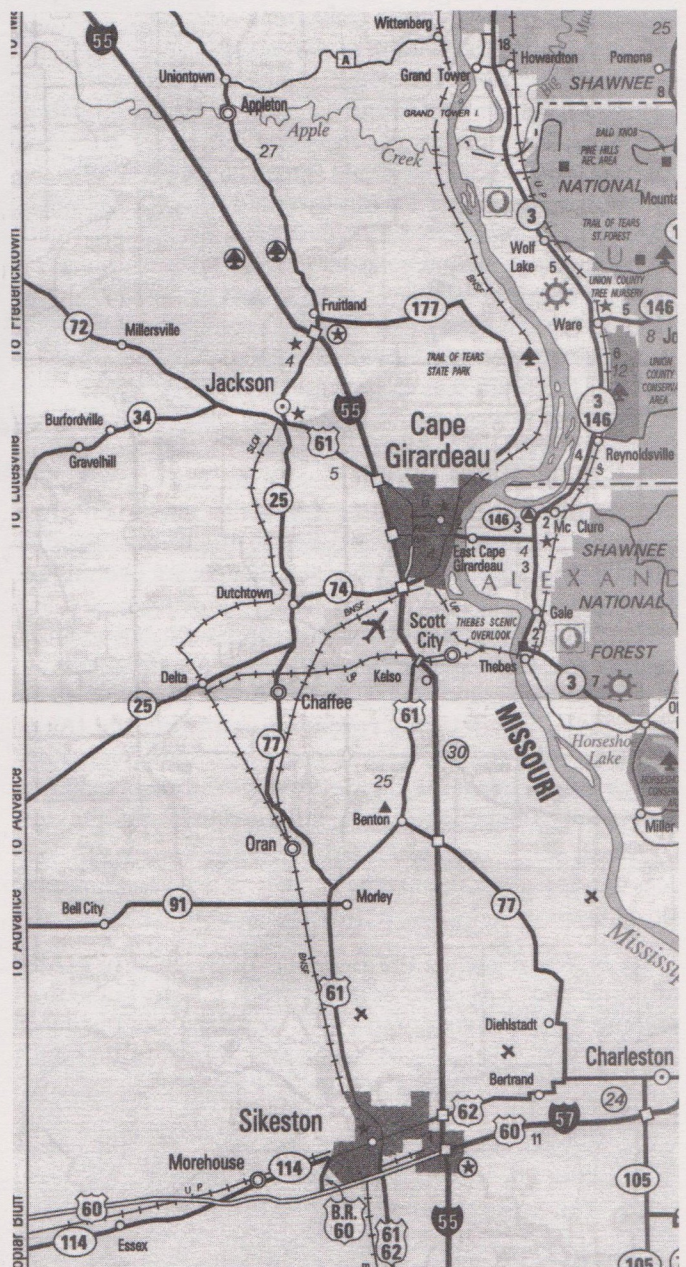
As author Ryan Wood acknowledges, the 1941 crash of a UFO in the Cape Girardeau area is only a tantalizing possibility, not a proven fact, and the investigation is far from complete. Thus far, all of the evidence is based on second-hand testimony and controversial documents.

There is a formerly secret government document which indicates that, six years after the alleged incident, a top Air Force officer was unaware of any crashed UFOs. This is the Sept. 23, 1947, letter from Lt. Gen. Nathan Twining, head of the USAF Air Materiel Command, to Brig. Gen. George Schuigen, an Air Force intelligence officer. However, there is some evidence that even high-ranking military officers may not have had access to information regarding crash recoveries, and government utilization of faked documents for cover-up and misinformation is also possible.

At least one individual close to government research and development, Dr. Robert Sarbacher, has suggested that such crashes and recoveries have occurred.

In looking at the total picture, there appears to be enough evidence to justify continued research on possible UFO crashes, including Cape Girardeau.

As additional information becomes available, it will be shared with *Journal* readers. A more detailed account of Wood's investigation is included in the 2001 *MUFON Symposium Proceedings*.



Charlette, I became convinced that here was a credible witness and bizarre story that was in dire need of validation. That confirmation came from many sources in the past few years, with the freshly revealed Majestic documents from Tim Cooper and others that clearly point to a UFO crash retrieval in Missouri in 1941. Central to this case is the testimony of Charlette Mann, declassified documents that suggest pre-Roswell events, and witness interviews that vary in credibility and scope—but all sources have provided valuable data for the reality of this historic event. More exotic investigation tools, such as remote viewers or intuitive experts, have provided additional research avenues that are being investigated.

The primary witnesses

Rev. Huffman had a unique specialty in the Baptist church: he had the gift of raising money. He was a specialist who spent about four years in a specific location to build a church, attendance, fellowship, and cash flow. He would connect with local leaders to improve the exposure and participation at the church. He was also a horticulturist, and, despite the stern look in his picture, had a good deal of charm and innate salesmanship.

Upon returning from his escorted trip to the crash site, he proceeded to tell his wife and sons what had just happened in the woods a short drive outside of town. It was this retelling of the events that odd night in 1941 to his wife Floy that Charlette would hear in 1984 from her grandmother over the course of several days as Mrs. Huffman was dying of cancer.

It is important to note that this is not the only time Charlette was exposed to this story. During her childhood she heard bits and pieces of the story from conversations between her father and uncle, and when Floy was dying, Charlette pressed her to fill in the specific details as to what really happened that spring evening in 1941.

It took a fair amount of pleading with her grandmother initially to convince her to violate the commitment she had made to her husband not to speak of it. Eventually, Charlette succeeded in extracting the story. She kept after the story for several days, clarifying with her grandmother until Charlette was confident that she completely understood what had happened and the de-

About the author

Ryan Wood earned the Bachelor of Science in mathematics and computer science from California Polytechnic State University in 1978. A director of business development and sales for an energy conservation company, Wood has been active in researching documents related to UFOs, and manages the www.majesticdocuments.com web site. He has completed with Dr. Robert M. Wood a TV documentary entitled "The Secret," along with publishing two books and a CD ROM dealing with the Majestic Documents. He is a MUFON investigator, an Eagle Scout, a Black Belt in Goju-Ryu, and a triathlete.

tails. Here is part of the story in Charlette's own words as recorded for Wood & Wood LLC's upcoming television documentary "The Secret: Evidence We Are Not Alone:"

"She (Floy) said that grandfather was called out in the spring of 1941 in the evening around 9:00-9:30, that someone had been called out to a plane crash outside of town, and would he be willing to go to minister to people there, which he did. Upon arrival it was a very different situation. It was not a conventional aircraft, as we know it.

He described it as a saucer that was metallic in color, no seams, did not look like anything he had seen. "It had



Rev. William Huffman

been broken open in one portion," says Charlette, "and so he could walk up and see that. In looking in, he saw a small metal chair, gauges and dials, and things he had never seen. However, what impressed him most was around the inside there were inscriptions and writings, which he said he did not recognize, but were similar to Egyptian hieroglyphics.

"There were three entities, or non-human people, lying on the ground. Two were just outside the saucer, and a third one was further out. His understanding was that perhaps that third one was not dead on impact. There had been mention of a ball of fire, yet there was fire around the crash site, but none of the entities had been burned and so father did pray over them, giving them last rites.

"There were many people there, fire people, photographers, and so they lifted up one, and two men on either side stood him up and they stretched his arms out, they had him up under the armpits and out here. As I recall from the picture I saw, he was about 4 feet tall, appeared to have no bone structure, soft looking.

"He had a suit on," explains Charlette, "or we assume it was a suit; it could have been his skin, and it looked like crinkled, soft aluminum foil. I recall it had very long hands, very long fingers, and I think there were three, but I cannot swear to that."

Other living supporting witnesses include Charlette Mann's sister, who confirms her story in a notarized sworn affidavit, and the living brother of the Cape Girardeau County sheriff in 1941, Clarence R. Schade. These witnesses and the others who were there, should have been there, or likely would have known about this crash event will be examined later.

Now let us turn our attention to other key validating

sources for this crash recovery event in 1941—the military intelligence documents.

The document trail

Are there public, authentic documents that support and corroborate the hypothesis of before-Roswell crash retrieval events? The first public evidence of this is the February 1942 “LA Air Raid.” In this case, for a couple of hours a slow moving craft was illuminated with spotlights, 1430 rounds of ammunition were fired, many clear direct hits, according to witnesses of the disk shaped object. George C. Marshall (GCM) then writes a secret memo to the President about this event.

However, what is fascinating is that this memo sets up the authentication of a leaked top secret memo that tells a different story of crash recoveries. Yet the most stunning evidence for pre-Roswell events comes from leaked military and presidential intelligence documents. Seven leaked documents from three sources since 1994 provide both direct and indirect support for a crash retrieval event that Rev. Huffman recounts.

It is clear from the first memo that President Franklin D. Roosevelt writes to Marshall on Feb. 27, 1942: “I have considered the disposition of the material in possession of the Army that may be of great significance toward the development of a super weapon of War... Consultation with Dr. Bush and other scientists on the issue of finding practical uses for the atomic secrets learned from study of celestial devices...”

Just days after the L.A. air raid and related saucer crash retrievals it would be impossible for the President to have “considered the disposition” of the material collected at that L.A. event; therefore, he must be referring to an earlier crash. Which brings us to that ever-nagging question: so how do we know that these fantastic statements and documents are authentic?

Are the documents authentic?

The key evidence for authenticity are format and language, with liabilities primarily the document origin. Although not discussed here, the logic for faking such documents is extremely weak and is discussed in another paper on Psychological Warfare and the Majestic Documents that can be found on our website.

However, another document that is even more supportive of the pre-Roswell hypothesis and that has fewer liabilities is the Top Secret memo from Marshall to the President dated just one week after the Los Angeles air raid on March 5, 1942. It discusses the creation of the a special unit ultimately to become the Interplanetary Phenomena Unit (IPU) and the crash retrievals of two more saucers: one by the Army in the San Bernardino Mountains, east of Los Angeles, and

the other salvaged by the Navy off the southern California coast, presumably because of anti-aircraft fire.

Again the questions must turn to why is this document authentic? What impresses me besides the visual appearance of the document, showing a clear carbon smudge, available at www.majesticdocuments.com, is the fact that just two weeks later Marshall’s offices switched from the Office of Chief of Staff (OCS) filing system and memo numbering to the war department system. So, besides the proper Marshall word usage and format, it has the correct filing numbers that link it to the Los Angeles air raid. The downside is that it is not original paper.

Next we come to a memo addressed to the Non-Terrestrial Science and Technology Committee, on White House stationary dated February 22, 1944, which is stamped Double Top Secret and signed by FDR. This memo says that before we can exploit these “super weapons of war” we need to win the war. It goes on to say that when we have won the war the USA must assume its destiny; there will be a time when surplus funds will be available; and finally, FDR commends the committee for its work. This documents authenticity is supported by the rare Double Top Secret stamp and unique language.

The 1941 recovery case

In the MAJIC Eyes Only presidential briefing dated September 24, 1947, (Mission Assessment of Recovered Lenticular Aerodyne Objects – White Hot Intelligence Estimate) two sections directly cite the 1941 recovery case.

The first is in “Part III —Scientific Probabilities,” and the second in “Part V — National Security Structure.” Part III states: “Based on all available evidence collected from the recovered exhibits currently under study by AMC, AFSWP, NEPA, AEC, ONR, NACA, JRDB, RAND, USAAF SAG and MIT, are deemed extraterrestrial in nature. This conclusion was reached as a result of comparisons of artifacts from the Missouri discovery in 1941. The technology is outside the scope of US Science, even that of German rocket and aircraft development.”

The “from the Missouri” logically fits into the space provided and is consistent with supporting testimony, although I’m sure that other words would fit and make sense. The fact that in Part V the author laments the lack of a unified intelligence effort I think is noteworthy and a valid point for authenticity. It is just another subtlety that is hard to create out of whole cloth and insert seamlessly.

Here is what was said: “In the early months of 1942, up until present, intrusions of unidentified aircraft have occasionally been documented, but there has



Charlette Mann

been no serious investigations by the intelligence arm of the Government. Even the recovery case of 1941 did not create a unified intelligence effort to exploit possible technological gains, with the exception of the Manhattan Project.”

