

MINNESOTA MUFON

Newsletter

From the State Director

This will be the first summary of a presentation made at the 1996 MUFON Symposium held in Greensboro, North Carolina in early July. Let's begin with Kevin Randles' *Does Pop Culture Affect Our Views?*

Readers will recognize Kevin as one of the foremost investigators of the Roswell crash. I was surprised to learn that he has authored over eighty books, of which only five have dealt with UFOs! He also hosts a two-hour radio show at an El Paso, Texas station, dealing with the paranormal.

Randle begins by relating a way that information once passed through our society prior to modern technology, i.e., music early in this century. Since there were no radio stations to play songs, music stores hired piano players and singers to help sell the sheet music. Musicians would hear it in one city and play it in the next. Eventually, everyone knew the songs. It may have taken months for the music to move from coast to coast, but the point is, *it did!* He argues that information, whether music or abduction stories, can enter into a collective consciousness simply by moving through society until all have been exposed to the information.

We have all heard David Jacobs, Thomas Bullard, Budd Hopkins, and others argue that those who report aliens and abductions have no *cultural* sources from which to draw, and that the beings are not like science fiction gods or devils.

The witnesses, therefore, are supposedly relating a real event rather than some form of folklore. He claims that abductions first occurred during the so-called *Great Airship sightings* of 1897 with one variation — most often the pilots were humans, but in a few cases, non-human occupants were reported.

To demonstrate how a tale can survive despite no evidence, Randle said that Proctor and Gamble has worked for years to eradicate the story that their corporate logo was inspired by board members who worship the devil. Despite access to national media and expensive advertising, the story is still circulating. *It is an urban legend.* Randle implies that other beliefs, including aliens and abductions, are also a result of word-of-mouth communication with no basis in fact.

Modern technology has made it much easier to expose us to almost anything. An abductee may claim no interest in science fiction, or in UFOs, but exposure to these subjects cannot be avoided. The 1938 radio broadcast by Orson Welles brought the concept of alien invasion into American homes prior to the Roswell crash of 1947. Even those of us who have never heard the program know its theme and some of its effects.

Hugo Grensback introduced Americans to science fiction in the 1920s. He wanted to sugarcoat science so that the young might be

Minnesota MUFON Meetings

**Saturday, Sept. 14
and
Saturday, Oct. 12**

Science Museum of MN
Computer Education Center
Firstar Bank Building
(formerly known as American Bank!)
101 E. 5th St., Suite 1900
19th Floor

SEE MAP ON COVER!

PARK FREE

Ramp Entrance is on
Minnesota St.
Proceed to 5th Level

Because this is a secured building, to gain entrance you must be at the ramp door between 1:00 and 1:30 PM. Someone will be on hand to activate the elevator to take you to the meeting room. The next admittance time will be at the 3:00 break.

Don't be Late!

The building and ramp areas are designated as *non-smoking*.
Coffee and soft drinks are **FREE!**

come interested in it and hoped it would bubble through society and actually teach some science. Frederick Pohl has said that in 1945, when the A-bomb was announced, only 2,000 scientists understood it, as opposed to maybe a half million science fiction readers.

There were many science fiction magazines in the 1930s and 1940s with provocative covers designed to entice people to buy the magazine. One in particular, the June 1935 issue of *Astounding Stories*, shows two alien beings with no nose, no hair, a slit-like mouth and large eyes. Through a door one can see the creatures looking at a woman lying on a table and covered by a sheet (implying nakedness). Another creature is restraining a man who is trying to break through and rescue her. This cover predicted many elements of abductions long before anyone ever heard of flying saucers.

The idea that aliens are from a dying planet has been played out in many science fiction movies. In the remake of *Not Of This Earth* in 1994, an alien collects blood in a briefcase and wears dark glasses to hide his eyes. One of his purposes is to gather genetic material. In the 1960s, David Vincent fought *The Invaders* from a dying planet. The plot of the television series, *V*, centered on aliens who wanted our planet for their own. *This Island Earth* featured alien scientists abducting earth scientists to help them in their endeavors. Peter Graves' character in *Killers From Space* experienced missing time and discovered a scar on his chest. Each time he attempted to remember what had happened to him, he was haunted by the huge eyes of the aliens — not a scene likely to be forgotten!

