

PAULDING, OHIO CROP CIRCLE

JULY 4, 1996



Was it work of

Circle dots wheat field

By JIM LANGHAM
Staff Writer

PAULDING — Usually, very few cars can be seen traveling on Paulding County Road 126 as it meanders through the prairie-like farmland between Paulding and Ohio 637. It is a stretch of vacant highway utilized mainly by farm machinery, pickup trucks and occasional visitors to the area.

That all changed this past weekend, however, when word got out that a crop circle had been spotted in a wheat field located just west of Ohio 637, approximately seven miles southeast of Paulding. The ground is farmed by the Arend brothers.

By Monday evening, lines of cars were bringing curious on-lookers to the 93-foot circle; directional signs were being placed for visitors, and media hype was beginning to mount nationwide.

According to John Timmerman, vice president of public relations for the Center for UFO Studies, Chicago, the formation is consistent with other such appearances around the world. It is a perfect circle that measures 93 feet across at any given point. The wheat inside its circumference takes on the appearance of having been woven in counter-clockwise fashion, without any breakage to the stalks.

In addition, the circle is located between two drainage ditches located 350 feet apart. A measurement taken from the center of the circle to the ditches indicates that the distance to each drainage area is 175 feet from the center of the formation.

"I don't think it's a hoax," said Timmerman, who has studied numerous phenomenon of a similar nature over the years. "It wasn't formed by an aircraft or a wind vortex, such as would be created by a helicopter.

"Because of the counter-clockwise nature in which the wheat is laid out, it appears that whatever caused it was turning

as it landed, whatever it was," added Timmerman. "Something caused that wheat to all fall in the same direction. What was it? I don't know what it was."

The story began late in the day on July 4 when Oakwood residents Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere were giving some friends an aerial tour of the area in their Piper Cub. As the plane flew over the area, Sandy pointed to some barns in the distance that impressed her because of their architecture.

"Just then I looked down and said, 'Oh, my gosh, it's one of those crop circles,'" said Sandy. "At first we joked about it, but then we decided to call (land-owners) Don and Sue (Arend)."

On Friday, Sandy went to the site to take pictures. At that time she was accompanied by Don Arend, who got his first glimpse of the circle.

"I was amazed at what I saw," said Arend. "There were no other tracks around it. I called Sheriff (Dave) Harrow and told him that we have something a little strange out here."

Harrow visited the scene to determine whether or not the formation was a case of vandalism. After determining that it wasn't, the Arends contacted Timmerman, who was on the scene within a few hours.

Don's brother, Dan Arend, admitted that he was a little skeptical when he was first informed of the phenomenon. However, a visit to the site quickly changed all of that.

"I was in awe immediately," said Don. "I realized then that we had better contact someone who had a little expertise in the area. I was convinced that there was no way that this could be man-made."

Arend said that it was impossible to determine when the formation occurred, but a close friend who flew over the farm on July 1 hadn't noticed anything out of the ordinary. Also, members of the family who planted a bean field close to the site on June 23 didn't notice anything.

Timmerman said that professional agronomists will visit the site later this week to take samples of the grain and soil for analysis. He noted that when results are made available, they will be released to the press.

One local resident who visited relatives in the area and saw the circle over the weekend referred to it as a "phenomenon that couldn't have been made by a person.

"I've been hearing about such things happening in England, but I never realized one would happen right under our nose," said Georgiana Wagner, of Defiance. "There must be something higher than us that knows how to do something so perfect."

Among those visiting the site on Monday evening were Michelle Blatnik and Melanie Myers from Toledo. Both individuals had observed a similar phenomenon near Adrian, Mich., last summer. Blatnik noted that there were some striking similarities between the two.

aliens or a hoax?



Jenny Derringer/C-N Photo

Crop circle: Curious onlookers check out the 93-foot circle found in wheat field located on Paulding County Road 126

"They were very similar, especially inside the circle," explained Blatnik. "In both circles the grain appears to be woven like a basket. Personally, I believe that there's something going on out there that we're not being told about."

"I don't know what did it, but one of the neatest things is the way these things bring people together," said Myers. "People who didn't know each other or whose paths wouldn't have crossed are meeting and talking. That's a pretty neat thing in itself."

Hoosiers noticed a UFO

By **JIM LANGHAM**
Staff Writer

BERNE, Ind. — When Dawn Sprunger left the home of a close friend in Bluffton, Ind., early on

Saturday morning, the last thing on her mind was the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects. She hadn't heard anything about a crop circle in Paulding County.

But at 4:10 a.m. (5:10 a.m. EST), all of that changed. Approximately five miles west of this Adams County hamlet, Sprunger noticed what appeared to be red and blue lights blinking to her left. At first she thought the lights were coming from towers located in the area. However, when the lights continued after she passed the towers, she became concerned.