Besides the unique period language, what moved it to the 95% confidence level for authenticity was my research into the personnel on the mission. During the process of tabulating President Truman’s White House switchboard traffic for who called whom, when, and how often, I came across the name of Captain Charles Buchanan. He was the only captain ever mentioned in the 1947 phone records and—wouldn’t you know it—General Carter calls Captain Buchanan on July 7, 1947 at 4:44 PM. So, is this just a coincidence? I don’t think so.

Who was at the crash site?

To answer this question fairly takes considerable time; there are the direct comments of Huffman, and then the logical extensions that flow from the Huffman statements. A more complete discussion is in this year’s *MUFON International Proceedings*. Here is what Charlette said about who was at the crash site:

“My grandfather, upon arrival, said there were already several people there on the scene, two that he assumed were local photographers, fire people. And so not long after they arrived, the military just showed up, surrounded the area, took them off in groups separately, and spoke to each of them. Grandfather didn’t know what was said to the others, but he was told ‘this didn’t happen; you didn’t see this; this is national security; it is never to be talked about again.’

“My grandfather was an honorable man, being a preacher; that’s all that needed to be said to him. And so he came home and told the story to my dad, who was there, and my grandmother and my uncle. Now my mother was expecting at the time, so she was off in the bedroom. My sister was born May 3rd 1941, so we are assuming this was the middle to the last of April. And he never spoke of it again.

“But about two weeks later, one of the men who had a personal camera that he had put in his shirt pocket approached Grandfather and said, ‘I think someone needs a copy of this. I have one and I would like you to keep one.’ So that’s how it came about that Grandfather had the picture to begin with. But he never spoke of it again. The other people seem to be very intimidated and very frightened and paranoid.”

This photo was later in the possession of Charlette’s father, Guy Huffman, who reportedly allowed a photographer friend to borrow it in the 1953-55 time



Author Ryan Wood and Marcel Kujisten, webmaster at National Archives, who is assisting in researching this case.

frame, and the photo was never returned. The photographer’s name was Walter Wayne Fisk. Stan Friedman, also recognizing the importance of this picture, tracked Fisk down in New Mexico and spoke with him on the telephone, where a strange tale emerged.

Fisk stated he had a doctorate in psychology, yet Friedman was unable to verify his claim, along with Fisk’s statement that he was an advisor to presidents. Fisk has repeatedly refused to answer or respond to phone calls or letters written by Charlette Mann.

Since this event happened outside of the town limits, the county sheriff, Ruben Reinhold Schade, would have been the responsible party. Ruben’s brother Clarence provided a supportive, but not definitive, statement when interviewed: “Yes, I heard of a space ship with ‘little people’ back a long time ago, but never believed it.”

Although nowhere near as powerful as the Huffman-Mann testimony, I give it partial credit for being a sincere recollection, especially given the wording he used, “little people” rather than ET, alien or non-human.

It is logical to believe that if this event is real, that many others would have heard about it over the years or in secretive conversations or wild tales. Each of these persons and family members are being researched.

When and where did it crash?

When may be easier than where, but as of this writing solid progress has been made on both questions. We know from Charlette’s testimony that Huffman was driven about 10-15 miles outside of town, and then had to walk about one-fourth of a mile or so off the road into an open field where a fire was burning. Given these basic parameters the search area has narrowed to about five square miles, actually areas adjacent to roads at the time. Historical aerial photography is available for October 1941 and provides a complete stereoscopic overflight of the area. Many areas look promising, and resolution is just a matter of execution.

Charlette’s testimony is that the crash happened one

April 1941 evening, because her mother was pregnant with her sister who was born on May 3rd of 1941. The fire department records for Cape Girardeau are very precise. Although there is no clear stunning match with Charlette's story, there are several good candidates. According to the story, the fire department was on site, but which one, Jackson or Cape or both? If they were sworn to secrecy by the military, would they write the event down in their logbook, or would they record it accurately?

At present, all I have is the Cape fire logbook for 1941. An examination of fires in the evening for late March and April show only a few possible matches. On March 30, from 6:22 p.m. to 6:58 p.m. in Houck Woods (actually Louis Houck who lived in the correct area—10-15 miles out of town). On April 22, from 11:59 p.m. to 4:35 a.m. at the Blattner brothers residence out highway 61, again the right area.

It will take a review of the historical aerial photography to verify these fires. At this time the precise location and date are unconfirmed; further research with police, military records, and fire call logs is planned, along with aerial photography and ground surveys.

Although of speculative value without confirmation, Joe McMoneagle (Intuitive Intelligence Applications) provided data purporting that there are small pieces of wreckage still at the crash site that are recoverable. Annette Martin, another well-known psychic sleuth, confirmed much of the Huffman-Mann story and provided new checkable data.

Is this real?

After working on this case for about two years and talking with Charlette Mann on numerous occasions, either briefly on the phone, over dinner, or in front of a television camera, her story, demeanor, and integrity have provided no hints of deception or confabulation. I, like Leonard Stringfield ten years earlier, came to the conclusion that here was a very sincere woman with a quality case worthy of a dedicated effort at validation.

The story does not hinge on Charlette's testimony alone; there are the low level stories from credible people like Clarence Schade that loosely support the event. Then there is the deliberate silence of Wayne Fisk, the last person to have handled the alien picture. Adding more weight to the truth side is the highly believable and likely authentic military and presidential documents that support a crash retrieval in 1941.

It is the totality of these facts that leads me to think it is reasonable to conclude that there was a crash event as described by Rev. Huffman's wife to Charlette Mann.

The final resolution to this case is still out there. It may come in the form of physical evidence, bits of wreckage, new witnesses, historical aerial photography, soil samples, or archival research. All these fronts are being actively worked, and there is every reason to predict success. Anyone having additional information on witnesses, stories, documents, leads, personnel records, and historical records is requested to contact me.

Keel's *Mothman Prophecies* scheduled for movie theaters

"The Mothman Prophecies," a film based on the 1975 book by ufologist John Keel, is to be released Feb. 22, 2002. "Primal Fear" co-stars Richard Gere and Laura Linney will reunite for this film

It is described as "a cerebral and creepy tale of the paranormal," and is supposedly based on actual events that transpired in Point Pleasant, WV, between November 1966 and December 1967. The time frame of the original occurrences has been condensed and updated, and the story now happens over the course of a few weeks during the present. The names of the main characters, some of whom are based on actual people, have also been changed.

The protagonist is *Washington Post* political reporter John Klein (Gere), an up-and-coming journalist who interacts with influential people on Capitol Hill and is being eyed for a job at CNN. He has a beautiful wife named Mary, and life seems to be going his way, but things begin to fall apart.

He discovers the drawing of a bug-like man that Mary has drawn. A year later, while traveling in West Virginia, his car breaks down and he has a bizarre encounter with a rural homeowner who claims John has come to his door at exactly the same time three nights in a row. Even worse, he discovers he has somehow traveled four hundred miles out of his way in less time than was possible.

He soon learns of all the other odd goings-on that have been happening lately in Point Pleasant. It seems a number of locals, including many "normal" and well regarded folks, have seen strange lights over the Ohio River while others have had visions of a strange bug or bird-like man. A drawing of this creature rocks John when he realizes this is the exact same image Mary drew. And bizarre events continue, as in the book.

Fate Magazine taken over by Phyllis Galde

Lakeville, MN—Llewellyn Worldwide, Ltd. of St Paul, MN has reached a licensing agreement with Phyllis Galde, owner of Galde Press, Inc., for the right to publish *Fate Magazine*. Galde has been Editor-in-Chief of *Fate* since December of 1999.

Llewellyn granted the trademark license after it had considered discontinuing the magazine in August Galde inherits all responsibilities for publishing the longrunning magazine which was launched in 1947 by Curtis Fuller and Ray Palmer.

Carl Weschcke had this to say about the move, "When the Fullers decided to retire in 1988, they sold *Fate* to Llewellyn, and we did our best to carry on with their intent. Today, however, it is time to pass the torch yet again. *Fate* is an adventure into this greater and wonderful world; Phyllis Galde is your guide."

KGB's 'Blue Folder' reveals shootings, landings in USSR

By Vadim K. Ilyin

With the coming of "glasnost" it became known that the most formidable department of the USSR had been collecting documents concerning UFOs in the so-called "Blue Folder"—KGB documents that were taken off the security list in October 1991 upon the inquiry of Russian cosmonaut Pavel Popovitch. Many copies of such documents are kept in the archival depository of the Russian Geographical Society's Ufological Committee.

The fact of UFO existence was more than once confirmed by Soviet military men. UFOs were observed from the ground and from the air, as well as registered on the radar screens.

UFO fired upon

One of the documents from the "Blue Folder" describes a UFO encounter that happened in 1984 in Turkestan Military District. Anti-aircraft defense system near the city of Astrakhan "notched up" the object that flew along the Caspian Sea coast at an altitude of 2000 meters above sea level and was heading to the frontier. It did not respond to the interrogations. Its shape resembled a sphere. Two fighters were scrambled, but all the attempts to shoot the UFO down failed.

Moreover, when the object was fired at, it descended down to one hundred meters above the ground to an altitude that made further firing by the fighters impossible. It is necessary to mention that despite the firing, the speed of the UFO did not change. During the flight the object passed above several military unit locations, and this made it possible to take photographs.

When the UFO approached the town of Krasnovodsk, a helicopter was scrambled to make an attempt to shoot the intruder down, but the UFO quickly climbed and hovered at the altitude that was inaccessible for the helicopter. After the pilots had spent all their ammunition the helicopter descended for landing, whereas the UFO sharply changed its course and headed toward the open sea. Soon after, the object disappeared from sight and was lost by radars.

Disk comes out of object

In 1985 a radar station under Captain L. Valuev in the Krasnovodsk region registered an unknown object at an altitude of 20,000 meters. Its dimension was about 1000 meters! The object did not move, but after some time a small disc having a diameter of approximately five meters flew out of the large object. This smaller disc-shaped UFO landed at the Krasnovodsk spit.

Patrol-boats of Kaspian flotilla rushed to the landing place of the UFO, but when they approached it at a dis-

About the author

Vadim K. Ilyin, who was born in Russia and now lives in St. Petersburg, graduated from the Leningrad Mechanical Institute in 1956. He has worked as an engineer, as well as group, laboratory, and department manager in different institutions. He has more than 30 years of experience in translating technical literature and fiction from English and Polish languages into Russian, and is the author of several articles.

Material for this article was obtained "on the terms of [the author's] full discretion" from the late Vyatcheslav Shtyepa, a full member of the Ufological Committee of the Russian Geographical Society, who in February 2000 became editor of the *NLO* ("UFO") magazine of the Saint-Petersburg Kaleidoscope Publishing House. Shtyepa died suddenly this past June. Tatiana V. Kamchatova is now editor of *NLO* ("UFO") magazine. According to Vyatcheslav, the materials given to the author have not been previously published.

tance about 100 meters, the UFO took off and flew away for about a kilometre. Patrol-boats approached the UFO again, and it again flew away from them. The situation was repeated five times! Finally the object went up with tremendous speed. Its mark on the radar screen coincided with the mark of the mother craft, and then the large UFO went off into Space.

Tremendous speed

Another "Blue Folder" report reads: "On the 25th of November, 1986, at 12:50 Moscow time civil flight control service as well as the military department of that service in the airport of Magadan (a city in Eastern Siberia) discovered an unidentified target. At that time the aeroplane *Á-12* No 11421 was approaching the target at the altitude of 7200 meters. The captain of the plane was warned by traffic control service about the situation.

"When the plane and UFO passed clear of each other the object turned right in the direction toward Shelekhov bay and raised its speed to 900-1000 kilometres per hour. The growth of UFO speed continued and at 13:00 it achieved 3000 kilometres per hour. Retaining this speed, the object moved away to the shore of Kamchatka, and at a distance of 150 kilometres from the coastline it disappeared from radar screens."

Dull orange oval object

Another report reads: "Herein I report that on the 23rd of May, 1985, scheduled flights were carried out in 227th bomber air regiment ("Hurba" airfield in Komsomolsk region of Khabarovsk Territory). At 22:35 local time in the airfield area an unidentified flying object was noticed. The dull-orange object had oval shape and was travelling from the West to the East at a height of 200-300 meters with a speed about 500-600 kilometres per hour. This unidentified flying object was observed by chief flight control officer Lt. Col. A. A. Alifanov, close zone flight control officer Captain A. U.

