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Directors Report

By Bill McNeff, State Director, MN MUFON

THE BASICS OF UFOs

At the last Minnesota MUFON meeting, two couples attended as first-time visitors. The wives were interested in UFOs, but the men had little interest, were not familiar with the authors discussed in the book reviews, etc. and were left frustrated. As a result, all four left at the break. This made me realize that, if we want MUFON to grow, perhaps at each meeting where new people are present we should have a presentation of the basic facts and theories about UFOs and ETs. This article is an attempt to meet this need for people relatively new to the UFO subject.

UFOs first came to wide public attention on June 24, 1947 when a private pilot, Kenneth Arnold, reported seeing nine strange aircraft while he was flying over the Cascades. He described the motion of these craft as like "saucers skipping over water", and the term "flying saucers" was born. Over the next few days, a number of sightings of disc-shaped craft were made, and a man in New Mexico took two pictures of a craft shaped like a shoe heel. On the morning of July 8, a spokesman for the Roswell Army Air Field in New Mexico released a statement to the press that said, "The many rumors regarding the flying discs became a reality yesterday when the intelligence office of the 509th Bomb Group....was fortunate enough to gain possession of a disc though the cooperation of one of the local ranchers and the Sheriff's office of Chaves County....the disc was picked up at the ranchers home and subsequently loaned by Major Marcel to higher headquarters." Late in the afternoon, General Roger Ramey at the Fort Worth Army Air Field announced that it had all been a mistake and it was merely the wreckage of a weather balloon. The press accepted this explanation, and the incident quickly was forgotten by most of the public. But the Air Force was charged with investigating reports of strange craft, and coined the term "Unidentified Flying Object", which was shortened to UFO.

UFOs continued to be reported and stories of crashes and dead aliens made the rounds. In 1950, Frank Scully, a variety columnist, published a book about a crashed disc with small aliens aboard, all dead. It quickly became a best seller, but in 1952, True magazine published an article stating the story was a hoax. However, the Scully affair led to questions and some extraordinary answers at a 1950 Washington meeting. A group of Canadian government scientists and engineers conferred with Robert I. Sarbacher, a physicist associated with the U.S. Defense Department. One, Wilbert Smith, asked if there were any truth to stories such as those in Scully's book, about crashed and recovered UFOs. Sarbacher said there was, adding, "We have not been able to duplicate their performance...and it's pretty certain they didn't originate on the earth. The subject, he said "is classified two points higher even than the H-bomb. In fact, it is the most highly classified subject in the U.S. government at the present time." He would say no more. Smith wrote a memo containing Sarbacher's statements.

Minnesota Mufon Meetings

Sat., Jan. 13th

&

Sat., Feb. 10th

1:30-4:45pm

Room 120, Fairview Center
at 1910 West Co. Rd. B,
Roseville, MN 651-415-2100

PARK FREE!

The building is designated as
non-smoking.

See map on back cover

Note: This building has no
special security or elevators,
so you can come and go as
you please and smoke
outdoors.



In the early 1980s Canadian researcher Arthur Bray found the memo in Smith's files, and subsequently Sarbacher confirmed to several inquirers that he had said these things. While Sarbacher was hazy on details due to the elapsed time, he remembered that the recovered debris was "extremely light and very tough", which is the way witnesses have described the Roswell debris. He also stated that his recollection was that the aliens were constructed like certain insects on earth. (Credit: The UFO Book, by Jerome Clark, a leading anomaly researcher) Sarbacher, who died in 1986, was one of the most important witnesses associated with the government to confirm the reality of UFOs and ETs.

Major Donald Keyhoe, (Marine Corp, ret.), became interested in the reports of UFOs. He wrote several articles and books on the subject, and founded one of the two biggest and most effective of the civilian UFO research organizations of the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1948, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, an astronomer, was hired by the Air Force as a scientific consultant to study UFOs. He served in that capacity for 20 years. Although initially skeptical, the weight of the evidence caused him to change his mind about the importance of UFOs. He authored and co-authored several books on UFOs, and founded the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), one of the two largest non-government UFO research groups today.

In 1966, a flurry of sightings erupted in Michigan. Two in particular got national attention. The Air Force (AF) sent Dr. Hynek to investigate. A day or so later, as the press clamored for an investigation, the AF sent him a telegram saying "You will hold a press conference and provide some explanations for what these people may be seeing." Since one of the sightings had been made over a swamp and the other over a low, wet area, he told the press that these people might have seen swamp gas. The press picked this up as the official explanation, but doubts arose. Swamp gas jokes made the rounds, and the furor contributed to the Air Force decision to call for a "scientific investigation" of UFOs to settle the issue and take the heat off of them. In the course of time, half a million dollars was awarded to the University of Colorado to conduct the study under the direction of Dr. Edward U. Condon, a well-known physicist. But the study soon ran into trouble. Dr. Condon acted as if his mission was to bury the subject, not study it, and he went around the country giving speeches indicating that considering UFOs to be real was ludicrous. Project members who opposed Condon's approach were fired. When the Colorado Project issued its long-awaited report, the press read Dr. Condon's conclusion that "study of UFOs is not likely to advance science" and accepted it without doing

their homework. If they had read the entire report, they would have discovered that a number of cases showing strong evidence of the reality of strange craft were documented. For example, a pair of photos of a UFO taken in 1950 by a farm couple near McMinnville, Ore., were analyzed by scientist William Hartman. He wrote: "all factors investigated appear to be consistent with....an extraordinary flying object, silvery, metallic, disk-shaped, tens of meters in diameter....[which] flew within sight of two witnesses." In other words, there was no reason not to believe this couple.

