

MINNESOTA MUFON

Newsletter

From the State Director

In the last issue I summarized George Knapp's 1993 MUFON Symposium presentation on Area 51 and Groom Lake. He ended his talk with a discussion of Bob Lazar, and I will try to condense that part of his paper here. Again, this is a very brief summary and you can obtain the full account from a reading of the 1993 Symposium Proceedings available from MUFON.

Knapp quickly itemized Lazar's claims, namely that he had earned degrees from MIT and Cal Tech, that he had worked at Los Alamos, that he was recruited to work on secret propulsion systems at Papoose Lake (S-4), that he worked there infrequently from late 1988 until April 1989, and that he had hands-on experience with alien technology. He was supposedly involved in back-engineering of alien craft, and said that an anti-matter reactor fueled with element 115 (not available on earth) powered gravity generators.

Lazar said he witnessed a test flight of a disc, that he had seen nine discs, that base security was unbearable (they messed with his head using hypnosis, intimidation, and drugs). All this was confided to his friend, Gene Huff. They, and others, drove to Groom Lake to videotape a test flight. They did it a second time but on the third

try, they were caught. This put him in big trouble with Naval Intelligence. Threats were made and he decided not to go back to the program.

Knapp criticized Lazar for being lax about documentation, for being indifferent to whether anybody believed him, and for being uncooperative with ufologists. Lazar seemed to have little interest in helping anyone prove his story. Although many things don't make much sense, enough does make sense to dismiss it.

MINNESOTA MUFON Meetings

Saturday, May 14
and
Saturday, June 11

THE IRISH WELL
1975 University at Prior
St. Paul

Social: 1:00 p.m.
Meeting: 1:30 p.m.

Note: Tom Tullen was unable to join us for earlier meetings. If his travel schedule allows, he speak to us in May or June.

For Knapp, the key to Lazar's story rested with Los Alamos. At first, Los Alamos denied any knowledge of Lazar. When confronted with a phone book listing him and a newspaper which referred to Lazar as a physicist, they still denied any records of him. Los Alamos finally admitted they had an ID number for Lazar, but that he actually worked for a company named **Kirk-Mayer**. They were even less cooperative. Kirk-Mayer was a "scientific headhunter company," filling technical jobs through 35 offices nationwide. They finally said that they only keep records for a few years and had no information about Lazar.

Knapp found three physicists at Los Alamos who remember Lazar working on classified projects. His first wife (now deceased) also worked there. The reasoning is that if Lazar worked on classified projects, then he must have gone to school *somewhere*. There are no records of him at MIT or Cal Tech. A junior college in California is on record that he took a single electronics course. The question was whether or not Los Alamos or Kirk-Mayer would deal with someone who only took one course!

A big problem is that Lazar won't remember names of classmates or teachers. Knapp

found one person who knew Lazar attended Cal Tech. He was a former Stealth engineer who had worked with Lazar at Fairchild Industries. The engineer remembered that Lazar worked weird shifts in order to accommodate his classes. But where are the records? Again, why is Lazar working for a reputable employer while seemingly having no education?

His employment at Fairchild doesn't prove that he worked at S-4. It turns out, though, that Lazar knows much about the place. He knew when test flights of the disc would occur, that EG&G is the prime contractor, that special planes fly employees into Groom, and that buses with blacked-out windows are also used. All this information is true.

The previously mentioned engineer agreed to meet with Lazar for two hours and asked questions that would have confounded someone who had not worked at Groom. For instance, he was asked where the employee cafeteria was located, the appearance of the cafeteria, and how employees paid for their meals. The engineer ended up admitting that Lazar must have worked there.

Lazar also knew that a man named Mike Thigpen worked for the Office of Federal Investigations which conducts security checks on individuals. OFI isn't known to many and isn't listed in the Las Vegas phone book. Lazar remembered Thigpen as an agent who raced jet cars, fired machine guns, and staged outlaw fireworks displays in the desert!

Question: Why would the Navy hire someone like Lazar?! He might have been exactly what they were looking for — a technically

qualified person who could be discredited, if necessary.