Shevnin, and the head of regiment weather group, Captain V. P. Stikin. The next day at 00:40 the same phenomenon was observed for 10-12 minutes at the "Litovko" range in Komsomolsk region of Khabarovsk Territory by senior navigator Major V. V. Kudriavtsev and by weather group engineer First Lt. V. V. Maltsev. This time the oval-shaped object was of dull-white colour and emitted rays of light upwards and downwards. Downward rays were much brighter than upward ones. The object travelled at a high altitude and with a great speed."

A downed object?

At the beginning of August, 1987, five military men from the Leningrad Military District were commissioned to the North of Karelia with a special task. The task was to guard an object of unknown origin that was discovered not long before on the terrain of another military unit near the town of Vyborg. The object was 14 metres long, 4 metres wide and 2.5 metres high. There were no doors or hatches on the object body.

All attempts to open it failed. There were attempts to break off something from the object, but they succeeded only in extracting some strange rods from the stern part of the enigmatic device. At the end of September the object disappeared from a hangar without leaving a trace.

Multiple observations

On the 30th of September, 1989 a large article about UFOs was published by the local newspaper *Chernomorskaya Zdravnitsa* ("The Black Sea Health-Centre") in the town of Sochi. The article informed that in July of that year crews of four different aeroplanes independently observed two "flying saucers" high in the sky. They made evolutions with incredible speed, and changed their positions and even shapes. There is a following report in the "Blue Packet":

"On the 26th of July, 1989, about 14:40 I, R. H. Stepanian, have got an information from the crew of an airborne vessel that flew from the Simferopol direction about their sighting of unidentified objects at a distance of 30-50 kilometres. This is what the pilots told me by the radio:

"A couple of strange objects are hanging at the left of us. At first there was one of them, but shortly after, another appeared. One is almost exactly square, whereas another is elongated, having the shape of rhombus. Both of them are swiftly going away just now. And now they are beginning to separate. Here they are—at the left and behind us, but the distance from them continues to increase."

Sharp turn & high speed

The next document from the "Blue Folder" runs:

"On the 21st of October, 1989, near the village Burkhalta in Yagodinsky District of Magadan Region several local residents observed an unknown flying object. When the object approached the electric power transmission line, it changed course sharply and climbed up. One of the eyewitnesses, who formerly had served at the Baikonur space-centre, estimated the speed of

the object as near to 1000 kilometres per hour. He noted also that not one aircraft known to him would be able to perform such evolutions.

When flying above the eyewitnesses the object reduced its speed noticeably so they were able to see it in detail. The flight was absolutely soundless. There was impression that clearance lights shined along the contour of the object, from seven to nine in number."

Flashes of white light

The last document in the "Blue Folder" reports:

"On the 21st of March, 1990, officers in Alexandrovsky Town Department of Internal Affairs accepted a number of telephone calls from town and district residents about the appearance of unidentified flying objects in airspace.

"After obtaining more exact information it was established that rather large number of residents in the towns of Alexandrov, Strunino, Karabanov, villages Arsaki, Zhulino and in several other settlements became eyewitnesses of a UFO—and in several cases of two UFOs—on the 21st of March between 20:00 and 23:30. The flight of UFOs was accompanied by flashes of white light that followed one another after two or three seconds and resembled arc welding.

"But all eyewitnesses found difficulty in describing the appearance of the UFOs. In Karabanov one of the UFOs allegedly hovered above the Eternal Fire Memorial for the perished warriors, and a ray of light emitted from the object illuminated earth surface.

"A fighter piloted by first class aviator Lt. Col. A. A. Sementchenko was scrambled towards the UFOs. He flew near one of the 'flying saucers' and saw against a background of Pereyaslavl-Zalesky town illumination 'a black body with two white flashing lights.'

"Shortly after the lieutenant colonel's report was published by the Soviet main military newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* (The Red Star), it was confirmed in the report that the author had revealed by sight a target having two bright white flashing lights. 'The target changed flight direction and altitude in the range of 1000 metres,' he wrote. The experienced pilot saw an enigmatic object and was not able to identify it!"

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Wormholes, Heaven, and the God Hypothesis

By Dr. Barry H. Downing

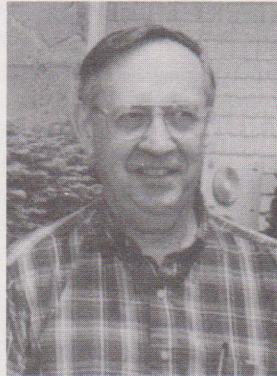
It was my privilege to be one of the speakers at the MUFON 2001 Symposium in Orange County, CA. In the abstract to my paper I summarized my major argument that we need to “make the God Hypothesis a more powerful concern for MUFON than the more limited concern of whatever the advanced technology of UFOs may be.” The purpose of this article is to clarify and expand this argument.

I published “The God Hypothesis” in the October 1988 issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal* (pp. 10-13); Joe Lewels expanded on this theme in his book *The God Hypothesis* (Mill Spring, NC: Wild Flower Press, 1997). A major challenge has been how to reconcile the physical and non-physical dimensions of the UFO mystery. From the science side, we have had to change our thinking from Newtonian physics to quantum mechanics, which says the physical world is not really “solid,” and relativity theory, which says there may be other spatial dimensions, making way for the “spiritual” to be a reality that is as real as our own reality.

Jacques Vallee moved toward the God Hypothesis, saying UFOs are a “control mechanism” in *The Invisible College* (1975), especially in “The Next Form of Religion,” pp. 202-206. Vallee’s *Dimensions: A Casebook of Alien Contact* (1988), expands on this theme. The abduction accounts of Betty Andreasson Luca, as well as Whitley Strieber, have a strong religious dimension, and Dr. John Mack has moved firmly in the direction of the God Hypothesis in his most recent study of abductions and shaman experience, *Passport to the Cosmos: Human Transformation and Alien Encounters* (1999)

Stanton Friedman gave the opening lecture in Orange County, “Flying Saucers and the Cosmic Neighborhood.” Friedman has given his basic lecture, “Flying Saucers are Real” more than 700 times, mainly at colleges and universities. By and large we in MUFON accept Friedman’s lecture as true.

In my presentation I referred to Friedman as “my favorite UFO evangelist.” UFOs are real, we see them, they make tracks on radar, they leave landing traces on the ground, they accelerate at high speeds, and thousands of credible people have seen them all over the world. Probably there have been several UFO crashes. Perhaps our government has several crashed UFOs (and maybe some dead alien bodies), and have “back engineered” the UFOs, advancing our technology.



Dr. Barry Downing

About the author

Dr. Barry Downing recently retired after serving for 34 years as pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church in Endwell, NY. He earned the B.A. in Physics from Hartwick College, the B.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1966, specializing in the relationship between natural science and Christian theology.

He is the author of the ground-breaking book *The Bible and Flying Saucers* (1968, reprinted in 1970, 1973, 1974, 1989, and 1997), as well as numerous articles in *Skylook*, the *MUFON UFO Journal*, and elsewhere. Dr. Downing has been a speaker at several MUFON symposiums, and is currently on the national board of directors for the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR). He has been a consultant in theology for MUFON since 1972.

In order for MUFON to have a strong impact on the future of UFO research, we need to have a clearer understanding of the position our government is in, as well as face up to the nontechnical side of the UFO phenomenon, and what that means.

I suspect the average MUFON member believes most of the basic UFO story that I outlined above, and imagines this possibility: The President of the United States calls a press conference, and makes the following announcement:

“It is my privilege as President of the United States to address our wonderful nation about UFOs. First I have a confession to make: we have lied to you. Sorry about that—national security you know. But now the truth can be told. UFOs are real, they come from another world, we have recovered some crashed UFOs, and have discovered some wonderful new technology which will give us cheap non-polluting energy.”

So far, so good. But then comes the question and answer session. “Where do UFOs come from, and why are they here?” I assume that even if we have dead aliens, they do not talk, and I suspect that the aliens have not revealed their purpose any more clearly to our government than they have to abduction researchers like Dr. David Jacobs, Dr. John Mack, Budd Hopkins and Ann Druffel. If that is the case, then the President’s answer would go something like this:

“We do not really know where the aliens come from, or why they are here. The best explanation of UFOs so far is the ‘God Hypothesis,’ a theory which says that UFOs come from another dimension in the midst of us. They may have been involved in the creation of life on earth, and when we die, we probably go to that world. That is kind of the conclusion drawn from the evidence by UFO researchers such as Jacques Vallee, John Mack, and Barry Downing, and is implied in complicated abduction experiences such as that of Betty Andreasson Luca and Whitley Strieber.

“Of course, some Christian fundamentalists think UFOs are demons let loose on earth before the second Coming of Christ, but who knows? Time will tell. But we in the

United States government are not concerned about these issues. Instead we should all be glad the UFOs have given us this nice new source of energy.”

It is my opinion the above answer to the questions, “Where do UFOs come from, and why are they here,” is pretty close to the best answer available to our government at the present time. I cannot imagine any American president being willing to go before a TV camera, and give that kind of answer. So I do not expect the Congress, the President, or anyone in government to explain the UFO mystery to the world—unless the UFOs force them to.

Where does this leave MUFON? It leaves us somewhere between the alien strategy—if we can understand it—and the United States government strategy—if we can understand it. I want to address these two questions: where do UFOs come from, and what is their purpose in being here?

Where do they come from?

I do not know where the aliens come from. But the answer is beginning to look like “Anywhere they want to.” The aliens appear to have power and freedom beyond our imagination.

I began writing *The Bible and Flying Saucers* in the final months of 1966, and it was published in the spring of 1968. I used three main UFO books as resources for my book: Donald Kehoe’s *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy* (1955), Frank Edwards’ *Flying Saucers--Serious Business* (1966), and Jacques Vallee’s *Anatomy of a Phenomenon: Unidentified Objects in Space--A Scientific Appraisal* (1965).

At that time the thinking was that maybe UFOs came from Mars, because Mars might have “canals,” a sign of water and life. And Mars was close. The cultural joke about UFOs was that we were being visited by little green men from Mars. (Notice how this image makes aliens laughable, a transparent mask of our fear of what the aliens might be.)

The August 4, 1967 issue of *Time* magazine published an article entitled, “A Fresh Look at Flying Saucers,” and the purpose of the article seemed to be to explain why UFOs could not get here from there. “Even the nearest star, Proxima Centauri, is 4.3 light-years away. And because presumably no spaceship—or any matter—can travel at or beyond the velocity of light, which is the universal speed limit according to the Einstein theory of relativity, it would take considerably longer than 4.3 light-years to reach the earth from its nearest stellar neighbor. At the 17,500 m.p.h. that astronauts travel, it would take nearly 170,000 years.”

People like Keyhoe and Edwards were having to explain to the “debunkers” like *Time* magazine how UFOs could get here, and Mars was close enough to make the idea of UFOs plausible. I do not believe many MUFON members believe UFOs come from Mars. Many MUFON members may believe UFOs can go to the moon, or Mars, or anywhere they want—but not that Mars is “home.”

The reason we now believe UFOs can come from anywhere involves an evaluation of UFO evidence, and a reevaluation of space travel in light of Einstein’s General

Theory of Relativity (GTR).

One of the speakers at the 2001 Orange County Symposium was Dr. Eric W. Davis, whose paper was entitled, “Wormhole-stargates: Tunneling Through the Cosmic Neighborhood.” Davis says, “Wormholes are hyper-space tunnels through spacetime connecting together either remote regions within our universe or two different universes; they even connect together different dimensions and different times. Space travelers would enter in one side of the tunnel and exit out the other, passing through the throat along the way. . . . Traversable wormholes are creatures of classical GTR, allowing for very comfortable travel through the Cosmic Neighborhood. But from the viewpoint of modern physics, the Cosmic Neighborhood can encompass other universes, other space dimensions and other times beyond the four-dimensional spacetime we live in.”

There is not space here to summarize the Davis article. He gives Alan Holt credit for being the first to develop the mathematical topology to describe a wormhole in 1979. Davis goes on to say that although we have not created wormholes in the laboratory, the mathematical theory is well in place to do so.