Randle said that he witnessed a hypnotic regression in which the subject described a huge screen displaying his internal organs and a beating heart. It was a scene right out of *Killers From Space*.

Tiny probes pushed into the neck to monitor victims are found in 1953's *Invaders From Mars*. All of the elements of the abduction phenomenon have been used in many science fiction stories. Even if these movies had been

poorly attended in the theaters, many have been seen on late night television. People with no interest in science fiction have probably seen all or parts of these films. Some families may have attended movies that were preceded by a black-and-white "B" space thriller. Cheaply made, they included many facets of modern aliens and abductions.

Randle quipped that no exposure to pop culture means never leaving the house, never reading a magazine of newspaper, and no exposure to radio or television!

With the showing of *UFO Incident* (the Barney and Betty Hill story) by NBC in 1975, many learned that aliens are smaller than humans and have big eyes. Randle suggests that the Hills could have had previous access to everything they reported under hypnosis, even though many believe that they didn't possess the knowledge to construct their nightmare of alien abduction. In *Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, Donald Keyhoe had cited cases of encounters with strange beings. He told of Jesus Gomez in Venezuela who said a craft had landed with four little men coming from it to drag him into the craft. It was an abduction that failed, however. Within days of their sighting, Betty Hill wrote to Keyhoe requesting clues that might be helpful. [If she wrote to Keyhoe, she obviously knew of him, likely through his writings — Moss.] Twelve days before the first hypnosis session on 2/22/64, there was an *Outer Limits* episode called *The Bellerophon Shield* which featured aliens with wraparound eyes and an absence of ears, hair, or nose. Betty's interest in UFOs predated her experience because of a sister's UFO sighting. Their psychiatrist, Dr. Benjamin Simon, never believed the Hills' story told under hypnosis, a fact often forgotten by UFO researchers. All of this does not prove that the Hills were not abducted, only that their story did not arise in a vacuum.

The term "flying saucer" was invented by a news reporter after hearing Kenneth Arnold's June 24, 1947 description of his sighting. Arnold, however, had drawn a heel-shaped object to depict the craft — but the drawing did not accom-

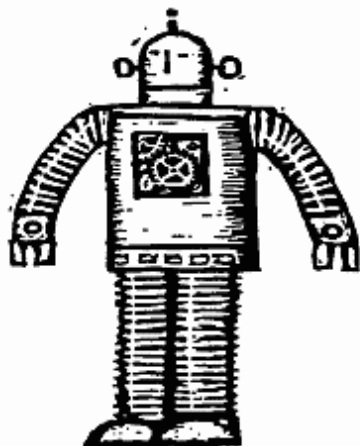
pany the article. People started looking for "flying saucers" and that is what they found.

The other two instances of heel-shaped objects were the Roswell craft and a craft photographed over Phoenix. It is true that spheres, cigar-shaped objects and others were reported, but the majority were flying saucers.

In 1947, space travel was on the minds of many. Newspapers reported that some scientists suspected the craft were from other planets. Venus and Mars were often mentioned because we usually didn't think in terms of interstellar travel. The idea that flying saucers were alien craft was spread from the very first reports and there were about a dozen stories of crashed vehicles during those first few weeks in mid-1947.

In the event that Kevin Randle comes across as a disbeliever, remember his enormous efforts at researching the Roswell crash. In this presentation, he is simply taking issue with those who deny that science fiction or pop culture could affect UFO and abduction stories. He closes by saying that we must do better than come up with clever phrases that deny the reality of the pop culture that surely does exist. If we can't explain things better than we have, we will never convince others of the reality of the situation.

MUFON members and subscribers to this newsletter are urged to obtain a copy of the *Symposium Proceedings* from MUFON in Seguin, Texas, and read the complete texts of all the speakers. The price is \$25 plus \$1.75 postage.