In 1961, Barney and Betty Hill had a close range sighting of a strange craft in New Hampshire, and unaccountably got home much later than they should have. After they had dreams of "aliens" in the craft, a Boston psychiatrist used hypnotic regression to unlock their memories, and they gave dovetailing accounts of being taken aboard an alien craft. Researchers discovered that many witnesses could not remember what happened immediately after seeing UFOs at close range. After his own sighting, famous New York artist Budd Hopkins investigated and wrote about this phenomenon in Missing Time.

David Jacobs investigated many such cases and documented some of them in Secret Life. He began to get what he felt was important and possibly frightening information about the alleged alien agenda: they were conducting a program to merge alien and human genetics, with a possible goal of replacing mankind with a "hybrid" being. (See his book The Threat.) Ray Fowler, a project manager for Raytheon, investigated many cases and wrote several books, including three about the Andreasson/Luca case, which offers an alternate explanation of the alien's agenda.

A respected Harvard psychiatrist John Mack began to investigate these cases and came to feel that there is an important phenomenon taking place. He wrote about thirteen fascinating cases in Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens. He found himself in trouble with the Harvard administration after writing that we may need to revise our views of reality. After a review of his work, they in affect told him "Be careful!"

Many of the researchers and authors I have mentioned have doctoral degrees. More and more scientists are becoming interested in this phenomenon. Alleged physical evidence is accumulating, and some of it strongly points to extraterrestrial origins. Investigations of the very important Roswell case have revealed over 300 first-, second- and third-hand witnesses. One of the most important witnesses of all, Maj. Jesse Marcel, the Roswell Base Intelligence Officer, is on record on audiotape and videotape as saying the Roswell wreckage was not of this world. He also told a high

school student who interviewed him that he had not told everything he knew. Photographs of General Roger Ramey and the alleged "weather balloon" wreckage, taken during a photo session July 8, 1947 with a Fort Worth reporter, show him holding a paper in his hand. Blowups and computer analysis of the characters on this paper have yielded the phrase "VICTIMS OF THE WRECK" and other wording implying a crashed craft and the presence of alien bodies. Another important witness, General Arthur E. Exon, has come forward. He was assigned to Air Material Command at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. He told how material from the crash came to Wright and was tested. Some of it, he said, was very thin but couldn't be dented with heavy hammers. He also told of flying over the crash scene on the ranch and seeing wreckage strung out from southeast to northwest; he also flew over the separate impact site, where he was told, bodies had been found. Good books on Roswell have been written by Kevin Randle, Donald Schmitt and Stanton Friedman. A respected Army officer, Col. Philip Corso, wrote a controversial book on the subject.

Around the world, reports of UFOs have been made by many respected citizens. Reports by police and pilots have been of special interest. Pilots, however, have been discouraged from making public reports by subtle pressure from airline companies and the FAA.

Investigations in Minnesota in the past few years have documented reports of flying triangles and spheres at close range, a tear-drop shaped object partly covered with orange "flames", and a 1979 encounter of two women with small, grey-skinned, large-headed creatures with large black eyes (known as "greys"). Videos of unidentified flying objects and photos of possible alien hand prints have also been received.

This summary only scratches the surface of what has happened and is happening. We may or may not be close to the solution of the UFO/ET mystery. Stay tuned.

EMBLA team observe triangle over Hessdalen By Frits Westra -- fwestra@hetnet.nl

Last August, a scientific team of Italian and Norwegian scientists called EMBLA carried out an impressive instrumental expedition to Hessdalen, Norway. Dr. Teodorani and his EMBLA team deserve our congratulations for this effort. The Hessdalen valley is known for its anomalous light phenomena since the early 80s. Since a few years Erling Strand of Project Hessdalen uses an automatic observation station in Hessdalen. A report of the EMBLA expedition (in .pdf format) and their interesting observations and measurements can be found here:

<http://www.nidsci.org/articles/pdf/hessdalen.pdf>

Non-pdf version here:

http://www.itacomm.net/PH/embla/embla_e.htm

The EMBLA team observed quite some anomalous activity over the Hessdalen valley last August. I found one of their most remarkable sightings this one of a dark triangle:

TYPE 5: Three co-moving lights in the sky: the "Triangle". Distance: undetermined, Direction: from south to north, Position: moving in the sky from 20 deg (low over horizon) up to 80 deg along a maximum circle which was close to the zenith, Speed: about 30 deg/min, Color: white-yellow, Noise: none, Duration: 2-3 minutes, Regime of motion: complex of 3 co-moving lights in an exact triangular disposition, which first moved linearly and slowly towards the observers, then stopped for 5-10 seconds at an height of about 80 deg while doing a 90 deg rotation around its axis, lastly slowly disappeared (about over the observers vertical), Number of Events: 1, Luminosity: slowly changing from Jupiter-like intensity to star-like intensity, Shape: point-like lights disposed in a geometrical configuration (exact equilateral triangle) - underlying dark triangular object visible with binoculars, Radioactivity: normal level, Height above ground: undetermined, Angular Dimensions of the Triangular Complex: 3-5 deg, Time: 24.00 - 24.15, Witnesses: 4 (2 groups), Sighting Locations: Aspåskjölen and near Finnsåhögda. Report type: visual, binocular, intensified/IR and Geiger.