Davis cites the work of Jacques Vallee as providing an analysis of some of the strange aspects of the UFO phenomenon which indicate what Davis calls “anti-physical effects” such as shrinking in size, growing larger, or changing in shape, craft dividing in two, remaining visible while not detected by radar, and “missing time/time dilation, topological inversion/space dilation.”

Davis, following Vallee, sees this as evidence that UFOs are either traveling to us from distant stars through some type of space tunnel, or are perhaps coming from another dimension, which in a sense might be in or near our space. In any case, Davis argues that the concept of wormholes almost eliminates the problem of time in travel altogether.

All of the above might seem of no relevance to my work with UFOs and the Bible, but this is not true. Chapter 5 in my book, “Where Is Heaven?” explores the concept of the relevance of Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity for biblical study. I did not use the term “wormhole” in my chapter—the term had not been invented yet—but I did use the term “space tunnel.”

In this chapter I made the argument that UFOs—and therefore the angels of God—may not come from another planet; they may come from another dimension. Needless to say, everyone saw *The Bible and Flying Saucers* as highly speculative when it was written—and for most people it still is. But I have to admit that when I wrote chapter 5, “Where Is Heaven?” and suggested heaven might be another dimension in the midst of us, and that UFOs come from that dimension, I even thought my own ideas were “far out.”

But now here we are. Connecting UFOs with wormholes and space tunnels seems to make the best sense of some of the UFO evidence. Why did I take that “great leap of faith” into Chapter 5 in 1968?

There were two reasons which were a kind of blend of my science and theology. My cosmology told me that

we live in a "running down universe"; eventually all the stars in our universe will burn up. The universe will die, and keep expanding in its death, or collapse back on itself. In any case, the "heaven" I believed in was supposed to be a place of "eternal life," not death. It seemed to me that if heaven were to be a place of eternal life, it would need to be outside our visible Newtonian universe. So moving heaven and UFOs to another dimension seemed like a good theological idea, in light of my science.

The other issue was the way Jesus talked about Heaven. He spoke frequently of the kingdom of Heaven or the kingdom of God, speaking of it as a place he had come from, a place that had a particular location, and a particular lifestyle (in heaven people obeyed God). Thus in the Lord's Prayer we pray, "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven."

Where is Heaven? The New Testament answer is not clear, but my concept of a space tunnel derived partly from the fact that Jesus said "the kingdom of God is in the midst of you." (Luke 17:21) Scholars do not know what Jesus meant by this phrase, but I think that in light of relativity theory, it is interesting to wonder if Jesus meant it literally.

I have argued that the UFO reality was involved in the resurrection of Jesus, but some of the resurrection stories include the idea that Jesus came into locked rooms after his resurrection (John 20), almost as if he had materialized from another dimension.

Some of the language in the New Testament pointed to the concept of a wormhole or space tunnel. When Jesus was baptized, something came down from the sky and hovered over him, something called the Spirit of God. Where did the Spirit of God come from? "And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him." (Matthew 3:16)

The image of the heavens opening seemed to me to be a good way of describing a space tunnel if we saw one. So far as I knew, no one in 1968 was trying to connect space tunnels and UFOs. My one piece of UFO evidence involved a BOAC airliner pilot sighting in which UFOs were flying in and out of what Donald Keyhoe called a "mother ship."¹ I suggested that perhaps what Keyhoe thought was a mother ship was rather a space tunnel opening into another dimension of space.

Needless to say, what seemed wild to me then does not seem so wild to me now. Davis lists some physiological reactions caused by UFOs, including swooshing/air rushing, partial paralysis, and temporary blindness when exposed to the objects' light.

When Jesus was raised from the dead, the guards were said to become like "dead men" in the presence of an angel, which may have been a sign of paralysis (Matthew 28:4), at Pentecost the room was filled with the sound of rushing wind (Acts 2:2), and the minds of the disciples were taken over by a force which caused them to speak in strange languages; when the Apostle Paul was converted by a bright light, and the voice of Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was blind for several days (Acts 9:1-19).

Davis says that many of these effects "are explainable as manifestations of a wormhole opening up and intersecting our local space." Davis also gives this warning: "There is no experiment that can distinguish between phenomena manifested by visiting interstellar . . . entities existing near/on Earth within a parallel universe or in different dimensions or who are (terrestrial) time travelers (see also section 3.0). In either case, the technology exploited by such intelligences would appear to the present human race as being indistinguishable from magic or perceived god-like powers."

Add to this Dr. John Mack's conclusion from one of his experiencers, Karin, that aliens "seem to 'exist simultaneously' in both dimensions." And that one of his shamans, Bernard Peixoto, suggests that the alien beings "exist nonlocally, 'nowhere and everywhere,' as he was told."²

It is this kind of story no President would want to explain in a press conference. Notice the point Davis makes: alien beings showing up through a space tunnel would be perceived to have "god-like powers." This is one reason the God Hypothesis needs to be more deeply explored. Our science, in the form of the General Theory of Relativity, as well as our UFO case studies, have taken us to face a reality that not only seems god-like to us, but probably is the source of many of the major world religions, including the Judeo-Christian tradition.

My point is, I do not see any scientific justification to continue to try to study UFOs scientifically apart from the religious dimension. Whether MUFON members like it or not, the religious dimension and the scientific dimension are so inner connected that to try to study them separately would be unscientific.

This conclusion goes against the grain of almost every theory of proper scientific method we have followed for the past two hundred years, but I believe that is where we are. Jacques Vallee calls UFOs a "New Form of Religion," John Mack from his abduction studies believes UFO aliens are trying to take us back to what Mack calls "Source," and in comparing UFO behavior with biblical UFO close encounters, I have developed the "God Hypothesis." Although Vallee, Mack, and I have given the phenomenon a different name, we are describing the same reality. And this reality is not a bunch of little green guys from Mars.

So perhaps the best answer to the question, where do UFOs come from, is anywhere, or nowhere, depending on how they bend space/time. Having solved that problem, on to the next: what are UFOs doing with us?

(Continued in the December issue of the Journal.)

Endnotes:

¹Donald E. Keyhoe, *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy* (New York: Holt, 1955), pp. 135-136.

²Simon Harvey-Wilson, "Similarities found between Shamanism and Abductions," *MUFON UFO Journal*, August 2001, pp. 3-4.



Filer's Files

By George A. Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region

Unless otherwise noted, these reports represent raw data which has not been verified by official investigations.

Kentucky UFO landing reported

FORT KNOX. On Sunday, Oct. 7, 2001, Peter Davenport called to inform me that he had just received a UFO report from witnesses who claimed to observe a UFO landing nearby. Later, the witnesses said they saw the craft take off. They visited the field and reportedly found evidence of landing: burn marks and impressions in the ground.

Extrasolar planets discovered

On Oct. 15, 2001, astronomers announced they have discovered eight more extrasolar planets, including three that scientists called "cousins" of planets in our own solar system. This brings the total number of extrasolar planets to nearly eighty.
<http://spaceflightnow.com/news/n0110/16solarsystems/>

Bright blue square in New York

LAFAYETTE — On Oct. 1, 2001, a low-flying object reportedly changed from a bright blue square to red diamond shape. The witness reports, "I was driving west on Route 20 between Pompey and Lafayette, with my two children ages 13 and 11. About 9 p.m., 15 feet in front of us were 4 bright blue lights moving above us. They were in the shape of a square.

"I stopped my car and opened my window, and there was a very loud noise. Then all the lights turned red, and the shape changed to a diamond shape. The object moved at a rapid rate of speed, then all the noise stopped. There was complete silence, and then the object disappeared from view." Thanks to Peter Davenport, Director, National UFO Center www.ufocenter.com

World Trade Center video analyzed

MUFON's photo expert, Jeff Sainio, reports that he has reviewed several videos taken on Sept. 11, 2001, during terrorist attacks. He states, "Sorry, I just don't see anything. I guess in JPG 1 it is seen slightly to the left and above the wing. I simply don't see anything there. There is a tiny spot on the right side in the later frames; it's so small it doesn't mean much. Could be a distant plane,

many miles away."

Remember, "Everything in the air is unidentified until it's identified." This is not to say that every plane, leaf, balloon, and insect should be investigated. People should look for clear evidence of something unusual, not assume that every tiny blob in a picture is proof of men from Mars. Thanks to Jeff Sainio.

Diamond shape in Missouri

ASHGROVE — At 8:03 p.m. on Oct. 4, 2001, three witnesses watched a saucer-shaped object flying above them. They report it had white stationary lights on the bottom and each side, with a blinking bright white light on the top. The light on the left side was dimmer than the rest and sometimes went out, then came back on again. Not flashing; just turned off, and then back on in a few minutes. It did this 4 times. It sat in a stationary position for about 7 minutes, then slowly "floated" to the south. It bobbed up and down slightly and moved from side to side slightly; there was no sound except for the planes that passed close to it, landing at the Springfield airport.

The witness stated, "This object appeared to be about 9 miles east of us over Springfield's Branson Airport. A 727 landed while this object was still overhead. The object was five times wider, and much taller than the 727. In addition, this was not any kind of blimp. This object stayed in sight for 14 minutes and then disappeared. No movement, no nothing, just gone." Thanks to Peter Davenport, who indicates this case is under investigation by Missouri Investigators Group.

Disc-like object in Nebraska

FREDERICTON — The main witness reports, "My boyfriend and I were walking back from seeing a movie, and it was around midnight on Sept. 28, 2001. We had stopped to look at the Little Dipper in the sky when he said, 'Did you see that falling star?' I was disappointed that I hadn't seen it, and then he said, 'What's that! Look!!'

"I looked up to where he was pointing and it was obviously something shaped like a disc or saucer. We saw the curve to it perfectly, and it had a series of six or seven red lights on it. It was flying through the sky slowly, but we had to run to keep up with it, so we wouldn't lose it behind some trees.

"There were no clouds except for a few that were obvious to the eye, but there were none around the object. We couldn't hear anything that would have made it an airplane, and it was moving too flawlessly to be an airplane. We watched it for nearly a minute, and then it just disappeared. It was so beautiful!" Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC www.ufocenter.com

Oval object in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN — On Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2001, a correspondent for ovni.net reported having sighted a UFO over Rio Piedras at 4:40 p.m. He spotted a flattened oval silvery white craft flying horizontal towards the west when it suddenly tilted ten degrees downward. The speed was faster than an aircraft, and its height was low as it passed



George Filer

behind some buildings and disappeared. The witness was driving along Expreso las Americas highway. Thanks to Scott Corrales, Institute of Hispanic Ufology. Translation (c) 2001 Lucy Guzman, <http://www.ovni.net/>

Pyramid-shaped object reported in Chile

BEACH OF CAVANCHA — On Oct. 5, 2001, a gigantic pyramid-shaped object was seen in the Northern Chilean City of Iquique. The eyewitnesses were a taxi driver and two of his passengers. They claimed that the UFO was about 300 yards long and shaped like a pyramid. Carlos was driving at 7:45 p.m., when some lights were seen coming from the south side of the beach.

At first, it looked like an aircraft, but as it got closer and closer, perhaps too close for any ordinary aircraft, it hovered a kilometer from the highway. As Carlos passed a curve, he was able to view the object from a slightly different angle and noticed that around the object was red, yellow, and green flashing lights, as well as a white light at the top. It almost looked like a giant stealth bomber. However, this object was about 300 yards in length.

As it got closer, Carlos began to accelerate the car. Suddenly, a very bright light came out from the bottom of the object, illuminating the entire beach. "It was scary; the light was so strong that we were able to see the waves in the ocean," he says. "When I turned to see my passengers, they were speechless. We were all astonished." The cab driver claimed that the sighting lasted about 20 minutes. Thanks to Jaime Ferrer, Calama UFO Center, translated by Mario Andrade.

Disc reported in India

NEW DELHI — Sunila reports that on Aug. 15, 2001, a huge dark silver gray flying saucer-shaped UFO was observed for 7 or 8 minutes. The object was flying low. The witness indicated the color was silver gray. The object looked like two saucers inverted over each other and moved slowly across the sky. There were no known other witnesses in the neighborhood. Thanks to sunilatandon@hotmail.com (sunila) and Joe Trainor reports@ufoinfo.com

Orange oval reported in Australia

BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND — The witness reports, "I was in my car near the small town of Dayboro on the 8th of October, 2001, at around 6 p.m. when we struck a dog crossing the road. We turned into a nearby house to ask if they owned the dog. As we entered the driveway an orange, oval shaped object in the sky caught my eye.