"I finally tried to get a good look at it and what I saw scared me," noted Sprunger. "It looked like a vertical jet, triangular in shape. At certain times you could see red and blue lights in it.

"When I came to a stop light in Berne it was in front of me. As I drove toward our house it was to my left," said the 19-year-old.

Sprunger said that she entered the house and went to bed, hoping that the sighting would just go away. But when she peered out the window a short time later, it was still hovering in the area. She awakened her parents, who also saw the object, and they telephoned law enforcement officials.

According to a report by news editor Tony Mellencamp in Monday's *Berne Triweekly News*, local police chief Merlin Bixler headed east out of town where he spotted the object. Even though Bixler and three other officers were observing the object first hand, controllers at Fort Wayne International Airport indicated there was no sign of an object in the area on radar.

In the meantime, Berne Mayor Blaine Fulton, who had been alerted of the situation, was able to capture the possible UFO for several minutes on his camcorder before it finally drifted toward the east close to sunrise.

Officers then returned to the home of Sprunger to inform her that they had also seen the object.

Was there any connection between the Berne sighting and the discovery of a crop circle east of Paulding two days earlier on July 4?

John Timmerman, vice president of public relations for the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, said Monday that he wouldn't rule out that possibility. In fact, the closeness of the two appearances in timing, as well as geographically, more than captured Timmerman's interest.

"There had to be something that caused all of the wheat to fall in the same direction," said Timmerman. "That only happens when you have something in motion."

While Timmerman refused to identify either incident as official UFO activity, he noted that it's



Jim Langham/C-N Photo

PUZZLING IN PAULDING — The mysterious crop circle near Paulding was discovered July 4 between two drainage ditches located 350 feet apart. A measurement taken from the center of the circle to the ditches indicates that the distance to each drainage area is 175 feet from the center of the formation. Here, Darcy and Laura Arend, daughters of Don and Sue Arend, who farm the property on which the circle appeared, examine the flattened crops.

not unusual to have UFO sightings close to the appearance of crop circles. He also noted that the fact that none of the stalks of wheat were broken would seem to heighten the credibility of the situation.

Berne is located eight miles from the Ohio line, approximately 40 miles southwest of Paulding, in Adams County, which borders Mercer and Van Wert counties in Ohio. The crop circle, located on Paulding County Road 126, just off of Ohio 637, is located about 15 miles north of Van Wert.

What does Sprunger think

about the whole thing?

"I keep wanting to say, 'Dawn, you're crazy,'" she said, "but it helps to know that the officers also saw it. I used to think that there was no such thing as a UFO, but not anymore. I believe there is life up there that could be interested in seeing what's going on down here."

Sprunger said that she plans to visit the crop circle later in the week.

Unexplained crop circle has Paulding farmers looking for an answer

BY MARGARET FARNHAM
BLADE STAFF WRITER

PAULDING — While the alien movie *Independence Day* debuted over the weekend in theaters across the country, a few Paulding residents wondered if something from out of this world had landed here.

A large crop circle, which some believe may have been formed by supernatural forces, appeared in a wheat field on Paulding County Road 126, just east of County Road 127.

A local pilot saw the circle last Thursday in the field farmed by Dan Arend and his two brothers.

So far, there has been no explanation for the circle, which is 93 feet in diameter.

"I've heard all kinds of things of what it could be," Paulding County Sheriff David Harrow said.

He said it doesn't appear to have been made by vandals since there was no path leading to the circle.

"If it was a hoax or a prank, somebody went to a lot of effort," Sheriff Harrow said.

Mr. Arend's wife, Natalie, does not believe the circle is the work of vandals, either.

"I think there is a real good chance *something* happened. ... I'm just disappointed I didn't see it," she said.

Pressed to explain what "something" might be, Mrs. Arend said the circle could have been made by an unidentified flying object.

"I wouldn't rule out a UFO. You don't know what is out beyond things," she said.

Mrs. Arend said she thought her husband was trying to scare her when he called to ask if she had noticed anything unusual from the house, from which she can see the field.

"So I went down to see it. I wondered, 'Where was I when this happened? Was I sleeping?'" Mrs. Arend said.

The Lima, O., native contacted John Timmerman, a Lakeview, O., resident who studies UFOs. He is national treasurer for the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies.

Mr. Timmerman, also a Lima native, went to the Arend farm on Saturday to take a closer look at the depression.

"I was very much surprised to see such a well-constructed mark," he said.

He carefully measured the circle with a 50-foot steel rule and studied the surrounding wheat. The circle measured 46½ feet from its center to the end.