Ringmakers of Saturn Fortean Times 138, October 2000, pp. 30-33

When a respected space scientist makes a case for the intervention of huge alien machines in our solar system, you'd expect his colleagues to sit up and take notice. You'd be wrong. Don Ecker interviews Dr Norman Bergrun about his astonishing claim and why it has been greeted with ominous silence from his establishment colleagues.

It is difficult to find 'mainstream' scientists who will publicly discuss the subject of UFOs rationally or objectively. Generally, there seems to be a built-in prejudice among academically-trained scientists when UFOs are discussed. But sometimes there are exceptions. One such exceptional scientist is Dr Norman Bergrun, author of The Ringmakers of Saturn.

I first heard of the book in early 1988. It had recently been published, and I was eager to read it because its author made the startling claim that detectable activity in the vicinity of the planet Saturn seemed to be under intelligent direction. Dr Bergrun made a credible case for his discovery of 'huge' artificial objects that were

operating within the rings of the planet. Although the book had been printed in 1986 - by the Pentland Press, Edinburgh - it was almost impossible to locate in the United States.

In November 1991, I was invited to appear on CNN's Larry King Live and took the opportunity to show publicly, for the first time, a photograph I had recently obtained from Dr Marina Popovich of the Russian Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Popovich was a retired colonel in the old Soviet Air Force, a cosmonaut, and the most decorated female aviator in the world. Her former husband had been General Pavel Popovich, himself a Soviet space hero. The photograph in question was taken by the Soviet probe Phobos 2 on its way to Mars.

What made it so unusual was the fact that, according to some in the Russian Space Agency, it showed a huge anomalous object – 25 kilometres (15.5 miles) long and one kilometre (550 yards) in diameter - which apparently manoeuvred toward their probe and destroyed it.

Other striking anomalies were observed on this joint NASA-USSR mission, but the huge unknown object, photographed by the Phobos probe prior to destruction, was the strangest. At that time, I thought it would be impossible to encounter UFOs larger than this. I was wrong.

In October 1999, I finally tracked down Norman Bergrun and got a copy of his book. After I reviewed it for UFO Magazine (US), Dr Bergrun agreed to be interviewed regarding his conclusion that huge artificial 'machines' are operating in our solar system. This is what he had to say...

Don Ecker (DFE): Your book, The Ringmakers of Saturn, was not an easy read, nor was it easy to find. But for someone like me, interested in the anomalies of the solar system in relation to UFOs, it's an invaluable tool.

Norman Bergrun (NB): Correct. It's important to really take your time and go through it. If you're looking for entertainment, this is not the book to have.

DFE: During World War II, you were working for the huge American defence firm McDonnell Douglas.

NB: I started working there after college. Then I went up to Ames Lab at Moffitt Field, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which was the precursor to NASA. From there I went to Lockheed.

I was a research scientist at Ames, flying around in clouds, doing icing research work. I've seen a lot of weather. I built an electromagnetic wind tunnel, which later led into the work I did on my book. At Lockheed I was responsible for flight-test analysis of the Polaris missile system.

DFE: The military was doing a lot of testing with missile systems back then, incorporating what they'd learned from the captured German V-2 rockets.

NB: On the Polaris project, we had a fellow named Willy Fiedler, who was a key designer of the missile. He worked on the V-2 during the war. Hitler visited Peenemunde on a Monday and wanted rockets hitting England by the following week, or else. Willy came up with a control system that had to be manually operated, so he ended up flying in one of those things.

DFE: A manned flight. He had gauges on board and was able to see all the forces at work, and from that he was able to come up with an automated system.

DFE: You're obviously well grounded in scientific principle and theory.

NB: I've had a pretty good workout.

DFE: Most mainstream scientists will not discuss the subject of UFOs in public, though privately they admit there's something to it. But they're worried about their careers and reputations.

NB: Correct. At Stanford, if you don't have tenure and you mention this subject, you're out.

DFE: Isn't that academic fascism?

NB: It sure is.

DFE: Isn't science supposedly to study the unexplained, not explain the unstudied?

NB: Philosophically, that's correct. But in real life, no. There's a party line out there, and they're not about to have it fractured.

DFE: Did you ever have an interest in the subject of UFOs, before you began researching the Voyager photographs?

NB: When I was at Lockheed, we had classified work to do. Behind closed doors, we used to look at and discuss a lot of different things, one of which was the possibility of UFOs. We kicked the subject around for quite a while and decided that it didn't seem possible, based on the physics we knew then. My book says

there's now some different physics at work out there, something that's capable of immense power. That wasn't a consideration back then.