"It moved slowly to the left, and then suddenly shifted its course diagonally downward. It disappeared behind a shed. The orange glowed brightly, but did not change. As soon as I saw it I knew it was something weird. It moved slowly at first, but when it changed direction its speed tripled instantly. It was 3 to 4000 feet high." There was a report of two other very similar sightings at the same time at different locations in Brisbane on a popular radio station called JJJ (107.7fm) Thanks to Joe Trainor.

Star-like object in Massachusetts

REVERE — Logan Airport had been shut down due to the Trade Center attack on Sept. 11, 2001. The witness, who lives nearby, had observed fighter jets all day, but at 9 p.m., he noticed a star-like object in the eastern sky. He ran home to get his video camera and his father.

"Upon returning we were greeted by four other people who were also observing the UFO over Short Beach," says the witness. "Upon zooming in with my Sony Digital 8 handy cam I noticed an object that appeared to hover in the sky, but through my binoculars it seemed to dance all around. There were blue and red lights that were moving all around the craft.

"We then witnessed a splitting of a vessel into parts. One object's light began to move rapidly in a different pattern as if to be communicating with the other ship. One looked like fireworks, and then quickly disappeared, and reappeared to the left at a 45-degree angle. We then witnessed a triangle type formation with yet another craft. I have all sorts of video.

"The craft flew rapidly east, and we then saw three fighter jets flying to and above these objects. Video footage played at slow motion shows intricate light patterns on one ship, with very bright lights in the center and almost force field-like arcs moving from the center to the outer edges. Many witnesses stopped their vehicles to observe them."

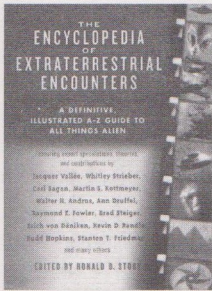
Sphere reported in New York

LYNBROOK — The witness, who is the father of three kids, went out for an hour to shoot off model rockets on Sept. 2, 2001. They shot ten rockets with class B engines when the father witnessed what appeared to be the wadding out of one of the rockets at 5:35 p.m. Using binoculars, he realized the object was nothing like they had ever seen.

"They were roundish with a red light, but the red was not sharply defined," the witness reports. "Then my sons witnessed the light change from one big light to smaller lights. There were many small UFOs and two bigger ones. They seemed to hover and then move quickly in different directions. One even went in the opposite direction without slowing down. Then after ten minutes, they started to disappear. The closest one was shiny aluminum."

Flying triangle reported in Oklahoma

WOODWARD — On Sept. 19, 2001, the witness reports he was changing the price signs on the gas pumps at the travel center when he saw a huge silvery flying triangle. It was traveling at an impossibly fast speed going east at 9:30 a.m. It stopped in midair, without slowing, became invisible for a couple seconds, and then sped off west. It stopped again, without slowing, then dropped straight down out of the sky, then became invisible once more. Following this was a very loud sonic boom and the roar of a jet, but the witness did not see a jet. A short time after that I heard two more sonic booms. Thanks to Peter Davenport NUFORC.



The Encyclopedia of Extraterrestrial Encounters, A Definitive, Illustrated A-Z Guide to All Things Alien, compiled and edited by Ronald D. Story, New American Library, 2001, soft cover, 7X9, 681 pages, \$19.00.

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

While this is an interesting and worthwhile book, it is not an encyclopedia, nor is it “a definitive, illustrated A-Z guide to all things alien.” It is questionable, in view of the subject matter, whether “extraterrestrial encounters” should be the key part of the title. Perhaps “An Anthology of the Paranormal” would more appropriately reflect the contents.

Most people would expect a true encyclopedia to be sufficiently complete in its coverage and to present an unbiased viewpoint regarding the entries. This book, while valuable, is lacking on both points. While some entries represent the best information available on a particular topic, other articles are biased accounts that mislead, rather than enlighten. Some of the material is also out of date, something we would not expect in a new encyclopedia.

The bias, intentional or unintentional, is shown in many entries. For example, the article on the Travis Walton case utilizes an old, outdated NICAP version, beginning as follows:

“Thanks to the leading skeptical UFO investigator, Philip Klass, the probable truth about the incident was uncovered and reported by NICAP as follows.” Guess what “the probable truth” is, according to Klass. The Walton case is an example of the typical Klass investigation in which he misrepresented nearly every aspect of the case.

How this extremely biased and poorly-investigated version of the case could find its way into an “encyclopedia” in 2001 is a mystery. Contrast this with the longer, much more balanced conclusion in Jerome Clark’s *The UFO Encyclopedia* (2nd edition): “Nearly all of the available evidence would lead one to the conclusion that Walton, his family, and the logging crew are not hoaxers. If there is compelling evidence to the contrary, it has yet to emerge....Should the Walton case turn out to be a hoax, we may be confident that it will not be the kind of hoax Klass says it was. In the end Klass’ reckless and emotional attacks have only done damage to the skeptical case.”

On the other hand, the report in this book on the Betty and Barney Hill abduction by Walter Webb, one of the primary investigators in the case, is a factual, balanced presentation. Webb also presents an excellent report on the very important Buff Ledge, VT, 1968 abduction case. Likewise, the article by Dr. Barry Downing on the pos-

sible relationship between the Bible and UFOs is, as one would expect, well done.

However, the article on crop circles by Jenny Randles is less satisfactory. Despite the fact that Jenny is one of the top ufologists in the world, she has just not kept up with the crop circle phenomenon. A much better choice for the article would have been Nancy Talbott, who has worked with William Levensgood in the scientific analysis of crop circles.

Interestingly, neither Talbott nor Levensgood is even mentioned in Story’s “encyclopedia,” although lesser-known individuals are included. Also not mentioned is Linda Moulton Howe, likewise a well known investigator/author in crop circle and animal mutilation cases.

Another article lacking balance is the account of the Delphos, KS, landing trace case, written by Story, who strongly suggests that the primary witness is unreliable and that the ring left by the object was a “fairy ring.” Story’s version seems suspiciously close to that of Philip Klass. Ted Phillips, the primary investigator in the case, has reached a decidedly different conclusion, yet he is not even quoted. Phillips, who is probably the top investigator of ground traces in the world, also has no entry in this “encyclopedia.”

The entry on animal mutilations should be embarrassing to the author, since it is so far out of date. The writers of this entry are the late Coral and Jim Lorenzen of APRO fame. This is an example of one of the shortcomings of this book: too much of the material is old. One of the reasons for buying a new encyclopedia is to obtain updates, not material lifted from old encyclopedias.

Among the many cases handled well is the 1980 Cash-Landrum UFO encounter, written by John Schuessler, who also wrote an entire book on the case. Also well presented is the 1993 Australian case involving Kelly Cahill, a most impressive CE-3 and probable abduction case, written by the well-known Australian researcher William Chalker.

A rather unique approach appears in the Betty Andreasson (Luca) case, with chief investigator Raymond Fowler writing the account of the case, but Betty adding a two-page summary, including excellent drawings. This was a nice touch.

Donald Ware sent me his review of this “encyclopedia,” which made some interesting observations:

“There are biographies and position statements for 78 people, including five members of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of the Paranormal (CSICOP), including Robert A. Baker, Jr, Philip Klass, Joe Nickell, James Oberg, and Robert M. Shaeffer.”

Ware notes that there are “five other debunkers and 12 semi-debunkers.” He also points out that “another 17 people are deceased, leaving position statements by only 39 living non-debunkers.” He adds, “Story’s new encyclopedia has a short review by Randall Fitzgerald of 125 books, of which 87 were written more than 21 years ago.”

Martin S. Kottmeyer’s contributions include 20 articles spread over 155 pages. He says in his position statement that “UFO belief is permeated by paranoid themes that include furtive activities, spying and reconnaissance, in-

fluencing machine strategies, worldwide conspiracies, invasion fears, persecution, miscegenation and degeneration, grandeur, cosmic identification, and a ubiquitous stream of world destruction fantasies....Further belief in it is not recommended."

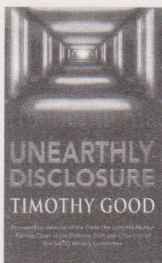
While critics and skeptics should be included in a UFO encyclopedia, the representation of debunkers such as Kottmeyer is excessive in this book.

Story's own position regarding UFOs, as he states it, is that "UFOs represent a wide variety of different phenomena: some natural, some man-made, and some, perhaps, of extraterrestrial origin." "Perhaps"? And the "encyclopedia" is titled "of Extraterrestrial Encounters"? He adds that his observations are that "the UFO/ET myth fulfills psychological needs, which are ageless and timeless....So-called 'eyewitness testimony' and alleged 'contact' experiences do not constitute proof of anything....UFOs and ETs may be visiting the Earth, but this writer sees a different pattern in the data." Yet he includes "extraterrestrial" in the title? Or did the publisher title the book?

Also interesting is the fact that Story includes his own rather lengthy article entitled "Jesus as an Extraterrestrial," noting, "...if we accept the Bible literally, it would be logically consistent to consider Jesus as a more highly evolved extraterrestrial being." Story discusses the virgin birth, the star of Bethlehem, voices from the sky, Jesus' association with angels, the transfiguration, the resurrection, the ascension, and sacred religious paintings as evidence of UFO involvement.

Despite the decidedly uneven presentations, reflecting perhaps the author's own puzzlement about the phenomenon, this book is worth having. A book of this magnitude is not easy to compile, and only Story can know the amount of effort and concern that went into this massive project, although some of this was suggested in the background article which Story did in the *Journal* last month.

There is much worthwhile material in these 681 pages, and the position statements by various ufologists are alone worth the price of the book. It deserves a place in every ufologist's library, and at only \$19.00 is a real bargain.



Unearthly Disclosure by Timothy Good, Arrow Books, 2001, www.randomhouse.co.uk, soft cover, 4x7, 349 pages, \$11.99 Canadian.

This is the paperback edition of the book reviewed in the May, 2001, issue of the *Journal*. Good is a hardworking researcher and the author of several books.

This latest edition features some minor changes based on critiques of the hardcover edition, but Good, one of the more honest authors in the field, says, "I stand by the rest."

The book features a variety of cases from all over the world, including alleged contactees, displacements, animal mutilations, underwater UFOs, soul vampires, government coverup, vehicle interference, creatures, unknown energy sources, and several photos.

Georgia object lights nearby treetops

By Tom Sheets,

MUFON Georgia State Director

The primary witness (PW) in this case lives on a large farm of 500+ acres with his wife and several children in Coweta County, near Whitesburg and the Chattahoochee River. Also in the general vicinity is Plant Yates, a large Georgia Power Co. facility with a large railroad junction.

One night in mid-June at about 10:30 p.m., the PW's son came in from outside and remarked about a strange aircraft over their property. The PM and family members proceeded outside, and over their adjacent field was a hovering oblong craft (thicker in the middle), with white and red lights. The PW stated that it appeared to be about 500 yards away and about 150 feet high, because the lights seemed to light up the nearby treetops.

The PW estimated that the object was about the size of a quarter held at arm's length, adding that his thumb end would not have covered it. He looked at it through binoculars and noticed that there were steady white lights around its mid-line, with red lights seeming to move along the mid-line between the white lights, as if in sequence. The PW added that the actual structure seemed to be metallic in tone, comparing it to the color of a Greyhound bus (dull stainless steel body).

The PW then took a large extremely powerful handheld spotlight used in night fishing and spotted the craft. The object then moved from about 2 o'clock to about 10 o'clock at eye blink speed, according to the PW, there to once again hover over a different part of the field at about the same altitude.

At that time, additional similar objects appeared over the field, and at one point, three were stacked up in a hover. The whole family observed seven objects for thirty minutes until 11 p.m. The objects then simultaneously vanished from view.

The PW also added another unusual aspect to this occurrence. Several weeks before this event, one of his friends was using a remote part of the property to camp. The next morning, as the friend departed, he asked the PW if he had sneaked down to the campsite during the night to shine his night fishing spotlight through his tent wall. The PW had not done so.