"I saw no evidence of crushing, and all the grain was moving counter-clockwise. It was as if something was moving as it came down," he said.

Mr. Timmerman invited a professional agronomist from Ohio State University's horticulture department to sample the soil and

grain within and outside the circle. They will visit the site again tomorrow or Thursday.

Studies on crop circles in England have found a difference in cell structure in the wheat inside the circle, Mr. Timmerman said.

There was no evidence of a chemical spill or a hoax in the Arends' field, he said.

"It didn't happen from under the ground, because that is hard clay," he added. "It came down from the sky and made a circle 93 feet in diameter."

The area is sealed off by yellow police tape. The Arends have decided not to harvest the wheat in that area until they learn more.

Unexplained crop circles have been discovered all over the world. Mr. Timmerman said he saw one in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan.

"I try to be objective about the whole thing and look for a reasonable explanation. That is the scientific way.

"But in this case," Mr. Timmerman said, "that is difficult to do right now."

"I think it's awesome," Mrs. Arend said. "I don't think it's anything to be afraid of."



Illustration By Dave Kauble,

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Paulding crop circle a prickly

By Dale Emch
The Journal Gazette

Farmers wonder: Fruit of whose labor?

PAULDING, Ohio — “Men couldn’t flatten the wheat like that without breaking it,” offers one on-looker, standing thigh-deep amid the prickly stalks.

“And how could they get in there without making any marks?” asks another.

“What about a whirlwind?”

“Naw, a whirlwind wouldn’t make a perfect circle like that — and it would pull up chunks of ground.”

The hot topic of discussion

among the men and women gathered in a Paulding County farm field Monday?

A circle with a radius of 93 feet in the center of a wheat field on County Road 126, the stems bent but not broken, flattened in a counter-clockwise direction.

So far, no one has been able to explain how the crop circle was made on land farmed by the Arend brothers, three men who farm 4,800 acres in northwest Ohio.