Echos of Cosmic Voyage

by William I. McNeff

If Courtney Brown, Ph.D. is to maintain credibility, the things that he states in his book, *Cosmic Voyage*, must be shown to be on the order of 95 to 99 percent correct, since this seems to be the accuracy he is claiming.

Now an event has occurred which immediately gives increased credibility to the idea of extraterrestrial life in general and Martian life in particular. This is, of course, NASA's announcement that strong evidence for the existence of life on Mars four and a half billion years ago has been discovered in a meteorite. Earlier this month, NASA confirmed that ancient Martian rocks found in Antarctica in 1984 contain what appear to be fossils of single-cell organisms — similar to ancient life forms on Earth.

The 4.5 billion-year-old rock — dubbed ALH84001 — was blasted off the Martian surface some 16 million years ago and landed in Antarctica about 13,000 years ago, scientists believe. "NASA has made a startling discovery," said NASA chief Daniel Goldin. Then, predictably, he attempted to disavow the obvious implications of this discovery for the existence of higher forms of life and the possibility of intelligent life on Mars. Said Goldin, "I want everyone to understand that we are not talking about little green men. These are extremely small, single-cell creatures that somewhat resemble bacteria on Earth. There is no evidence or suggestion that any higher life form ever existed on Mars." Goldin ignores the highly unusual "Face on Mars" and the nearby seemingly patterned pyramid formations that other scientists have found to be highly interesting and very suggestive of intelligent design.

Stanford University's Richard Zare — one of the chief researchers involved in the finding — described the fossils as "egg shapes and tubular type things." While it is conceivable that inorganic processes created these structures, he said, other independent lines of investigation concurred that the most plausible

explanation was some primitive form of life. For example, materials commonly associated with bacteria such as magnetite, iron sulfide and globs of carbonate material, were found in the same place as the fossil-like structures.

"Everything we see has other possible explanations," Zare said. "But it's the fact that everything is spatially together" that makes the evidence for life so compelling.

Zare, along with colleagues from Stanford, NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, and Lockheed Martin, subjected the rock to a series of tests to rule out the possibility that it had become contaminated during its 13,000 year visit at the South Pole.

While the majority of scientists believe that life has probably arisen many places in the universe by the same processes by which it arose here on Earth, most scientists believe it is rare enough and the distances between stars having intelligent beings are great enough that there is a low probability of humans meeting up with other intelligent life forms. Many calculations of the chances of extraterrestrials have been made, all of them based on various assumptions that are open to question. But the discovery that there was probably life on Mars in ancient times radically changes those assumptions in favor of the idea that such life evolved into more complex forms and may even have given rise to intelligent beings.

Scientists believe that conditions were favorable for life on Mars until at least 3 billion years ago. At that time, the Martian atmosphere was dense and not too different from the early atmosphere on Earth. One and a half billion years is long enough for at least some evolution of life to take place. What happened to the Martian atmosphere has remained something of a mystery to science, but some scientists believe that over time, high-velocity impacts from asteroids and comets blew much of the atmosphere off the planet. This is very similar to what Courtney Brown says happened.

Recently, while reading *The Anderson Affair* by Ray Fowler, one of the most reliable of the UFO investigators, I was startled to read something again that I had forgotten before. On page 145 of the paperback version, Betty Anderson passed on information allegedly from other worldly beings while in a hypnotic state. Betty believed her mind to be in communication with the mind of one of those beings. Here's the transcript, slightly condensed.

Q: Are there many of these races visiting the earth right now?

B: Yes.

Q: How many?

B: Seventy.

Q: They come from different planets, then?

B: Some. Some come from realms where you cannot see their hiding place. Some come from the very earth.

Q: This very earth?!

B: Yes, there is a place on this very earth that you do not know of.