On 15 Sept 01, MUFONGA's George Lainhart and I met with the witness at his home. The witness turned over several good sketches and reconfirmed his personal account as being correct. The witness pointed out to George the treetops that were illuminated by the hovering craft. George utilized his SWAT Team laser range finder and ascertained that the trees which were first illuminated were 336 yards away (the witness had estimated 500 yards). The second tree to which the object moved was only 74 yards away. Additional investigation will follow.

Multiple sightings near Seguin, TX, reported

By **Walter H. Andrus Jr.**

Former International Director of MUFON

On the evening of March 8, 1996, at 9:30 p.m. C.S.T., I was making my regular evening walk around the loop in the Seguin, TX, subdivision of Townewood Village East when I observed directly to the north a very large bright white lighted object moving very slowly from east to west behind the trees that had lost their leaves.

The sky condition at the time consisted of broken clouds. The partial moon was behind thin clouds in the east, while some stars were visible overhead. The planet Venus was low in the horizon behind clouds in the western sky.

McQueeney sighting

By the time I arrived back at the MUFON office in my home at 9:45 p.m., the telephone was ringing incessantly. Ernest Neumann, Jr. was on the phone excitedly reporting what he and five other young adults had observed passing over highway FM78 two miles west of McQueeney, TX, at 9:40 p.m. This location is eight miles west of where I observed the low flying white lighted object at 9:30 p.m.

The group of witnesses was made up of couples dating each other, all in their late "teens" or early twenties. They were Gordon Neumann and Amy Benes; Ernest Neumann, Jr. and Stacy Mayfield; and Eric Sites and Erica Mueller, all then residing near Seguin or McQueeney.

Ernest reported he had stopped his pickup truck, turned off the ignition, and allowed all six of the witnesses to disembark and observe the unusual lighted flying object for an estimated five to ten minutes as it very slowly passed over them, flying from the northeast to the southwest. Highway FM78 runs directly east and west at this point.

Ernest said the sound was unlike anything he had ever heard before. Eric said it reminded him of the sound of a refrigerator. The witnesses said the object was a "boxy shape," having six to eight large bright white lights as it was proceeding toward them. It blocked out the sky when it passed directly over them.

At first they thought it was a large airplane. However, it was moving too slowly, and no identifiable engine noise could be heard. By comparing their observations, they concluded that it was not a blimp, even though its size was of that nature. There were no colored lights that they could distinguish. It was a dark bluish-green on the rear end where there were no distinct lights. They estimated the altitude to be 150 feet, but since the sky was dark with very little illumination from the moon or ground lights, this was a difficult estimation to make. Gordon Neumann later said it was like a blinding white light when observed from a distance.

Saint Hedwig Close Encounter

On the following day, Aug. 9, 1996, I received a call from Mrs. Rose Lee Pfeil (age 73) who lives at 15146

Miller Road in Saint Hedwig, TX, in Bexar County and west of Guadalupe County, reporting an unknown object flying low over her farm home at approximately 9:45 p.m. on Aug. 8. She was listening and viewing the television program "20-20" when her dogs began barking, which usually signaled that someone was trespassing upon her property.

Looking north through her large glass patio sliding doors, she saw a huge square-shaped light approaching that was approximately four blocks away in an adjoining field. The light seemed to be suspended in the air or hovering. She reported that there was a green tube shape of light above the bright white light. The flying object was stationary at a height of two telephone poles end to end. A power pole in the field near the craft made a good reference to determine its altitude. No noise or sound was detectable within her home from the object at this point in time.

She said she had watched it for an estimated ten to twelve minutes through her patio door windows before it started moving directly toward her house. The green light went out, leaving two bright white lights that looked like truck headlamps on the front. The object flew directly between her home and a nearby large barn, making a "whirring" sound as it moved southwest.

If it continued in the same direction it would have traveled south of the city of San Antonio, also in Bexar County. The lights seemed to be aimed straight ahead as it moved. She described a little window on the object's right side when it passed between her home and the barn. Since it was a cool evening, she didn't open the patio doors and go outside to her patio to observe the lighted object after it moved past her barn. She could not offer an estimate of the length of this strange craft, since there were no lights on the back of the object. I received no other sighting reports of unknown objects for Aug. 8.

Sighting Investigation

In the ensuing investigation on March 9, 1996, I called the San Antonio Airport flight operations and the San Antonio FAA control tower and inquired about any reported sightings of unknown objects on the date and time in question, or specifically about any blimp operations. They had no records or knowledge of any blimp operations. (The San Antonio International Airport is north of the downtown area, whereas the lighted object would have passed to the south of the city if it continued its southwest flight path.) I failed to call Stinson Field, which is in the southern part of San Antonio, to inquire.

When the route of the object was plotted on a Guadalupe County map, it was traveling near the ground when it passed east to west near residential areas in the northeast part of Seguin, TX. In order for it to cross highway FM78, two miles west of McQueeney, from the northeast to the southwest, it would have flown slightly northwest before this observation occurred. A direct route from McQueeney to the southwest would have taken it over Interstate Highway 10 that runs from Seguin to San Antonio and straight to St. Hedwig just west-southwest of New Berlin, TX. St. Hedwig is east of San Antonio on the state highway 1604 loop around San Antonio.

Why abductees don't talk

By Preston Dennett

One well-known facet of UFO encounters remains little understood. This is what I call the "silence after the storm." In case after case, immediately following an extensive encounter, witnesses do not discuss the incident for days, weeks, or even years afterward. In some cases, the incident is, in fact, forgotten.

Normally when something highly unusual or dramatic occurs the incident is discussed and studied in great detail. Just the opposite seems to be true of UFO events. An effect of profound amnesia surrounds the whole subject. Even people well-versed in the subject have experienced this bizarre suppression of conversation regarding past UFO events.

My new book, *Extraterrestrial Visitations*, presents 10 new cases of very close encounters involving either missing time, face-to-face contact, or an onboard encounter.

In more than forty percent of the cases, the witnesses reported that any discussion of their encounter was mysteriously suppressed. Knowing of the "silence after the storm,"

I made a particular point to ask witnesses to describe in detail why they didn't talk about it. Almost universally, they had no explanations.

CASE ONE: "None of us talked about it"

In 1962, four teenagers encountered a large glowing egg-shaped object while parked on a remote country road in New Jersey. The object hovered about twenty feet high and only a few yards away.

Says one witness, Rob Baldwin, "I'm not really sure how long we looked at it, thinking back on it. It was at least fifteen seconds to a half a minute that we watched it. It could have been two or three minutes; I'm not really sure."

After an undetermined amount of time, the glowing object darted away, leaving all four teenagers with an apparent period of missing time. At the time, they didn't realize that their sighting was an abduction. And for some reason, none of them talked about it.

Says Baldwin, "One of the strangest things about it was I don't remember talking about it after that. I mean, I don't remember talking about it at all. In fact, I don't remember anything about that night at all, after that experience. Basically the event was just warehoused for 20-25 years. Pretty strange."

Years following his experience, Baldwin became interested in UFOs, and more than 20 years later discussed

the incident with the other participants, each of whom appeared to have varying recall of the incident. One had no memory whatsoever of the incident. Another thought it was the result of a practical joke. The third recalled the object leading them into a nearby field.

Baldwin has no idea how to explain their long silence on the subject. As he says, "In retrospect, after talking to a number of people who have had experiences, that's fairly common, where for some reason you don't talk about it, even with the people that experienced it with you."

CASE TWO: UFOs at the drive-in

In 1972, the audience at a drive-in movie in Paramount, CA, were panicked by the appearance of a large metallic craft which hovered next to the screen, as if watching the audience watch the movie. One of the witnesses, Claudia Blacios, was with her family. They all watched in amazement as many theater-goers dropped their drinks and popcorn and made a mad dash for the exits. However, afterwards, there was no mention of the incident.

As Claudia recalled, "I remember my mom and dad never talked about it again. It was just one of those things you don't think about. It wasn't until about three years ago that I was listening to a radio station and they were having a discussion on UFOs. And people were calling in with their stories and encounters.

"And this one gentleman called, and he was at the same drive-in theater at the same time, watching the same movie, and described the same thing. And that's when I looked at my mom and I said, 'We were there!'

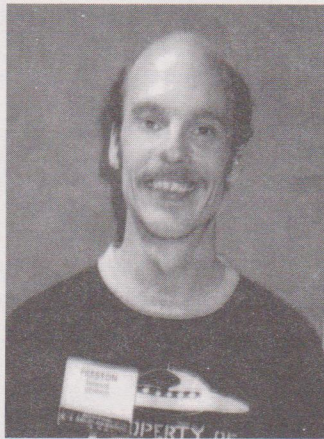
"My mom said, 'Yeah, that was a long time ago.' And I said, 'Why didn't we ever talk about it?' 'I don't know,' she said. 'We just never talked about it.'"

Again, Claudia is at a loss to explain their silence on the subject. As she says, "All through high school I always had this curiosity about that. Because in the back of my mind, I knew that I had seen one. I remember I would think about it, but not really dwell on it, not a lot. And it wasn't until I heard that gentleman [on the radio], and we finally discussed it."

CASE THREE: Night of the UFO

One night in September of 1978 more than one hundred residents outside of Ann Arbor, MI, witnessed a dazzling display of UFO activity over a small farm. The UFO had the appearance of a group of colored lights hovering very low over the horizon and moving in unison.

One of the witnesses, John Bro (pseudonym), noticed something immediately odd, not about the UFOs, but about the observers. As he recalled, "It was like people were going to see some kind of summer festival or something. There was no parking, so they parked on the road. And the parking was going back a quarter mile from the place! We got out of the car and started walking up, and there was a whole bunch of people walking that way, but nobody saying a word. Nobody was stopping to [ask] why



Preston Dennett

they were there, but we were all there for the same reason.”

When the UFO arrived, something very strange happened. The crowd of hundreds of people, including the local news-station, became enveloped in a strange state of denial or even casual acceptance, as if seeing what appeared to be an alien spacecraft was a normal everyday occurrence.

As Jay recalled, “Everybody looked up there, and it was kind of a strange scene. Nobody was freaking out and going, ‘ooh!’ and ‘aah!’ Even myself, it was kind of like there was this weird psychology or hypnotic effect to it, like, ‘Oh, yeah, that’s nice.’ Then people got in their cars and left, like it was no big deal. You would think they would have freaked out on this; it’s one of the biggest things I’ve ever come in contact with. We got tired and left. They were still there when we left. We didn’t care anymore. Everybody saw it and they took pictures of it, no big deal. We just left. I mean, that sounds pretty strange, doesn’t it?”

CASE FOUR: A six-hour abduction

In 1972, a mother and her two sons experienced a close-up encounter with a metallic disk near their home in Napa, ID. One of the children, Jack Stevens (pseudonym), then 12 years old, was actually abducted into the craft and experienced a six-hour long abduction involving an examination and other bizarre procedures. His brother and mother were left in the car.

After six hours, Jack was returned to the car, and the family drove home. Each had varying recall. The mother and brother remembered seeing a strange animal in the road. The mother also remembered seeing what she thought was a crop-duster. Jack, at first, recalled only a bright light which hovered over their car, causing the engine to fail, then a strange floating sensation. His next memory was the car starting up and six hours had passed.

Then came the aftermath and the silence after the storm. Jack knew six hours had passed without explanation, and yet, nobody seemed to care. “We pulled into our driveway. I’m looking and it’s morning, and the birds are singing. I said, ‘Hey, it’s morning time.’

“And my brother gets out of the car, and he’s walking out with his hands like you see in the movies, out in front of him, walks right up. Mom unlocks the door, goes in. I’m walking in-between them and I say, ‘What’s going on? Mom, it’s six o’clock in the morning. Look at the clock.’”

“And she looked at it and said, No, it’s not, you’re looking at the clock wrong. Go to bed.’ I’m thinking, wait a minute, what’s going on here? I said, ‘Dan, look right here at the clock in the kitchen.’ He says, ‘It’s twelve o’clock.’ I said, ‘It doesn’t say twelve o’clock. It’s morning time.’ He said, ‘Whatever,’ and held his arms out and walked into his room well, the sun was coming up, and I knew something was up here. We were a farm family. We always got up early. Three or four that afternoon, the next day, I’m thinking, what’s going on here? Why is everyone still asleep? My brother gets up, no recollection of it whatsoever.”