I was once vacationing near Monterey Bay, California, in September 1971. Every day a US Navy helicopter would fly along the same route nearby. One day around noon, I saw a shimmering bright light in the same area. I thought it was another Navy helicopter travelling the usual route. But it seemed to hover at a distance and it took on motions that made me realize it was no helicopter. I grabbed some binoculars and a camera and got a good look at it. It was one of those cylindrical objects, and it performed for me.

I could see azure-blue flames at each end, which looked to me like an airplane's engine cowl; it was aerodynamically superb. Streamers came out lengthwise from this thing and joined together like a wishbone. The streamers were light yellow-green and tapered. They looked like what physicists call a 'pinched plasma'. There was a projection on one side that looked like a wing or a cross, with another streamer, something like a flame, surrounding an interior black bar, ending in a rectangular device.

DFE: What was the duration of your sighting?

NB: Not more than a minute.

DFE: And your reaction to the whole experience?

NB: Very straightforward. I had been around rockets and knew how you manipulated forces to get them to work. It was obvious to me that this thing was a space ship. I was privy to everything the United States had, and this was not ours.

There was a fellow over at Stanford who, at the time, collected these various sightings reports and shared them with his colleagues. I told them what I had seen. I also told my congressman. I had worked on one of his steering committees before, so he and I knew each other well. He wasn't a believer, but he believed what I reported because he knew I didn't make things like that up.

That's where things stood until I saw the Voyager 1 and 2 encounter photos with Saturn. I spent a lot of time studying the returns from both missions. The statements the Voyager scientists were making didn't correlate at all with what I was seeing. For instance, during Voyager 1, the spokesman said that the space between the A and B rings - the Cassini Division - was pure space.

On the Voyager 2 photos, that space was filled up. It was obvious to me the spokesman was fumbling with his script, not knowing what to say about this because it was against the party line. I've had enough experience in the business to know when somebody doesn't know what they're talking about. At that point I decided that this was fair game for analysis. That's when I made up my mind to really get into it.

DFE: Do you believe the scientists are unaware of all this or that they've been ordered not to talk about it?

NB: I can tell you how things work at a government lab. During the icing experiments I conducted while at NACA (forerunner of NASA), officials from the airplane companies would come in and want to know specific factors and numbers involved so they could design heating systems to overcome those conditions. You'd have to be very careful in what you told them because you didn't want to give them the wrong numbers since it would cost a lot of money to fix any mistakes. So you would put them off, saying "we're not talking about that yet". That was our policy. The same thing has happened with this material. The scientists have chosen not to talk about it. I believe they're aware of these anomalies but are no closer to explaining them now than they were back then.

DFE: What caused you to look at these Voyager photographs in the first place?

NB: Scientific curiosity based on my previous experiences. Around 1981, I bought all the transparencies and slides that were publicly available and started going through them. I found this one plate - plate number three, NASA SP-451, Voyager's Pictures of Saturn - and I looked at it under a microscope, along with comparison photos from Voyager 2. You couldn't trace the rings all the way around Saturn.

On plate five, for example, showing the Cassini Division, it's quite obvious there's nothing much to speak off between the rings except some curious streamers and 'exhaust'. And the 'A' ring looks awfully narrow to me. It should measure out to be three to four times the width of the Cassini Division, but it's barely more than one Cassini Division length. The 'A' ring is not all there, radially - why is that?

Because there's something [else] there - an artifact of some sort that's 'making' the ring. And that's how my book got its title, The Ringmakers of Saturn.

DFE: What was the original size of the photograph you studied?

NB: A 35mm transparency.

DFE: And there was no good NASA explanation for what you were seeing on the original plate, NASA SP-451?

NB: That's right. The only official comment on this plate and the comparison photos was that the Voyager 2 rings look brighter than the Voyager 1 rings.

DFE: Did you bring your analysis to your associates at NASA?

NB: Oh, yes. A former associate of mine at Lockheed had later gone to work at Ames and had become chief scientist there. I went to see him and showed him what I had found. His explanation was that it looked like an "energy roll". Remembering my sighting experience - in which I had seen 'exhaust' like this before - I deferred my judgement out of respect to him. He certainly didn't try to talk me down, rather he referred me to a specialist.

The specialist did try to talk me down. He said that on plate five, the picture had been "cut off", and that's why I couldn't trace the ring. In rebuttal, I pointed out the light source - the blue dot - on the photo. The same back and forth happened on all the photographs I showed him. It was the kind of response I expected. I showed him the last photo and by then he just gave up. He said this was something "we just don't talk about".

I told him that this was the first statement he had made all day that made any sense. Again, having worked at Ames before and being in a similar position myself, I understood his position completely.

DFE: This, in effect, was an admission that certain individuals within NASA know that somebody is out there?

NB: That's true.

DFE: There are stories circulating now on the Internet that, from the mid-1970s to the present, the National Security Agency has been launching highly secret deep space probes within our solar system. What do you know about this?

NB: I worked in government during that time, so it's a period I know something about. I had a high security clearance then and was on top of all that stuff. To my knowledge, we did not have any deep space probes flying at that juncture.

DFE: How do you view NASA today?

NB: I understand that Dan Goldin (NASA Administrator) had the goal of taking this country to

Mars. Everything else be damned, including the facts. He seems to have squandered any other opportunity. That bugs me.