In his book, Courtney Brown has stated that the Martians are living in two places on earth, one under a mountain in New Mexico and the other in Latin America. The "place that you do not know of" would certainly fit the New Mexico location. The reference to "other realms" is also interesting in light of Brown's and John Mack's writings as well as others. Just previously, Betty Anderson told the researchers that the beings can reverse time; that time to them is not like our time, but they know about our time, and they can see the future. This correlation between Anderson and Brown's statements are very interesting to me.

* * *

MUFON 1996 International UFO Symposium Summary by Candy Peterson

Part 1:

For cutting edge information about breaking cases and long-term research into UFOs, there was no better place to be than Greensboro, North Carolina, over the Fourth of July weekend. Fourteen top investigators gave multimedia presentations with excellent UFO evidence reports and analysis.

Walt H. Andrus, Jr., International Director and editor of the Symposium Proceedings, honored Raymond E. Fowler for his years of work advancing ufology. The 1996 Proceedings are dedicated to Fowler for, among other achievements, writing eight books, editing the MUFON Field Investigator's Manual, as well as holding several directorships in MUFON.

Kevin D. Randle raised the ire of many with his provocative presentation implicating several well-known researchers for making statements of "No science fiction sources" for witnesses to draw upon, when there actually are many. He showed evidence of alien abduction scenarios present in pop culture since the Great Airship sightings of 1897. Several challenges were made by individuals who primarily voiced the "Art Imitating Life" opinion in opposition to Randle's presentation.

(See Dick Moss' article, page 1, for an expanded report of Randle's presentation.)

In a totally different approach to abduction accounts, John S. Carpenter made a compelling case for disqualifying the common notion that abduction accounts can be adequately explained by traditionally understood psychological processes. He presented his caseload of multiple-participant abduction cases, in which 100% of the cases had matching witness reports for each incident. This shows a sig-

nificantly high correlation of reported details, varying perspectives, order of events, direction of attention, and different yet overlapping experiences. These combinations serve to disprove claims that these experiences are hallucinations, delusions, fantasy, or products of Jungian imagery. By definition, those are internally generated mental creations of individuals, not shared experiences. Carpenter also dealt with the theories of repressed childhood sexual abuse, witness suggestibility, false memory syndrome, biophysical causes, and even hoaxes and science fiction influences. The main consideration here is, that there are unpublished details of abduction experiences which nevertheless continue to be reported by people. These mundane explanations are extremely unlikely, and even bizarre, in the face of the evidence.

Chris Styles gave an admirable presentation of his work in the October 4, 1967 Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia UFO crash/retrieval case. In just three years he has located several members of the original Navy diving search team as well as many fishermen and Royal Canadian Mounted Police witnesses. His collection of hundreds of press clippings from local and international sources, as well as dozens of official and military documents, creates a potent body of work. This supports Styles' contention that, "until further explanation is forthcoming, *The Shag Harbour Incident remains the only UFO crash scenario that is supported in that interpretation by available and unrestricted government documentation that is without controversy as to its origin or authenticity.*" (1) His research efforts have rewarded him with finding actual "X-file" category documents among the personal papers of the late astronomer Father Michael Burke-

Galahey, a National Research Council UFO Investigator. His interviews with witnesses along with all the written documentation, sketch a scenario of a crippled UFO ditching in Shag Harbour with a flash, an explosion, and debris. It drifted or navigated while submerged to the waters of Government Point in Shelburne County, 25 miles down current. Another UFO came to assist it in underwater repairs over the next seven days while the US and Canadian governments operated a flotilla of ships above. Submerged, they both moved toward open water and flew off at high speed. Further sonar and diving expeditions are being planned and may provide just the hard physical evidence we've been looking for.

Jeffrey W. Sainio gave an entertaining and informative photographic and videotape update similar to his presentation in St. Paul last autumn. Because so many people send him poorly focused pictures that turn out to be Venus, he recommends first checking astronomical charts before investigating what may look like UFOs. Calibrate any interesting video or photographic UFO recordings by using the same equipment to shoot a yardstick at a known distance (30 ft is good), with the same weather and lighting conditions.