The next day, despite his confusion, Jack and his family didn’t discuss the incident. Again, he can’t explain his silence. As he says, “None of us discussed this after it happened. I didn’t ever talk to my mom about it. My brother never talked. We just never talked-about it.”

CASE FIVE: The subject was taboo

In 1991, three people experienced a missing time UFO encounter while driving through Angeles Forest in southern California. Days later, they spontaneously recalled the entire episode, which involved the typical onboard examination by the commonly reported grays, as well as several other unique experiences. Afterwards, they were placed back in the car.

At that time, all three were left only with the memory of a deer in the road and a strange flash of light. A short time later, they were overcome with extreme thirst and a strong need to urinate. That’s when they discovered that they were unable to account for about two hours of time. Although all three of them were shocked and puzzled, there was almost no discussion of the incident.

One of the witnesses, Melinda Leslie, had had prior UFO experiences, and already knew she was an abductee. Even then, she found herself unable to speak. As she says, “I didn’t say anything. It was the weirdest thing, not like us. Here we realize we knew that something had to have happened, but it was like we weren’t going to talk about it. It was like the guys just couldn’t deal with it. I said, ‘Guys, let me tell you something; we’ve had two hours of missing time.’ It was just like understood: we are not going to talk about it. They were very uncomfortable.”

Conclusions

As can be seen, for whatever reason, people are not talking about their UFO encounters. Although later, it must be said, the witnesses did talk, even to the point of providing recorded interviews. Two main theories have been raised to explain this strange phenomenon of conversation suppression following a UFO encounter.

The first is that the phenomenon is externally produced by the UFO occupants. None of the witnesses understand why they didn’t talk about their encounters. And yet, this compulsion to remain silent was pervasive enough to halt investigations into the incident—if not permanently, at least temporarily. Assuming the UFO occupants are the cause of this, then they presumably feel that it serves their interests to stop anybody from investigating the encounters.

The second major theory is that the trauma of the encounter is suppressed by the human mind, much in the manner of child sexual abuse. Under this model, the amnesia protects the human personality from information it cannot safely process.

A survey of some of the major researchers shows that the first theory is by far the most popular. It appears that the silence after the storm is closely related to the phenomenon of “missing time” and how ETs are able to manipulate people’s memories and awareness. In either case, at least one conclusion can be easily and immediately

drawn: UFO encounters are vastly under-reported, and may be much more common than previously thought. Of course, most abduction researchers already agree on this. I also must admit that I know personally about this phenomenon because I have to admit that I'm a victim. Like many UFO investigators, I have seen UFOs, and each time, my behavior surprises me.

It was early March of 1993, and I was with a group of about thirty people in the Arizona desert on a CSETI retreat. It was around noon and the group was gathered in a field, discussing various aspects of UFO contact. Suddenly, we all noticed an aircraft in the sky. It appeared to be a conventional jet at about 30,000 feet, complete with contrail, moving in a straight line. As soon as it reached the zenith, something strange happened.

We all watched it flare up into a very brilliant red flash, increasing about twenty times in size and brightness, at which point it disappeared. It was obviously strange. Everyone "oohhhed!" and "ahhhhed!" and a murmur swept through the crowd. I thought, "Oh, my god! Was that a genuine UFO?" I looked around in surprise, and was ready for a prolonged discussion on what we had just seen. Instead, there was a slight murmur of shock and then ... nothing. It was as if nothing had happened.

I remember wanting to talk about it, but for some bizarre reason, I didn't say anything. Nobody did. And what's even more bizarre is that every person there was well-acquainted with the UFO phenomenon. That's why we were there! We all wanted to see a UFO—still nobody said a word. In the back of my mind, I knew we had just seen a real UFO—I mean, it wasn't a jet or helicopter or blimp or shooting star. I don't think it was a rocket. It was truly strange, and yet, it was like we all suddenly lost interest. And the conversation moved on to other topics.

Again, the prevailing belief among investigators is that this "silence after the storm" is being imposed upon the witnesses by the phenomenon. And the reason would seem to be to cover up the presence of the phenomenon. But then again, why would a UFO show itself only to cover up the event immediately? This is the central issue behind the problem.

Why is this amnesia being imposed upon witnesses? Is this part of a conditioning program to get humanity used to the presence of extraterrestrial visitors? Is it to protect the witnesses from the trauma caused by encounters? Do the aliens believe that a simple sighting will cause undue trauma? Are they that afraid of us knowing about them?

Whatever the case, the above examples are only a small portion of the many other reported experiences involving this bizarre encounter aftermath. I have many similar cases in my files. The files of other researchers are also bulging with cases of these types.

Researcher Constance Clear, MA, presents 7 cases of abductions in her book *Reaching for Reality*. Two of the cases involve conversation suppression. Said one witness following a UFO sighting, "We continued to our home, but nothing more was ever said about our encounter. Not that day after we got home, or for fifteen years, was

anything said about it." (Clear, p 193)

And another witness reports, "My wife and I nearly collide with a UFO sitting in the middle of the road, and we don't discuss it, or even remember more than a snippet of the event The first sign of an abductee is, in my opinion, a bizarre event utterly ignored. (Clear, p 38)

Budd Hopkins writes of one case in which a couple went through great creative effort to ignore a large UFO hovering outside their home, "Neither remarked to the other about it, but both decided to go back to the living room. After a second uneasy wait, which again was deliberately not discussed, they went back to their living room, saw the peculiar light, and once more found an excuse to visit the living room.

They passed the time in casual, unrelated conversation, and eventually wandered back to their bedroom for the third time. The light was no longer there, and, much relieved, they retired for the night. They admitted to me that neither mentioned the incident to the other the next morning, nor for that matter, ever, until they had heard about the strange "Truro Light" from some friends. In retrospect, they found their behavior very interesting. "Out of sight, out of mind," had been buttressed by "Out of conversation, out of existence." (Hopkins, p 32)

David Jacobs is also, of course, familiar with this phenomenon, and is equally at a loss to explain it, as are the abductees themselves! Says Jacobs, "When the episode is over, amnesia sets in. Abductees might remember something for a few seconds or, in some cases, for a few hours, and, of course, some experiences are fully remembered, but generally the memory is blocked immediately afterward. We do not know how this is accomplished. It might be a function of the alteration in consciousness that all abductees experience as part of the abduction itself.

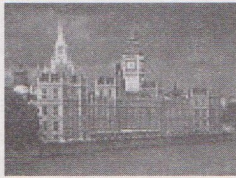
"There is little evidence to suggest that the aliens specifically tell the abductee not to remember something as if with a post-hypnotic suggestion. Yet when abductees first begin to relate their stories to an investigator, it is often with a sense of guilt and betrayal. They feel they should not be telling anyone about these experiences. This sense of guilt can occasionally be so deep that it effectively prevents an abductee from talking about his or her experiences." (Jacobs, p 219.)

What's amazing, is that amnesia involves not only abductions, as we have seen, but simple sightings as well.

John Mack, MD, has also run across these types of cases. He writes, "Arthur's case raises questions about forgetting and the triggering of memory.... Why didn't he or anyone present during the 1963 incident seem to remember it or speak of it afterwards?"

Again, the missing time phenomenon and the forgetting of encounters seem to be the result of the same forces. But what exactly causes this?

Says Mack, "The abduction phenomenon also raises interesting questions about the nature of memory and the control of consciousness. Prevalence or incidence polls of UFO abductions are rendered almost meaningless by the fact that long forgotten abduction memories may be triggered by an event."



View from Britain

By Jenny Randles

Reflection on where we are

This fall is a particularly reflective time, for many reasons. The terrible events of Sept. 11 have probably altered history and caused us all to be more introspective. I also have a significant birthday this season, so that tends to concentrate the mind as well!

As such, I found myself thinking back over the years that I have been involved in UFO research and asking a question that many of us might stop to ponder. What exactly do I know now—with reasonable assurance—that I did not know when I first started to probe this mystery? In other words, I guess, what have I learned about the UFO phenomenon over the 30 years that I have been actively involved?

It seemed so simple

When I first took an interest in UFOs—following a sighting when I was staying with my grandparents by the seaside—it seemed a very exciting area. The questions posed by the books that I read were very simplistic: Which planet did the aliens come from? Why were they here? What reason did the government have for hiding the truth? And so on.

This was not really a complicated situation. You either believed UFOs were real, thanks to the weight of evidence, or you were a skeptic (aka the enemy). If you believed, then the explanation for these visitors was straightforward. They came from an advanced civilisation for some reason or another.

I guess, looking back, I am struck by the naivety of what then (in the mid-sixties) was a view probably forged from the thrill of the space age that unfolded all around us. Each month some new discovery about the cosmos was occurring. We were watching on TV feats that people will be reading about in history books centuries from now. It was all very infectious and easy to get carried away with the urge to transplant this mood of an interplanetary community onto those flickering lights in the sky.

Probably the most important lesson that I have learned is one of realism. If the answers had been simple, then I reckon that by now we would have proof of them. In truth we are probably little closer to that than we were when Neil Armstrong took that one small step.

I never dreamt back then that there was a third way to look at UFOs—but it was something that time and experi-

ence dragged me towards—a recognition that you did not have to assume that aliens were coming in order to accept the reality of unexplained UFO sightings. Nor that you must deny UFO reality if you conclude that there are no aliens—that this is a perfectly legitimate view (indeed one that in many ways is dictated by the confusion of evidence). It is good sense to regard UFOs as a genuine scientific anomaly and seek other possible explanations that stretch our knowledge beyond the ETH (extra-terrestrial hypothesis).

A broadening concept

So I find the broadening of the search for answers that has occurred one of the most telling differences. I never expected to be researching and writing about topics as diverse as near death experiences, precognition, spontaneous human combustion, strange marks in crop fields, quantum physics, and so on—all in some way connected with the UFO mystery.

But I have, and I think that many things seem important today that all those years ago I probably would not have contemplated: The apparent psychic track record of close encounter witnesses. Their ability to recall very early life (suggestive of differing brain chemistry). The way that many encounters appear to occur in an out-of-body state. The physical power of the energies involved in some cases, and what this tells us about the nature of the phenomenon involved.

UFOlogy has diversified, just as science has done. Once everyone was just a philosopher on life, the universe, and everything. Now there are thousands of specialist science disciplines. Similarly I don't think there are really UFOlogists any more, but people most interested in hunting down specific phenomena.

Actually, accepting this is very necessary. A lot of the antagonism that occurs within UFOlogy arises because of lack of recognition of this diversification. UFOlogist A says that I believe UFOs are such and such. Skeptic B says no, they are not; they can be explained away as something else. Conflict appears to arise, unless you understand that in UFOlogy it is perfectly possible for both views to be correct simultaneously.

We should treat alternative ideas as interesting possibilities not as feared rivals to our own beliefs.

There's only one flying saucer answer

Which brings me to the above unspoken litany—an assumption I made, and many people still make, but one that is wholly unfounded. The idea that there is just one answer to the flying saucer mystery that someone will crack like the unified field theory and earn the UFOlogical equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

This has acted as a roadblock to progress. I think it is one of the most important things that I did not see back then. There is no such thing as "the UFO phenomenon." Its a term, like "the weather," that we use for convenience, but which becomes a hindrance if we mistake that generic term for being something more than it is.

Think of the weather. We can ask a question, such as "What is the weather like?" and answer it with "It is sunny or raining" or whatever. Similarly, we can make state-



Jenny Randles

ments about the UFO phenomenon that it has one characteristic, or another, and from this think that we have defined the mystery. But we have not. As with the weather, all that we have done is to describe the UFO phenomenon. This is not the same thing at all.

If we want to know what being sunny or what rain is, then we have to dispense with the concept of weather generically and look for causes of these individual phenomena, for various processes are at work within the atmosphere creating a range of things that we see as different kinds of weather.

And generally speaking, you will not understand one by studying the other. You will only start to do so once you realise that weather is a word we use to conveniently describe a number of different physical phenomena, each requiring separate explanations.

They do, of course, interact from time to time. The study of climatology, for instance, is a cohesive one that brings these independent weather phenomena together and looks at their effects on the world's eco systems. This is a model I think we can usefully apply to UFOlogy. We need to be aware that there are various things that each describe certain kinds of UFO.

There may well be nothing directly connecting, such as the reason for an alien abduction and a ball of light that stalls a car engine. Our problem often comes in not accepting this well-demonstrated fact—our desire to find the connecting thread even when there is no overwhelming reason to conclude that one must exist.