His alleged involvement in a prostitution ring made another point. [Lazar supposedly used his computer wizardry to help set up a network for prostitution purposes in Las Vegas which resulted in a pandering charge.— Moss] He faced up to 60 years in prison, which the Probation Department recommended because they couldn't verify his story either! Lazar told them the same thing he was telling everyone else: *If they could prove he was lying, he would do time.* He stuck to his story. When it came time to sentence Lazar, the record showed a letter from Nevada Congressman Jim Bilbray, who had tried to help George Knapp get Lazar's records from various agencies. Bilbray's letter stated that this was one of the strangest cases they'd with which they'd ever dealt! Every agency contacted about Lazar stalled every step of the way. However, Lazar's controversial W-2 form was accepted as legitimate by the court.

Concerning the W-2 form, Lazar received the form from the Department of Naval Intelligence after several attempts to get a copy. But there was a slight problem — there is no *Department* of Naval Intelligence— there is an *Office* of Naval Intelligence. Perhaps the government provided Lazar with the form containing the misnomer thinking that, if he submitted it as proof, they could then accuse him of typing it up himself, and thereby discredit him!

Researchers John Andrews and Bob Oechsler tried to track down the employer ID number indicated on the W-2. Finally, the Treasury Dept. Stated that the ID number was not in current use and they didn't know if it had been used in the past! So it seems that the mighty IRS, which can discover

what you or I spent for lunches in 1983, can't find out if anybody had ever used that employer ID number! Amazing!

Area 51 is a story with or without Lazar. There are too many other witnesses who attest to the work being done there. But if you can discredit Lazar, you cut a wide swath across Ufology. Doubt could be cast on the idea of a crashed disc, on MJ-12, and on stories of UFOs in the Nevada desert. And, you can scare the Dickens out of anyone who might someday want to talk about secret programs on which *they* have worked — which is how Lazar's legal troubles were viewed by some in Nevada.

Knapp closed by calling for the same kind of concerted effort in bringing out information on Area 51 as on the Roswell crash. There are people out there who must know the whole story (just as with the Roswell case), but never come forward. He said that there are serious people in powerful positions who think the Area 51 allegations have merit, and who have offered to protect people who have legitimate information. We'll have to wait and see — and hope!

Dick Moss



Photos used to help children identify their experiences.
Courtesy, Information Foundation



UFOs over Michigan skies

Two Michigan sources, Chuck Miller and Jeannette Silverman, each sent copies of UFO reports appearing in two Detroit newspapers. We've been aware that UFOs have been especially active in the Michigan skies the last 2/3 months but outside of a few quick mentions on a newscast here or there, we rarely get the lowdown! Thanks, you two!

In early March, the National Weather Service reported that its Muskegon radar picked up evidence of UFOs in the Muskegon-Grand Rapids area. But according to an article appearing in *The Detroit News*, they've since changed their tune, saying that there's no relation to the UFOs and the radar tracks. On March 8, at least a dozen residents reported large, dark shapes hovering at low altitudes in the night sky, whirring sounds and mysterious multi-colored lights that moved, stood still, then moved again at slow speed.

A weather service tracker trained radar on the objects after being notified by local police authorities of the UFO sightings and watched the objects zip 10 miles in just 10 seconds. During a conversation recorded with a 911 operator, the tracker said he saw "something big" on his radar.

"It's moving...and it looks like a big blob," he said. "Oh my god, what is that...now I'm getting three of them...it's something pretty solid, it's not precipitation or anything...they look like a

triangle on my scope." Later, he said the spots were too big to be planes.

Dean Gulezian, the weather service's area manager for Michigan and meteorologist in charge of a forecasting office in Ottawa County said although the radar did show some echoes, "one key thing is the eyewitnesses was these things at tree-top level," while the radar echoes were from an altitude of 10,000 feet or higher. Also, the objects were located over South Haven, more than 25 miles away, he said. So we weren't even seeing what people in Holland were seeing." Gulezian suggested that the echoes could have been caused by chaff (metallic foil used by military planes to foil radar detectors) or possibly, an airplane...

But William Scott of *Aviation Week and Space Magazine* said the possibility is "very strong" that some UFOs are top-secret military aircraft strutting their stuff." Scott believes the echoes could have been caused by one of a family of "concept" aircraft. Steve Douglass, a Texan with an unusual hobby, agrees. He stakes out clandestine defense bases and tweaks Radio Shack scanners and PCs to eavesdrop on radio transmissions between test pilots of top-secret military aircraft in flight and their ground controllers. Douglass is just one of many hobbyists who gather information on exotic airplanes unknown outside the inner sanctum of the Defense Department. These "black budget" aircraft never surface in congressional appropriations. They go by unofficial names such as Aurora, TR3A (Black Manta), Mother Ship, Honey Dripper, Goldie, etc. (The Aurora is speculated to be a billion-dollar, 5,000 mph, high-altitude spy plane that leaves a contrail behind

resembling a donut on a string — according to some reports, it can make abrupt changes in its flight path.)