There has been so much overblown hype associated with the Face on Mars that it is difficult to distinguish wild speculation from actual information. Vincent DiPietro cleared up much of the confusion with the presentation of his extensive research that began in 1979.

Look for Part 2 in the November/December issue of this Newsletter!



Breakthrough, by Whitley Streiber

Reviewed by Craig R. Lang

The recently published book "Breakthrough" by Whitley Streiber, is a continuation of the saga which he began with "Communion" and "Transformation". These first books described his encounters with ETs, whom he calls "the Visitors." After the first two books, he stated that he would write no more about the Visitors until he had proof of their existence. In this book, he attempts to present such proof, along with a plausible explanation of both their nature and agenda. In my view, he succeeds nicely at the latter, but does only a fair job of the former.

The book does an excellent job of putting the material of "Communion" and "Transformation" into context. The first few chapters fill in historical details, elaborating on many of the events surrounding both books. He also speculates on a philosophical basis for the actions of the Visitors - supporting this with accounts of his interactions with them.

I found many of his tales of interactions with the Visitors to be rather far-fetched. However, in many cases he includes accounts from other witnesses to corroborate his own. One such case is the sequence of nine knocks, related to UFO sightings, which occurred in various locations around the country, including the author's cabin. Other cases inched incidents in which several guests at his cabin reported having Visitor experiences at the same time. Anecdotes such as these are potentially verifiable and could provide some measure of support for his claims -encouraging even if not airtight "proof".

In the latter parts of the book, Mr. Streiber goes more into what he views as the agenda of the Visitors, and the reaction of human institutions to their presence. He builds a very believable argument for why the visitors are here. He also builds a good case for how the Visitors seem to be making an end-run around our government

and science institutions. I found it to be consistent with other very plausible speculation on possible Visitor agendas (such as that offered in Timothy Good's book "Alien Update").

The book also very believably describes the purported roles of the military, the intelligence community, the scientific community, and other institutions within our society. He backs up much of this with accounts of his own experiences and those of others with whom he is associated. Unfortunately for our society, the scenario he portrays seems quite plausible.

He also sheds some interesting light on the "Mars Face" controversy. Unfortunately he turns this into a discussion of conspiracy theories, the Mars Observer loss and the supposed "NASA Cover-Up". He also can't resist taking the obligatory swipe at Carl Sagan and other UFO skeptics.

While I found Streiber's portrayal of human institutions to be rather bleak, his portrayal of the Visitors seems heartening. The picture he builds of the Visitors is very complex, with no easily understood agenda. His view of them seems to be very much at odds with that expressed by Budd Hopkins, etc. In Streiber's view, the visitors seem to transcend the concept of good and evil. Their nature and purpose are complex, perhaps even unfathomable to us. Their agenda is ultimately for the better of humanity, though perhaps not for established human institutions. While I have no way of knowing whether what Whitley Streiber writes is the truth, I found much of his writings reasonably plausible - if frequently a bit too farfetched. Although he cites corroborating witnesses, I did not feel the material in his book constitutes proof, which was his stated aim.

In the end, I recommend the book - although I suggest taking some of it with a grain of salt. For most UFO believers, it's a good read.

Captured in the 'Net!

Internet enthusiast Joe Dundovic found these interesting articles to share with us!



From Richard Boylan, Ph.D:

I never thought I'd be quoting Paul Harvey, conservative Midwest news commentator, but my wife heard this tidbit on his news program Tuesday, August 20. Mr. Harvey reported that the *United Nations* had just passed a resolution that any visitors from off planet should present themselves to the *United Nations* as the appropriate body to represent Earth (in interplanetary relations).

[The] first noteworthy item is that despite Boutros Boutros-Ghali's personal loathing for the UFO topic, (although his wife is an enthusiast), the UN finally got off its rump and took a public position on extraterrestrial contact, (after a hiatus of decades since the General Assembly Decision 331426 of December 18, 1978 calling for establishing a UN committee to deal with the extraterrestrial issue.)

[The] second noteworthy item is that the timing of this UN Resolution (August 20), just one week after the U.S. (NASA) acknowledged evidence for life on Mars (August 7) and possibly on Jupiter's moon Europa (August 13).