DFE: Goldin took over NASA during the Bush administration, coming over from TRW [the American defence contractor Thompson, Ramo, Woolridge]. When the Clinton administration took over, Goldin was the only appointee who was kept on. Regardless of all the failures that have occurred - especially with regard to Mars - he's stayed on. If this had happened in private industry, would heads have rolled by now?

NB: That's not what people get fired for. They get fired for going against the party line.

DFE: You know the joke, that NASA stands for Never A Straight Answer?

NB: They're very good at coming up with stories, or attacking those asking the questions. I meet with NASA types regularly, and they're well practiced in speaking 'Washington-ese'.

DFE: The objects you claim to see in the rings of Saturn are immense. Have you seen the photographs taken during the Russian's Phobos II mission to Mars, of the huge object that was supposed to have destroyed the probe?

NB: Yes. The size of that thing was like 25 kilometres (15.5 miles) long. That's about the size of an object I found near Miranda (one of Saturn's moons), and it fits perfectly with some other things I know. I've analyzed the Phobos picture and have come up with a different answer from the Russians.

DFE: This suggests that there are operational bases in our solar system.

NB: I think that's true, especially with regard to Saturn. I consider its rings to be a polluted parking lot. I can't tell you exactly what's going on, but I do know that Saturn is harboring a number of 'units'. There's evidence in the rings of Jupiter, too.

DFE: When you discovered the Saturn photograph anomalies and became convinced there was intelligence behind them, it must have been a fearful discovery. Did you approach anyone else with your findings?

NB: No. I made my decision early on how I was going to handle it. Instead of looking to convince government entities - which from experience I knew wouldn't work - I decided first to try to get an American publisher for my book. Of course, no one would touch it. I had a contact in the United Kingdom, and the more I thought

about it, the more I realized that this would be the ideal way to deal with it.

The UK is always bugging the US on everything and I was sure they would take the book... and they did. As a consequence, the information has been spread all over Europe. I've also talked about the book quite a bit on radio programmes here in the States. It's been quite awhile since the book came out, and I've been doing other research.

DFE: Have you considered updating the book?

NB: I have a lot of new material. I've wanted to do a follow-up but have hesitated since people seem more interested in what's going on closer to home. Saturn is so far away. That's why, instead, I wrote a book about the Moon called *Earth's Moon: Why We Never Returned*. I have a draft completed.

DFE: That should be extremely interesting. Most people look up at the Moon and don't give it a second thought. They've been conditioned to think it's an airless, lifeless body. Yet it seems apparent that the Moon is also an operational base.

NB: It's quite evident there's life there ... a lot of activity.

DFE: If it's true, as some suggest, that an alien intelligence has been here on Earth longer than recorded history, then the accounts of early humans interacting with 'gods' may have a basis in reality.

NB: Yes. But even the best accounts and research can't prove it. I'm interested in data that's irrefutable and indisputable; this is where it takes you, this is what it tells you, pay attention!

DFE: Do you ever think the admission that we are not alone in the Universe will come through official channels, especially with the national security operation that's been in effect?

NB: Yes, if you push hard enough, if you can back these guys into a corner. You have to be relentless and keep pushing. You have to educate the constituents of the elected officials so they can go in and beat on their desks. That's the way it's got to be done.

I have faith in some government people; some of them can help. But we need to provide them with the right material and we have to say it in the right way. We're not going to make headway if we start by criticizing the heck out of them, which is the way some people like to play the game. You have to know the right words to say.

REFERENCES

George H Leonard, *Somebody Else is on the Moon* (1976)
Paul R Hill, *Unconventional Flying Objects, A Scientific Analysis* (1995)
Donald E Keyhoe, *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy* (1955)

RECOMMENDED SURFING

UFO Magazine (US): <http://www.ufomag.com>
Lunascan Project:
<http://www.evansville.net/~slk/lunascan.html>

ISU SCIENTIST ON TEAM THAT FINDS COMPELLING EVIDENCE OF ANCIENT LIFE ON MARS

Iowa State University

Contacts: Dennis Bazylnski, Microbiology, (515) 294-2561, Teddi Barron, News Service, (515) 294-4778
December 12, 2000

AMES, Iowa -- An Iowa State University professor is part of a research team that has found compelling evidence that Mars once supported primitive life. The researchers discovered evidence of bacteria in a Martian meteorite. Tiny magnetite crystals -- so called magnetofossils -- embedded in the meteorite were confirmed to be the type produced only by a biological process unique to magnetotactic bacteria.

Dennis Bazylnski, associate professor of microbiology, was one of nine researchers conducting the four-year investigation, which was funded by NASA's Astrobiology Institute. A report of their research is in the December issue of the scientific journal, "Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta." [http://www.elsevier.nl/cgi-bin/cas/tree/store/gca/cas_sub/browse/browse.cgi?year=2000&volume=64&issue=23&aid=2555]

"Finding these type of magnetic crystals in any material from another planet is an amazing and important finding," said Bazylnski. He leads one of the few labs capable of culturing these magnet-producing bacteria, which are common in many freshwater and marine environments on Earth.