We regularly work on the presumption that a mythical “UFO phenomenon” bonds together what are likely to be disparate things and in need of utterly different interpretations. Because we spend so much time in pursuit of the glue that will bind these together, we miss the greater need: to find individual answers to each of these possibly quite unique phenomena.

The analogy with the weather goes deeper still, for there is a UFOlogical equivalent of climatology. Although there may be various phenomena that are behind a range of reported UFO mysteries, something links them together within our culture. Socio-ufology is certainly a valid type of research to investigate the social and psychological forces that underpin the reporting of and belief in UFO mysteries.

There is a tendency amongst some UFOlogists to look down on this field, as if it is little better than treason to study belief systems, not UFOs proper. Equally, some socio-ufologists probably have a rather inflated view of their subject, which in of itself seeks not to explain the causes of UFOlogy, but the consequences. However, there is clearly a need for both to live together, and much that can be mutually gained.

Other lessons learned

Of course, the above thoughts are far from being the only things that I have concluded after so many years. There are plenty of other realities that I now can see that I did not see at first.

For example, the importance of solved cases. These are not just stories to be tossed aside as “failed UFOs.”

They are very important. If you stop and think just a moment you will see why. Unsolved UFO cases are just that—unsolved. You can never prove a UFO. Certainly not a specific type of UFO (such as an alien spaceship). If you do not find an answer, then the case is incomplete and must remain in limbo as potentially explicable, probably forever.

On the other hand, IFOs—solved cases—have a start, a middle, and an end where the answer is found. Not only do these cases account for up to 95% of all reported UFO sightings (so hardly inconsequential), but they are the only ones that offer us the chance to fully see UFOlogy in action from woe to go.

Through a study of IFOs we can gain enormous amounts of understanding about why people see something in the form of a UFO—data about perception, reporting, investigating, and so on that can be invaluable if properly applied to all our other cases.

It is time we accepted IFOs as the invaluable weapon that they are—one of the most key pieces of data in our quest for answers. I suggest a change in mind set, perceiving IFOs as successes and the unsolved cases as the real failures, as, whilst seemingly insoluble UFOs are important, this way of viewing things is in reality closer to the truth than the way most of us regard any explained sighting.

When Dr. David Clarke, Andy Roberts, and I wrote our book on solved cases (*The UFOs that Never Were*) back in 1999, we were trying to make this point to UFOlogy. Predictably, of course, nobody was listening, and the book's total disappearance from bookshelves could probably offer useful lessons in cover-up tactics to the powers that be. Yet, even if nobody is ever likely to read it, I still think it makes a vital point that needed to be stressed.

(To be continued in the December issue.)

Film about crop circles partly financed by British government

“Signs,” a film featuring crop circles, will be in movie theaters next summer, thanks in part to the British government.

The film, the third major release from the studio which received huge accolades for “The Sixth Sense,” stars Mel Gibson, who will play the farmer on whose land the crop circles appear. Joaquin Phoenix, who was recently nominated for a best supporting actor Oscar for his portrayal of the Emperor in Ridley Scott's blockbuster “Gladiator,” will play Gibson's brother.

The film is being funded by Walt Disney Pictures and the British Film Council, which has a three-year budget of £150m from government and lottery funds to “shamelessly” build on links with Hollywood studios, according to the Council's chief executive officer, John Woodward.

Self-proclaimed crop circle hoaxer John Lundberg said: “It's ironic that the government are funding a crop circle film, as researchers often accuse them of running a campaign via the media to discredit crop circles.”

The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

December 2001

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Mars (0.6 magnitude), moving from Capricornus into Aquarius, remains low in the S during twilight, setting in the W about 10 PM. The red planet lies near the crescent Moon on the 20th.

Jupiter (-2.7), in Gemini, rises in the NE about 5:30 PM in midmonth and advances westward across the southern half of the sky. The planet giant is brightening as it nears opposition on Jan. 1. It can be seen near the full moon on the night of Dec. 29-30.

Saturn, still near Aldebaran and the Hyades in Taurus, reaches opposition (point in the sky opposite the Sun) on the 3rd. At that time the ringed world is brightest at -0.9 magnitude and rises in the ENE about sunset. It remains visible in the southern half of the sky all night.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Venus (-3.9) is briefly visible very low in the ESE early in the month before disappearing into the solar glare. The brilliant object then rises about an hour before the Sun.

Jupiter stands low in the W at dawn. The planet is 1.6 degrees S of the gibbous Moon at twilight on Dec. 3.

Saturn is visible very low in the WNW at the start of morning twilight (midmonth).

The Stars:

During midevening hours the bright star patterns of the winter sky now assume importance in the E and SE heavens, as the much fainter constellations of autumn slide into the W and SW. Mighty Orion the Hunter leads the winter parade of patterns.

Find Orion's trio of belt stars and then locate the sword fastened to his belt. Note a fuzzy "star" in the sword—the Great Nebula of Orion, a luminous cloud of gas and dust. A cosmic nursery of infant stars, the nebula is a striking sight through a telescope or binoculars.

Partial Solar Eclipse:

Late on the afternoon of Dec. 14, the Moon crosses part of solar disc, the fraction covered varying across the U.S. and depending upon one's location. The maximum in the U.S. occurs in southern Florida. For many eastern locations, the event takes place near or at sunset, and much of New England misses the eclipse entirely.

Local times of maximum eclipse with obscuration percentages at several cities follow: Seattle, 12:48 PM, 1%; Los Angeles, 1:10 PM, 10%; Denver, 2:38 PM, 7%; Chicago, 3:59 PM, 12.5%; New York, 4:28 PM, 6%; Atlanta, 5:14 PM, 29%; Miami, 5:25 PM, 53.5%.

To view the eclipse safely, **do not look directly at**

the Sun, except through a special eye filter such as a #14 welder's glass. Observers may also watch the event **indirectly** by projecting the Sun's image through a telescope or binocular eyepiece onto a white surface.

Moon Phases:

Last quarter--Dec. 7

New moon--Dec. 14

First quarter--Dec. 22

Full moon--Dec. 30

Meteor Shower:

The Geminid meteor shower is best seen on the night of Dec. 13-14, particularly during the morning hours when a rate of 50 to 100 meteors per hour might be observed. There is no Moon to interfere this year.

CALENDAR

Nov. 3, Missouri MUFON, "Flying Saucers Hidden History 2001," St. Louis. Stanton Friedman, Richard Dolan, Dr. Carol Rosin. Contact Bruce Widaman at 800-489-4UFO, or P.O. Box 643, St. Charles, MO 63302

Nov. 9-11, Journeys Beyond 2001 Mobile Conference, Mobile, AL; confirmed speakers: Dr. John Mack, Dannion Brinkley, Stanton Friedman, Budd Hopkins, Dolores Cannon, Nancy Talbott, William Henry, Bruce Moen, Paul Anderson, and Pat Fitzhugh. www.journeysbeyond.com or call Pat Crumbley at 251-626-6131 for free program guide or write 7262 Highpointe PL E, Spanish Fort, AL 36527. e-mail pat@journeysbeyond.com

Nov. 12-17, Palenque 2001, The Emergence Conference: "De-coding the UFO Enigma," Palenque, Mexico. Presenters: Antonio Huneus, John Keel, Jaime Maussan, Christopher O'Brien, Christopher Powell, David Perkins, Lyssa Royal, Dr. Leo Sprinkle, Tata, Nancy Talbott, Tracy Torme, and Alonso Mendez Toporek. Toll free 877-620-8715 or outside U.S. 719-256-5186. www.emergenceconference.com

Nov. 17-18, Third Annual International UFO & New Age Symposium of Eastern Europe, Balkans, & Istanbul. Tel: +90 - 216 - 369 92 48 or E-mail : ufotr@netone.com.tr

Feb. 2-8, 2002. Caribbean cruise, featuring Budd Hopkins, Bruce Maccabee, Peter Robbins, and Kenny Young, 877-685-4450 or <http://home.onlineagency.com/adventurecruises/Page60562.asp>

May 11, 2002. Roswell International Museum. George Filer, author of the "Filer Report," will discuss the 1978 "Roswell" at McGuire AFB in Fort Dix, NJ.

June 8, 2002. Roswell International Museum. Bill Hamilton, executive director of Skywatch International, will talk about EBEs and underground bases.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

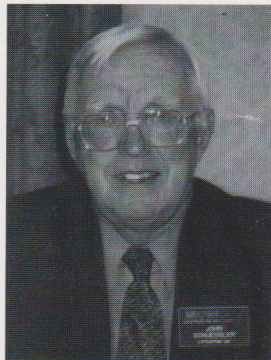
By **John Schuessler**
MUFON International Director

MUFON UFO Journal Price Increase

We have held the line on increasing the subscription price for the *MUFON UFO Journal* for a long, long time. It is way overdue. Since our last price increase, postage costs have increased many times, and the cost for rent, utilities, labor, supplies, and printing have increased drastically.

At the annual MUFON board meeting in July, the board approved an increase in the MUFON subscription/membership price effective Jan. 1, 2002. The new rates will be \$35 USA and \$40 foreign. For members wishing to receive their *Journal* via first class mail (USA) and airmail (foreign), the additional cost will be whatever the postal rate is at the time the subscription is effective.

The increase in subscription price for the *MUFON UFO Journal* will be delayed until Jan. 1, 2002, to allow members to renew or give new gift subscriptions at the current price (\$30 USA and \$35 foreign). Early renewal may be done in one, two or three-year increments.



John Schuessler

Credit Card Purchases from MUFON

Several MUFON members have suggested adding the capability for credit card purchases of MUFON wares and subscriptions on the MUFON web site at www.mufon.com. Our web master researched the options available and recommended the use of a service called Pay Pal. Subsequently, the MUFON Board of Directors approved the recommendation. Implementation details are being worked out, and the service should be available in the very near future.

New Field Investigators

Kathleen Marden, Director for Field Investigator Training, has announced the following Field Investigator Trainees have completed the Field Investigator's Exam and are now MUFON Field Investigators: **Victor Connor**, Normal, IL; **Eugene H. Frison**, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada; and **Thomas E. Underwood**, Highpoint, NC.

Field Investigator trainees are urged to study the *Field Investigator's Manual* and then take the exam. The exam may be requested from MUFON Headquarters. There is no charge for the exam. Many states also offer

training classes to guide the trainee through the training process.

The *Field Investigator's Manual* is available from MUFON Headquarters for \$25 +\$3.50 p&h.

MUFON Featured in UFO Magazine

We are very pleased to announce that MUFON will be featured in the December/January issue of *UFO - The Science and Phenomena Magazine*, published at 5455 Centinela Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90066. MUFON thanks Publisher **William J. Birnes**, Editor-in-Chief **Vicki Ecker**, and the whole *UFO Magazine* staff for their support.

It should be noted that *UFO Magazine* is one of the few commercial UFO related magazines still being published in the United States on a regular basis. It is available in book and magazine stores and by subscription.

MUFON 2002 International UFO Symposium

It is time to start planning to attend the MUFON 2002 International UFO Symposium, scheduled for July 5-7, 2002, at the Hyatt Regency Rochester Hotel, 125 East Main Street, Rochester, NY 14604.

MUFON New York State Director **James Bouck** negotiated an excellent price for rooms for symposium attendees. Details will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*. Because of the terrible events in New York in September, we thank Jim for selecting a safe and secure location for the 2002 event.

MUFON Library Donation

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Georgia MUFON member **Richard C. Hilton, Jr.** In his honor, his library of UFO books was donated to MUFON, and is now a part of the permanent library collection at MUFON Headquarters in Colorado. We thank his daughter Debbie Sabag and son Brad Hilton for this generous gift.

MUFON 2001 Proceedings available

The *MUFON 2001 International UFO Proceedings*, featuring Symposium papers by **Dr. Robert Wood**, **Stanton Friedman**, **Dr. Eric Davis**, **Daniel Sheehan**, **Steven Greer**, **Dr. Barry Downing**, **Budd Hopkins**, **Ryan Wood**, **Dr. John Mack**, **Bob Pratt**, **Dr. Roger Leir**, and **Ann Druffel** is available from MUFON, P.O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369. The 8x11 216-page softback book is \$25.00 plus \$2.50 postage & handling.