At the current rate of one bombshell [about] UFO/ET life announcement per week, will the Cover-Up last even until the November 5th Election?

Rich

Moon Dazzle! Don't miss the Total Lunar Eclipse on September 26!

Skywatching

Those of you who are regular net surfers are no doubt well acquainted with *Skywatch International*. Daily, we're deluged with UFO news and commentaries from all over the globe. We thought we'd share some of the news with the non-surfers, and the following exchange between "*Masinaigan*" and "*BlackDeep*" seemed both interesting and informative.

Masinaigan's Report:

If you're on the streets of Stanley, Wisconsin, USA between the hours of 10 p.m. and 11 p.m. Central time, you're liable to run into UFO buff John K., out for his nightly walk. Stanley is a small town in north central Wisconsin, 35 miles (56 kilometers) east of Eau Claire and 165 miles (264 kilometers) west of Wausau.

"On Friday night (August 9, 1996), I was walking up a street that faces due east," John K. reported. "August can really exhibit beautiful clear skies, and this (night) was one of them. I was just gazing upward and taking in the panorama when I saw this white light which seemed to be almost 'floating' (the closest I can describe it) across the sky, heading northward. I stopped walking, for I thought the motion was just an illusion caused by my own motion. Well, I stopped but the white light didn't. I'm not too good at judging altitudes and speed, but the light was way up there, seemingly right in between the stars. My guess is that it had to be at least 30,000 to 40,000 feet. The object's speed was probably between 100 and 200 miles per hour. It had to be a craft of some sort because it was an exceptionally clear sky. The object

would sort of dip toward the east, then slip back into a northward direction. The weirdest thing is that after ten seconds of watching this thing, it simply disappeared." "I didn't think too much about it, except that it was strange, so I kept walking up the hill. I stopped about halfway and looked upward, and saw an F-16, or what I took to be an F-16. It was going pretty slowly (usually by the time you hear them, they're gone.) The F-16 was at about half the altitude of the white object and heading east. When I reached the top of the hill, it had banked and was heading north in the path of the object."

"On Saturday night (August 10, 1996) I was on the other side of town and saw something rather unusual. Once again it was about 10 PM but I was heading south this time and saw the same kind of bright white object heading at a very slow pace toward the southeast. The strange thing is that it was being flanked by an F-16 (which was practically above my position) about five miles to the north of it (the UFO) maintaining the same airspeed.

Black Deep's Observation:

Not to burst any bubbles, but this sounds like an aircraft on long final.

Aircraft landing lights are so bright that they can be seen for hundreds of miles, if straight overhead was twelve o'clock, then the object would have been about the 0200-0230 position, maybe lower. The light was yellow orange and had a tendency to flicker, no sound was heard because the aircraft was many miles out and the throttles were retarded because it was losing altitude, but because it is also getting closer it appears to be just hanging in the sky — that is,

until it banks left or right, then it moves of course. It may fade in brightness because the lights are being turned away from you, then the thing will blink out altogether. It's still there but because the object is so far away it seems to have disappeared.

Newer aircraft have strobe anti-collision lights instead of the rotating ball, and are easier seen when the aircraft banks, yet if the aircraft is far enough out, these too can be undetectable. The F-16 heading in the same direction indicates that it was indeed on the same flight path as the other aircraft.

I carry a pair of binoculars with me which are cheap and not very powerful, but they do a good enough job to let me see the object up pretty close and be able to identify it.

I'm not doubting what Masinaigan saw, but am only giving a simple answer for what it most likely was. The lighting configuration on some of the newer aircraft can really put on an interesting light show, especially when they turn on their landing and taxi lights. (They use taxi lights as augmented landing lights.) Then, they'll turn on their anti-collision lights and navigation lights. You'll see four bright lights, then two green and red lights, and two pulsating red lights! If the wind is to your back, you may never hear the aircraft unless it is taking off. At that point, the engines are at take-off power, and will remain so until they reach about 15,000 feet. Even then, they'll be at increased power until they reach altitude.