The researchers studied the magnetite crystals that were located in carbonates in the Martian meteorite. The 4.5 billion year-old meteorite was found in Antarctica in 1984. Earlier research has confirmed that the carbonates formed on Mars, signaling that the magnetite crystals also were formed on Mars.

Magnetite crystals produced by magnetotactic bacteria are chemically pure and generally defect free and have a distinctive size and shape.

Their properties are so unusual that they have only been seen in magnetite crystals produced through biological processes by organisms. The researchers discovered that about one-fourth of the magnetites in the meteorite are identical to the magnetites produced by a strain of magnetotactic bacteria called MV-1, which have been isolated and studied extensively by Bazylinski.

"There is currently no known chemical means of producing these magnetite crystals with their unique morphologies," Bazylinski said. "The significance to astrobiology and geobiology is that many scientists have been searching for 'biomarkers' for life, that is, chemical, isotopic, and/or mineral indications that life was present, either in extreme habitats or in ancient materials on Earth and, of course, now in extraterrestrial materials. The need for biomarkers is obvious and these magnetite crystals might prove to be an excellent biomarker."

Since the team began the research in 1996, observations from the Mars Global Surveyor have indicated that Mars had a strong magnetic field at about time that the carbonate containing the unique magnetites was formed.

"Now we are trying to answer the question of whether magnetotactic bacteria could have actually lived on Mars," Bazylinski said. "And we have found certain aspects of their metabolism which suggest that they might have been able to do so."

The journal "Science" recently published research showing evidence of widespread sediment layers on Mars, which the researchers interpret to be the product of many lakes. Because these lakes may have provided a habitat for magnetotactic bacteria, this finding supports the possibility that the bacteria may have existed on Mars, Bazylinski said. In addition to Bazylinski, the scientists are Kathie Thomas-Keprta, Simon Clemett, and Susan Wentworth, Lockheed Martin at Johnson Space Center; David McKay and Everett Gibson, NASA/JSC; Joseph Kirschvink, California Institute of Technology; H. Vali, McGill University, Montreal; and Christopher Romanek, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory.

Note to Editors: A jpeg photo of Bazylinski is available by e-mailing: tbarron@iastate.edu

Life Found In Australian Meteorite Phenomena Research Australia [PRA]

PROFESSOR HOOVER MELBOURNE LECTURE:
Professor Richard Hoover, head of NASA's astrobiology unit at the "Marshall Space Flight Centre" in the US

delivered a public lecture on Friday 15 December called "Microbio-logical life in the cosmos" at Melbourne University (1).

The lecture centred on possible Alien life in the Murchison Meteorite that crashed in Victoria, Australia in 1969. Minuscule fossilised organisms (bacterial) were found inside the Meteorite. He said these organisms are "indigenous" to the meteorite. Although there has been debate on possible contamination of the original sample. Professor Hoover's research showed promising verification of extraterrestrial life in the Murchison Meteorite. He said that due to innovative technology, the Victorian Murchison Meteorite shows alien life that was previously missed.

In his lecture, Hoover demonstrated powerful proof of bacterial cells, which show plausible detection to the origin of life in the solar system. The 1996 proclamation of microfossils in a Mars meteorite found in Antarctica are very similar to those in this sample.

THE METEORITE FALL IN 1969

Approximately 100kg of rock fell over the township of Murchison, NE of Melbourne, Victoria and 30km south of Shepparton at 10.58 on Sunday morning, September 18, 1969. The largest fragment collected weighed approximately 7kg. The meteorite contains high temperature and low temperature minerals, water, as well as organic molecules such as amino acids.

Classified as a carbonaceous chondrite, type II (CM2), this meteorite is suspected to be of cometary origin due to its high water content of 12%. An abundance of amino acids found. More than 92 different amino acids have been identified within the Murchison meteorite. Nineteen of these are found on Earth. The remaining amino acids have no apparent terrestrial source. Scientists believe the 4.6 billion-year-old meteorite may have broken from a comet or asteroid 800,000 years ago, before plunging into the central Victorian town.

"The Murchison forms are interpreted to represent an indigenous population of the preserved and altered carbonised remains (microfossils) of micro-organisms that lived in the parent body of this meteorite". (2) "Extremophiles" are microorganisms that live in extreme environments such as deep ice under Antarctica, hot geysers, hydrothermal vents, and even spent nuclear fuel rods. At the lecture, Professor Hoover's electron microscope imaging of the structures inside the Murchison meteorite are similar to Earth extremophiles.

NEW DONATIONS

The Museum of Victoria has donated eight more samples of the Murchison meteorite to Professor

Richard Hoover, NASA's astrobiology unit at the "Marshall Space Flight Centre" for further research.

OTHER EVIDENCE

At preset Professor Hoover reports that NASA is studying about six other meteorites believes to also hold microfossils. Not all the result have been published in a scientific journal, however, the Journal of Palaeontology covers the subject in detail.