Bill Sweetman, a journalist who specializes in aviation for *International Defense Review*, a *Jane's* publication, said the recent Michigan UFO descriptions fit most of the black-budget airplanes. Because there have been some consistent reports of large, slow-moving objects, he suggested they might actually be blimps!

A legal assistant and her husband reported seeing just such an object. They observed a huge shape for about two minutes. It flew slowly about 100 feet over the woods outside their home in the Holland area. "It had four lights," she said, and "made a soft, whirring noise. It sounded like a single jet engine." A police office from Holland investigated several reports of lights in the sky. "It was their color and movement that attracted me," he reported. He said the lights were moving to the southwest toward Lake Michigan. One light was green, the other was red, green and white. They did not flash or revolve. They kept standing still, then moving the couple they agreed they weren't seeing blimps!

An in-depth report about abductees in Michigan was the feature presentation in *The Detroit Free Press Magazine* of April 17, 1994.

Editor Brian Dickerson, in his *Upfront* column, finds the intriguing question to be

"I hope they're out there, really I do."

"What leads some people to become convinced they have been abducted by aliens?!" He believes



that they are ordinary human beings seeking to make sense of themselves and of anxieties so intense they cannot be explained... He postulates that these anxieties date back to infancy and are results of being afraid of the dark, being cold or hungry, or being left alone for a period of time without a parent or sibling.

Staff writer Sheryl James, who spent several weeks in the nervous company of Michiganders who believe they and their families have been abducted by aliens, says she doesn't know *what* to think anymore! She points out that those who discover new phenomena are almost always ridiculed at first. People laughed at Copernicus, too, but four centuries later we know it was the skeptics who were deluded.

James described one abductee as a happily married, churchgoing woman who has three children. She is well educated, well off — and convinced she and her children have been repeatedly abducted and experimented upon by extraterrestrial beings.

Janice insists she never has had any interest in UFOs, hasn't seen the movie "E.T." or "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." She has read no books about UFOs or alien abductions, had never heard of the phenomenon until she experienced it. *[This statement serves to make non-believers more comfortable. Had she admitted hearing about UFO abductions, or worse, reading a book about the subject, she certainly could not have been taken seriously!!! Of course, if her statement is true, perhaps Janice lived in a cave in Tibet for many years... -Ed.]*

Nevertheless, one evening in 1987, she looked out her window and saw a strange, luminous craft hovering nearby. She was terrified, but also drawn to it. She

grabbed her binoculars and went outside. She sensed that she had seen it before and had even been aboard it. The next few weeks she experienced flash backs of lying on a table, surrounded by beings, and she saw a fetus. Later, she saw a child, half-human. Janice believes she was used as an "incubator" and incredible as she knows it sounds, she wants that child.

James learned of an earlier Michigan case involving Steve and Sharon who have been married for 20 years. When they were dating in the mid-'60s, they saw a UFO hovering over some woods near, MI. They watched the UFO from about 200 feet away for an hour. "It looked like it would cover 20 acres of woods," Steve said. "It was huge, saucer-shaped and bright. When it dimmed, it was gray, and the shape was distinct. The craft emitted a humming sound, and when Steve drove his car in a circle around it, the craft glowed and his radio shorted — and the car nearly stalled.

Finally, two jets appeared. "They circled north of us, made a big turn and hit the afterburners. And the thing pulsated quickly, went straight up, followed the jets for five seconds and then shot up straight out of sight."

This past December, James attended a conference in Ann Arbor which was intended for mental health professionals in the area. She was able to meet and speak with Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs and Michael Swords. Swords is a professor of natural sciences at Western Michigan University and editor of the Journal for UFO Studies, published by the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago.

James learned that they are attempting to scientifically evaluate UFO-related phenomena. *Swords explained that most experts doubt the reality of alien abductions but not the sincerity of those who report them.*

"Research has established that alleged abductees are, for the most part, not consciously lying. They also are genuinely terrified."

James also learned that Philip Klass, the leading UFO/abduction debunker, refers to people who think they have seen UFOs and/or have been abducted are part of a "dangerous cult." He calls the entire phenomenon "New Age witchcraft."