On the other hand, aircraft that are landing have their throttles retarded, and are just bleeding off altitude for landing. Any kind of background noise can make these appear to be silent lights in the sky. One thing to remember is that because you are watching from the ground, some aircraft may appear

to be climbing because they are getting closer to you — when, in fact, they are actually losing altitude. There is also an optical illusion that will trick people into believing they are seeing unbelievable maneuvers. Here's an example.

Go out on a clear night and find a bright star. Watch it for some time and it will appear to be doing tight circles in the sky. Or it may appear to be traveling in one direction, stop, and reverse.

When you get around Army and Air Force bases, then things really get exciting! You can see lights flashing in the sky, but hear no sound — and then see things come flying off the aircraft which could be anything from flares, to paratroopers, to cargo. At night, jumpers will wear chem lights to mark their position and to keep from colliding with each other in the dark. Cargo drops will have chem lights so they can be followed to the ground and recovered.

After twenty-some odd years of watching the night skies, I have seen just about everything that's up there! And here are some things that I have found to be helpful to me.

1. Remain calm. Getting excited will do nothing but take away from your observation and may actually distort what you are seeing.
2. Carry binoculars with you — they'll resolve many mysteries.
3. Remember as much as you can, such as lights, noise, position, maneuvers, direction, etc.
4. Consider the area over your head as the twelve o'clock position, then when you describe the position of the object, you will always have a handy reference point.
5. UFOs are spotted more frequently at night because the darkness only lets you see the lights. Doubt anything you see at night!

6. Learn aircraft and astronomy. Knowing astronomy is especially helpful at this time of year when meteors will be falling from the skies in great number. (Understand that some meteors have metal properties that make them glow very brightly. They will look green in color and may appear to be moving across the sky slowly. This is because they are at extremely high altitudes and are skimming the atmosphere. They may look green, yellow, and sometimes orange. They're very large and have been described as fireballs. Also, Venus will be at its closest this time of year, and soon will be one quarter the brightness of the moon.

Field Investigator Group Update

by Craig Lang

It's been a very busy summer for the field investigator group, with an enthusiastic new group of investigators ready to take to the field. We are now starting the long arduous process of organizing the network and getting the word out to other organizations. In addition, we have a number of active sightings cases in progress. The fall promises more of the same — and better.

In June and July, we held the first field investigator study group. At our final session, six people (including myself) completed the field investigator exam. To the best of my knowledge, as of this writing, most members of the group have forwarded their completed exams to MUFON headquarters in Seguin and received their accreditation. We should soon have a brand new crop of official card-carrying MUFON field investigators.

At each Minnesota MUFON meeting, we have been placing a sign-up sheet in the back of the room. To date, we have a significant number of people who are interested, but who have not yet participated in field investigator

training. Currently, we plan to hold the next field investigator study group in the fall, beginning in late September. If you are interested in participating you can either sign up at the meeting or contact me at (612)560-1532 (e-mail address: crlang@mm.com). I plan to begin organizing the class at the next Minnesota MUFON meeting (let's try to meet during the break, to work out the details).

Each person interested in field investigation should have a copy of the field investigator manual. The manual is available from MUFON headquarters (103 Old Towne Rd, Seguin TX, 78155). The cost of the manual is \$28.50. (\$25.00 plus \$3.50 shipping). I suggest reading it thoroughly. It contains a lot of practical tips on UFO investigation.

In addition to training new investigators, we are now beginning the difficult part, getting the word out about MUFON to other organizations. The first step will be to contact law enforcement agencies and make procedural arrangements with them. To this end, we have started sending out letters to police and sheriff's departments in sections of the Metro area. The letters are based on the sample letter in the field investigators manual, providing the number for the MUFON national UFO hotline and asking them to forward sighting reports. Initially, Kathi Hilton and I have been involved in this effort, with Kathi concentrating on the northeast metro, and I on the northwest metro. Next we'll need to spread the net farther to reach other agencies. Following this, the next step will be to contact TV and radio stations, newspapers, and any organizations to whom the public might report a UFO sighting.