"Since the 1960s, when Bart Nagy published his photos, sceptics have invoked a 'Catch-22' against microfossils in meteorites. If they look earthly, they're judged to be contaminants. If they don't look earthly, they're deemed nonbiological altogether. In all versions of panspermia, earthly germs will resemble cosmic germs to which they are related." (3)

"The same charge, contamination, was made against the left-handed amino acids in Murchison, in the 1990s. Subsequent isotopic analysis proved they are indigenous."(3)

Professor Hoover reported to the audience that the Murchison meteorite was promptly picked up in precise collections by scientists and placed in a controlled compilation to reduce contamination. He said that all reports that the deposits were of fungus contamination was wrong. "I have found doing the research a whole sweep of large structures that I am convinced are biological structures within carbonaceous chondrite,(4)... There is, in my opinion, strong evidence of biogenicity in meteorite cores. We have evidence of cell walls, things that look like cyanobacteria and purple sulphur bacteria," (5)

Professor Hoover, NASA astrobiologist left Melbourne on the 17th of Dec 2000 with the 8 new Murchison Meteorite samples from the Museum of Victoria.

John W. Auchettl - Director PRA Research

DR Ron Barnett - Deputy Director

PRA Website:

<http://members.aol.com/praufo/PRA1/Pra1.htm>

Reference:

1. Melbourne University, Lecture Theatre, Old Pathology.

<http://www.unimelb.edu.au/ExtRels/Media/UN/archive/2000/545/whatson.html>

2. Hoover, Richard B. "Meteorites, Microfossils, and Exobiology," in Instruments, Methods, and Missions for the Investigation of Extraterrestrial Microorganisms, Richard B. Hoover, Editor, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 3111, p 115-136 (1997).

3. <http://www.panspermia.org/whatsne12.htm#%20000127btxt>

4. Carbonaceous chondrites are meteorites with a numerous atoms carbon in them.

5. Williams, Vanessa - " Fossils found in Victorian meteor", Herald Sun, Melbourne, Australia, 12/18/00, p1 & p6.

Thanks To:

1. Melbourne University Faculty Of Science:

<http://www.science.unimelb.edu.au/>

2. Williams, Vanessa - Herald Sun, Melbourne, Australia.

3. News Limited - Herald Sun - Melbourne Australia.

4. Melbourne Museum, Museum Victoria.

Phenomena Research Australia [PRA]

P.O. Box 523, Mulgrave, Victoria, Australia, 3170

Local Reports of Interest

By Bill McNeff, MN MUFON SD

EXPERIENCES OF "SHERRY"

The following is a preliminary report based on notes taken during a telephone interview on 9-18-00. The witness lives in Minneapolis, is a coworker of my wife, and holds a responsible position in the organization. William I. McNeff

"My experiences go back to 1988; the first one was probably in July. It was at night, and I was in bed. I heard a sound like thousands of blowtorches. I couldn't move. I don't know how long it lasted, it seemed like forever. Then it cut off, and I ran to my parents room. I called the police, they said up the street four blocks from you is the NSP generating plant, maybe that produced the sound. A person I know that lives down off 94, near the generator plant, says they may have been letting off steam, but no way should I have heard it, they said. They only let off steam about every ten years.

Three weeks later my parents were on the porch, around midnight, they apparently heard the same sound I had heard. My Dad wanted to go out and investigate, but the sound cut off suddenly.

In November 1988, my Dad was at a convention, and I slept with my Mom. The alarm clock went off, I popped up, sprung forward, then fell backwards. I couldn't move, couldn't do anything but think. I finally managed to move my foot, then my leg, then sat up on the edge of the bed. Things felt like they were out of sync, like a wave moving. I got up, put my hand on the door, walked toward the bathroom, put my hand on the wall, looked to the right into the dining room, and saw this black figure -- it was if it reflected no light at all. Then I went into the bathroom. I got the toothpaste, started to

brush my teeth, then thought about the figure. I peeked out of the bathroom, but didn't see anything; the dining room was empty. The figure had been so black that I saw no features. There is lots of light in our house from streetlights, etc., so I should have been able to see more than I did.

The head was rounder than ours. It was not my nephew who was living with us at the time, he is too tall. The height of the black figure was about 4 feet 8 inches to 5 feet tall, it was a little shorter than my Mom, who is 5 feet 1-1/2 inches tall. (Sherry supplied a sketch of the figure.)

A month later, approx. December 1988 Dad was home, I had the same out of sync experience, with the wave thing. I was starting into the bathroom, Dad said to me "What are you doing? You just went into the bathroom half an hour ago! He said I was wearing a white night gown. I didn't have a white night gown!

Years later, my nephew told me of hearing about abductions. I hadn't heard of them.

My most recent experience was at the end of March this year (2000). Has anyone ever had the experience of coming back into their body? It felt like something being thrown at me; it bounced off my bed, into me. Our dog was still alive and jumped up, because she heard it. It felt like it hit my chest area, but it hit on the left side of my bed first. It was about early morning, I have it in my journal."