James then contacted Holly Cogan. Cogan is a reporter living in Irish Hills, an area south of Jackson, MI and has talked with people in the area who sometimes get together and discuss their UFO experiences. "I don't see UFOs but that doesn't mean I don't believe these people," Cogan said. "They are regular, solid, Midwestern, rural resident. Irish Hills, it seems, has been the scene of UFO reports for more than 50 years.

Although Cogan hasn't seen UFOs, she has seen helicopters — as many as 17, often around the times people in the discussion group report having extra-terrestrial encounters. Thinking she might be seeing helicopter training flights, she contacted the Michigan National Guard/Army Aviation Support Facility in nearby Grand Ledge. She was told, however, that training is done in much smaller groups and not late at night.

James was able to meet and talk with Shirley Coyne, director of the Michigan MUFON. Coyne is a certified hypnotherapist who has worked with 300 abductees — attorneys, police officers, military

personnel, teachers, psychologists, housewives — in other words, *normal* people! She told James about her own experiences, first as a child, and then involving also her husband, George.

One night, while they were in bed, she and George saw a bright light approach. They ran outside to see it, then did not remember anything after that. Under hypnosis, she realized she'd been abducted.

A more recent experience involved an alien and a member of the U.S. military in uniform. She said others have reported seeing military people during abductions. Coyne also described helicopters that appear near her house for no apparent reason — black, of course, with no identifying numbers on them.

James says she does not laugh at stories of alien abductions — she is intrigued by reports of UFO sightings, scars and gynecological procedures. "Although I have met a few wannabe abductees, some New Age types who "weren't sure" they were abducted and one genuine kook, she's bewildered by those like Janice and Shirley Coyne. She thinks the only way she can be certain people are being abducted is to experience it herself. She mentioned this to some of the abductees adding, "Tell the aliens I'm ready," — but she admits this makes her more than a little nervous...!

The Solution...☺

Michigan State University psychologist Gary Stollak says that UFO sightings are the products of overripe imaginations. "Some people interpret things on the basis of their own needs."

"Students, for example, deprived of food for several days, then shown a card bearing the word 'flood,' often read it as 'food'. You show them a picture of a telephone pole and they will identify it as a banana," he explained.

Stollak speculates a "contagion" effect is sometimes present when people observe an unexplained phenomenon, whether it's a UFO or a religious vision.

People who, when alone, are quiet and reserved, he said, "get excited" when in a crowd, "the way people do at a baseball game. It creates a mob perception.

"People with this same need rush out to the water tower."

Thank you, noted psychologist.

On the other hand...☺

The UFO sightings in Holland, MI, a community which counts more than 40 churches for its 25,000 residents, has caused some to speculate that it could be a sign of the end of the world — or warfare among the angels.

A Christian rock station program manager said "These people believe in the supernatural, the sightings make us aware there are certain things you can't explain, and now the rest of the world has to pay attention to it."

"I do not find anything in the Bible that would cause us to worry or have fear from the UFOs."

Biblical passages have said that natural disasters, wars, famine and lights in the sky are signals that the end times are coming — an event when Jesus is supposed to reappear at the end of the world.

A station traffic director said she believes God had something to do with making the mysterious lights. "I don't believe there are aliens living on another planet," she said. "If God wants to make lights appear in the sky, then that's wonderful."

Some area ministers cautioned against applying supernatural interpretations.

"I do not find anything in the Bible that would cause us to worry or have fear from the UFOs" said Rev. Esler Stuart.

Whatever the theory, Holland residents don't write off their neighbors as wacky or insane. They believe the witnesses have seen something.

"They're mashed potatoes and gravy type people," said a church secretary. They don't make up a story just for the fun of it."



John E. Mack, Author, *Abductions*

Mack Meets Minnesota

After schmoozing with the local radio and TV hosts (including the dreaded Prozac-powered Barbara Carlson), John E. Mack, Pulitzer Prize winning psy-chiatrist and Harvard professor, appeared at Barnes & Noble on April 29 for a book-signing session.

Originally scheduled to appear between 7 and 9 PM, Mack

arrived early on the scene at approximately 6 pm, causing much chagrin to MUFON members in attendance. Some of us arrived too late to meet with Mack.

A small crowd gathered around Mack and "Julia," one of the abduction experiencers traveling with him. Mack gave a brief summary of how he first became interested in the abduction phenomenon and how, after working with a great number of experiencers, it caused him to realize that it forces us to reexamine our perception of human identity — to look at who we are from a cosmic perspective.