Joel Henry and I have contacted some key UFO reporting centers on the Internet who have agreed to pass along to us any reports of sightings occurring in Minnesota. For more information, or if you would like to assist in the effort to

contact other organizations, please contact Kathi at (612) 484-6492, e-mail: kathi~ix.netcom.com) or myself.

We are also trying to locate any resources that might be available to us for use in investigations. This might include scientific equipment, experts in key UFO-related fields, any scientific analysis facilities, etc. A possible goal will be to compile a local/regional supplement to the MUFON Field Investigator's Manual. If you can be of assistance in this area, please let me know.

In addition to training and organizing, we have also begun holding a monthly field investigators' mini-conference. At this meeting, active investigators brief the group on the status of cases (completed or in-progress). Conferences were held in July and August and were great successes. At each meeting we discussed active cases — many of which we then presented at the Minnesota MUFON meeting. Currently, there are several active investigations in progress, some within the greater Twin Cities, and others outside of the metro area. We plan to include a synopsis of active cases and the results of completed investigations on the Minnesota MUFON web site. Stay tuned.

As you can see, the summer months have been both productive and exciting. We hope this will continue as we move into Fall.



Happy Investigating!

First Movie Film of Crop Circle Being Formed

The following statement was released by Colin Andrews on August 20 and retrieved from the Internet via Mark M. Thompson.

A man was camping out on a hilltop in the Wilshire area in England. It was a very wet night but since crop circles have appeared in that region often, he had hopes of capturing sight of a crop circle in progress.

At approximately 0500 hours on the 11th of August, as the first light appeared, he saw what he thought was a small white-lighted sphere pass swiftly across the field directly below him. He moved quickly for his video camera which failed to operate due to the moisture sensor operating inside it. Moments later, he tried again and it worked. Just seconds into the video, two white spheres moved into the frame from the right and arced across the field in a large spiral, much like the form which appeared as a crop pattern at Stonehenge in June. As the spheres spiraled across the field, a small circle suddenly flattened to the ground and within just seconds (as many eye witnesses have reported previously) a large complex crop pattern materialized. Before the whole sequence was over, a second pair of white glowing spheres approached from the top left of the frame. One of them appeared to lift out of the cereal field and join its partner. They also took a route arcing around in a large ring. As they did so, the pathways and smaller circles in this elaborate "snowflake" pattern were formed. The whole filmed sequence is just a few seconds long and shows either a very elaborate attempt to fraud or we have secured the most incredibly important UFO and crop circle film footage ever.

I have been asked by the cameraman/witness to execute detailed analysis of the film and to handle world media interest in the footage which he owns.

Several major inquiries have commenced including one with the British Military who might have been present at the time.

The film will not be made available publicly until analysis is complete. The first results and full detailed statement regarding the footage will be made through the CPRI newsletter. Many researchers and interested public are located in England and the CPRI main offices are in the USA, therefore it is also my intention to send updates to the new and greatly successful magazine, "UFO Reality."

There have been several other important discoveries during the 1996 research project in the UK, and these will also be covered in the next CPRI newsletter.

Japanese UFO Museum a Bust?

The much publicized UFO Museum in Hakui City, Japan was opened on July 1, but without fanfare. Rather than a specialized UFO museum as publicized, it is reported to be merely an "ordinary space museum."

Grand opening hopefuls received a letter from unnamed (to us) authors which stated that only a few researchers outside of Japan have referred to the museum as a "UFO Museum," and that the whole matter was a laughing stock among serious UFO researchers in Japan. The letter stated that there was never any interest from the Japanese government in the museum nor on getting UFO information out to the world. Further, would-be attendees were told that had they arrived for the opening, they would not have been allowed inside! Another mystery!

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MINNESOTA MUFON meets the second
Saturday of each month, 1:30 p.m.
Location announced in each newsletter.

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Thanks to Joel Henry — great job!

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