DULUTH, MINN. AUG. 7, 1979 ET CASE

This is a preliminary report. A 75 year-old woman gave me this account over the telephone:

"This happened about 9:00pm, it was still [somewhat] light. I was on vacation from my job at Sears-Roebuck. Another gal ("Ruth") and I had been to a shower; I had picked her up to go to my boss' house at Caribou Lake [where the shower was, and we were on our way home.] We had stopped at a stop sign at a cross road, near a school, when we saw further down the road what looked like three kids riding bikes, zig-zagging back and forth. As the car approached them, two of them floated into the ditch, but the third stopped [right in the center of the lane] dead center in the headlights. [They were short], their heads were right above the headlights. The car was a 1976 Buick Regal. The dash lights went off. This being was the color of cement and had big black eyes. I believe the lights had blinded "him". I braked the car to avoid hitting him, cramped the wheels to roll by him. My passenger, Ruth, began to go into hysterics. I pulled to the left to try to go around him, and started to pass him, but when he was even with the right corner of the windshield, Ruth went

into complete hysteria, laughing and crying, and came across the front seat and climbed all over me. I had to stop the car. I don't know how long we sat. The being was staring at us from the corner of the windshield. Finally, I got the car going and passed the being. I went down an old road by mistake, hit a dead-end, and had to back up in the dark. Finally I got on the Miller Mall trunk highway. We talked all the way home. I woke my husband up. He told me, "Why didn't you hit him? If you had brought one of them home, I'd have analyzed it!"

Ruth's husband Bill asked her if she had been drinking, and ridiculed her story. Since the incident I've been scared of the dark. Pictures of these ETs keep cropping up, no hair, big head, big black eyes, on TV, etc.

His mouth was about an inch wide. No nose or ears. The creature had a big head. They looked so odd, almost a luminous grey. I could not see clothes. They had arms; I didn't notice the fingers. The arms were in proportion to the rest of the body. The mouth came to a peak; the chin came to a peak also. (She mailed me a sketch of the creature's head. On the sketch she wrote: "Huge head at least 18 to 20 inches across. Huge eyes 2-1/2 to 3 inches.")

My husband is a mechanic. He couldn't make the dash lights work again. We took it to another mechanics garage and neither could they."

Dr. Steve Hero will conduct further investigation of this case. The other witness has not been available due to illness of her husband, but she is expected to furnish us an account some time in the future.

Field Investigator Update: December 2000

By Craig R. Lang - MN MUFON FI Coordinator

November and December are typically relatively quiet months in the UFO sighting arena. This usually allows us to go back and continue to investigate older sightings, close encounter cases, and related events of the past. However, in addition to the backlog of old cases which we normally focus on, this December brings several new reports of sightings. Some of these are described by the editor of the e-publication, "UFO Roundup" as Minnesota's contribution to the current "Midwest UFO Flap".

One sighting occurred in Southern Minnesota, in which the witnesses observed an object which one described as large and square-shaped. The witnesses were outside stargazing when the object appeared. One witness wrote that it had two red lights and two white

lights, one on each side, alternating in a red, white, red, white, sequence.

Another sighting occurred in the Duluth/Superior area. This object, a large black triangle, was observed in the early evening, on Dec 10, 2000. The witness described a multicolored array of lights on each side of the triangle. Both of these sightings were described in UFO roundup. Minnesota MUFON is currently attempting to follow up on these reports.

Additionally, in early December, one very notable new sighting occurred in the Minneapolis northern suburbs. On December 5, the two witnesses were driving south bound on a main street in Brooklyn park, when the person in the passenger side of the front seat observed a large dark triangle passing in front of the moon. She brought this to the attention of the driver, who pulled over to the side of the street. Both witnesses watched the object pass slowly overhead, taking what one witness estimated to be about a minute to move out of view. To their credit, the witnesses avoided discussing the event, and immediately upon arriving home, both wrote down their observations, including some detailed sketches of the object. Minnesota MUFON has interviewed both witnesses, and the investigation is in progress. Stay tuned for further details on this excellent case.

In keeping with the current "trend" in UFO sightings, all of the objects observed were dark and triangular/rectangular, with lights along the edges. All were silent, and were described as slow moving, gliding, or hovering. Two of them were seen over relatively populated areas, prompting this author to ask whether other people observed them - and if not, then why. In addition, one has to perpetually ask the question: "what were these objects doing?" What was their purpose for being in the sky on that cold, dark fall/winter night? ...Some food for thought as we glide silently into the holiday season.

For further details on these and other sighting cases, please check the Minnesota MUFON website (www.mnmufon.org). Also stay tuned to this column each newsletter as we discuss the most current MN MUFON sighting cases. In addition, if you know of any information that might bring to light any sightings or encounters, or have any further updates on events discussed in this column, please contact Craig Lang (ph: 763-560-1532, e-mail: crlang@mm.com, or contact Minnesota MUFON through our webpage at: www.mnmufon.org). For those wishing to become a field investigator themselves, classes are conducted approximately three times a year, as sufficient interest is indicated. The next class will be held on the first three Wednesday evenings in February of 2001. If you

are interested, and feel that you have the necessary time, energy, and objectivity to be a UFO investigator, please contact Craig Lang. If you have not already done so, you also will need to join MUFON as a field investigator trainee and purchase the MUFON field investigators manual.

We always need more investigators in our effort to better understand the UFO phenomenon. Those who seriously take up the study of UFO events, mystery will never be in short supply.

Happy investigating...

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM MINNESOTA MUFON!

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Go to: www.mnmufon.org/mmj.htm for back issues of the Minnesota MUFON Journal.

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