"Julia" shared her own UFO sighting and abduction experiences as well as those of her children and even her formerly skeptical husband!

Later, Mack autographed copies of *Abduction* and as he did so, often asked "Well, what do you think of all this?!" Answers varied from "Wow! I'm a believer!" to "I'm really not sure."

Mack was taken to task in a recent *TIME* article in which a freelance Boston reporter told of her hoaxed hypnosis sessions with Mack. Donna Bassett had become curious about him after hearing tales from former patients that accused Mack "strip-mining" them and not offering any follow-up support.

She told of an encounter with John F. Kennedy and Nikita Krushchev on board a spaceship... Krushchev was crying.

Using what she called a "type of method acting," Bassett attended three hypnotic sessions with Mack (held, she said, in a bedroom in

his home) during which she told concocted stories of a great-great grandmother who saw "little people" and an alien playmate who visited Bassett when she was a child.

During one session, Bassett "remembered" a meeting with John F. Kennedy and Nikita Krushchev in a spaceship. Krushchev was crying.

"I sat in his lap, and I put my arms around his neck, and I told him it would be okay." Mack became so excited, Bassett says, that he "leaned on the bed too heavily, and it collapsed!"

Mack was not above asking leading questions that reflected his bias, Bassett reports. [Score an "I gotcha" for the Klassophiles...]

Later, at a support group session, Bassett confronted Mack about mixing research and therapy. Mack's reply was "*That I can't do everything that each person needs does not mean that what I'm doing is not therapeutic. There are too many of you, and I'm also doing research.*"

Another experiencer, who left the sessions, said Mack had a hidden agenda. "He was against anybody who said anything negative about the aliens. Once he said to me, '*If you think the aliens are bad, keep thinking about it until you realize they are good.*'"

When confronted by *TIME* about Bassett's faked abduction experience, Mack declined to discuss her case but hinted that he had doubts about her reliability all along. According to *TIME*, the tapes of her sessions leave little doubt he took her seriously.

As to scoffers who debunk hypnosis as proof positive a thing really happened, Mack says "*The attacks on hypnosis didn't begin until it began to reveal information that the culture didn't want to hear.*"

Mack added "*I don't know why people have such trouble simply accepting the fact that something unusual is going on here... We have lost the faculties to know other realities that other cultures still can know. The world no longer has spirit, has soul, is sacred. We've lost all that ability to know a world beyond the physical... I am a bridge between those two worlds.*"

Mack's book is an interesting read, no matter which side of the fence you sit on — a believer or a doubter about the use of hypnosis as a reliable method to arrive at forgotten truths.

High livin' on the sly

Just because the 2,000 or so civilian and military personnel working at Groom Lake were fighting the Cold War didn't mean they couldn't enjoy a cold one!

A favorite watering hole was Building 170, referred to as "Sam's Place" in a base directory, according to a source.

The club had four pool tables and a big screen TV where they watched porno flicks — until some of the ladies complained.

The rec complex boasted an 8-lane bowling alley, a heated indoor pool, four racquetball courts, saunas, a golf course and a lighted softball field!

Some colonels had extravagant tastes — one had grapefruits flown in from Israel at \$25 a piece!

Prime rib and New York steaks were often on the lunch menu. "They used to serve frog legs, king crab and filet mignon at no charge," the source said. He compared the lifestyles of some at the base to high rollers in Las Vegas at the government's expense.



MINNESOTA MUFON

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MINNESOTA MUFON meets the second Saturday of each month, unless notified of change.

Your contributions to this Newsletter are welcomed and appreciated. If you have something you'd like to have included in a future issue, contact:

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 their eyes and ears open and forward the
 news to the editor!*

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Meetings! Meetings! Meetings!**Paranormal Study Group**

No meetings until September.

Kudos to Wally Moe who initiated the Study Group and has been a dedicated and knowledgeable Director.

Welcome to Wells Horvored who volunteered his time and efforts for the new season!

Theosophical Society

Sorry, no meetings until further notice.

Study classes are continuing. For information, call Peter Morris • 926-1393

International Tesla Society

May 21 and June 18

Pavek Wireless Museum
 3515 Raleigh Ave. • St. Louis Park
 1:00 to 5:00 PM

Electronics Fair 1994

July 15, 16

Ham and Computer Flea Market
 Aldrich Arena • St. Paul

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"Visitors From Within" by Priest & Royal

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