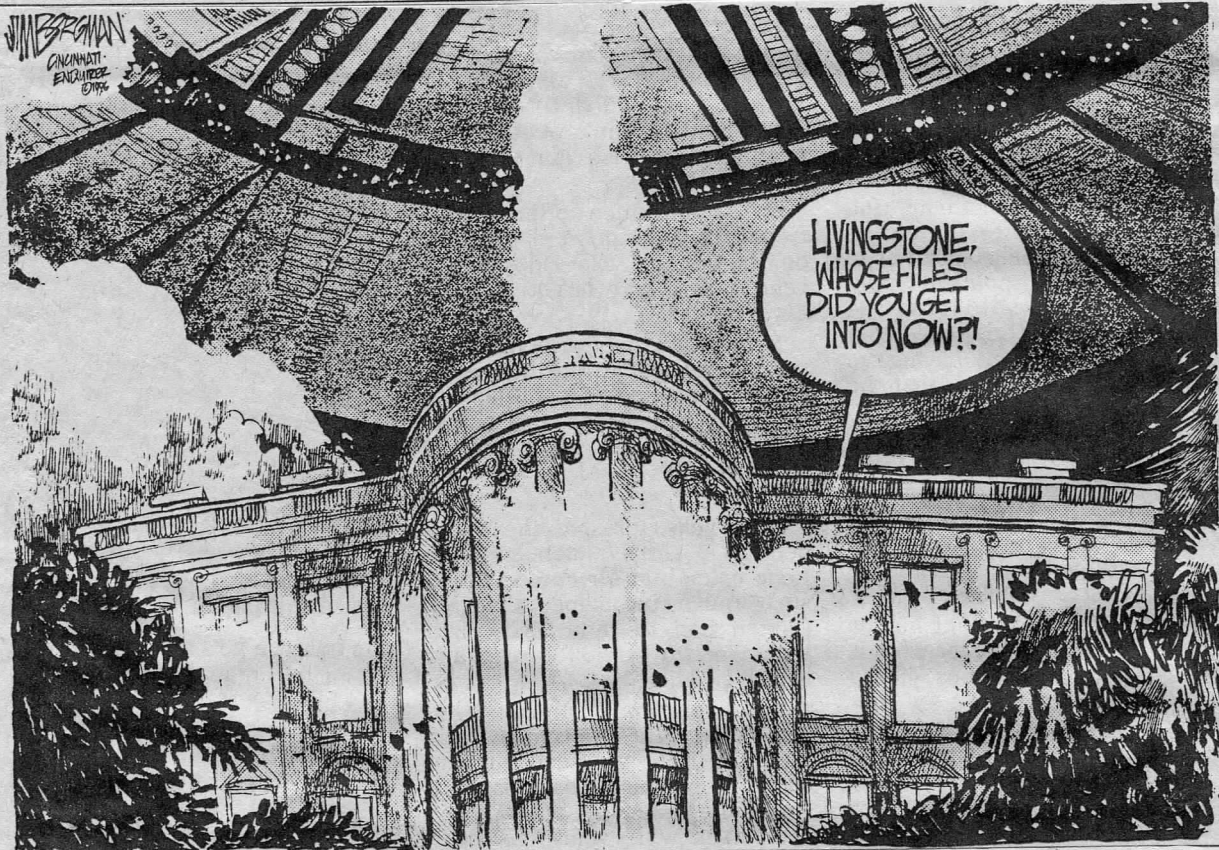
“I’ve been on a lot of wild-goose

chases, but I think we’ve got a real unknown here,” said John P. Timmerman, public relations officer for the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago. He lives in Lima, Ohio, and investigated the circle Saturday morning.

The crop circle was spotted on Independence Day by Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere, who were taking an evening plane ride over the county.

“In the air, you can actually tell there is a pattern to it,” Mike

THE BLADE: TOLEDO, OHIO ■ TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1996



... puzzle

Dobbelaere said. "You can tell it's lying down in an orderly fashion."

On Friday morning, they contacted Don Arend, who went out to inspect the circle.

"The first thing I looked for were tracks, and I didn't see any tracks around it," he said.

Arend later called Paulding County Sheriff David Harrow and asked him to see whether an eye more skilled at looking for tracks could pick something up. He didn't.

"I don't see how someone could have gotten in there," Harrow said. "And if they did, they put a lot of effort into it. I can't imagine anyone going to that much trouble."

Getting into the field without noticeably breaking down the wheat would have been impossible, said Dan Arend, another brother who didn't see the circle until Saturday.

Also of interest, Dan Arend said, is that the center of the circle rests 175 feet from surface drainage ditches, located on each side of the field. He said the ditches are really only visible from the air, unless someone knows where to look.

Crop circles have been reported around the world, particularly in England. Timmerman said many have been exposed as hoaxes, but the majority remain unexplained.

Crop circles were reported in Warsaw, Ind., in 1990, but a 14-year-old boy later admitted making them.

Timmerman said the circle in Paulding is interesting because of its precision. "Things this large and this well-constructed are not common in this country," said Timmerman, who attends a yearly conference on crop circles.

Since a TV report on Saturday, the flow of visitors has been steady.

They've come from Fort Wayne.

They've come from Michigan.

They've come from Paulding and surrounding communities.

More than 1,000 have visited since Saturday, Dan Arend said.

And they do so free of charge,



Photo courtesy of Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere

A circle with a radius of 93 feet cropped up on Independence Day in a Paulding County field. Plant stems were bent but not broken, flattened in a counter-clockwise direction.

even though some visitors jokingly said the brothers would be justified in charging, given the rough farm season thus far.

"It's fascinating, and we can't explain what it is, so we'd just like people to see it," Dan Arend said. "They can come look at it."

"People have been pretty good. They haven't destroyed anything and they've been pretty careful, so as long as they're like that, they can come over."

The brothers are planning to harvest the wheat this week, but said they will leave the circle alone for a few weeks. The circle has been roped off with police tape, but visitors still can get a good view.

Timmerman said the circle will be investigated later this week by an Ohio State University agronomist who is expected to take samples of the wheat to see whether

there has been any cellular change.

He also said the soil and wheat would be tested for radioactivity.

Dan Arend said he's not particularly concerned about radioactivity. He said he and his brothers were chewing on wheat near the circle when one of them suggested it might not be a good idea.

"We haven't started glowing yet," he said, laughing.

The mood among the brothers and visitors to the crop circle has been light-hearted.

On Monday, Dan Arend amiably greeted acquaintances as they sheepishly ambled down a thin dirt path toward the circle, trading jokes and theories.

"People think you're a crackpot if you start talking about UFOs," Dan Arend said, "but I don't know what caused it."

The Lima News



RACHEL RICE □ The Lima News

A pilot first discovered the 93-foot Paulding County crop circle on July 4.

Paulding puzzle

PHENOMENA: 'Crop circle' in wheat field fuels out-of-this-world theories.

By **STEPHEN HUBA**
The Lima News

PAULDING — A strange marking in a remote Paulding County wheat field has some people wondering whether the UFO movie "Independence Day" is coming true.

Hundreds of curious onlookers have visited the site since Sunday to get a glimpse of what everybody is calling the "crop circle."

Discovered on Independence Day by an amateur pilot, the crop circle is 93 feet in diameter and defies easy explanation.

"It definitely wasn't man made," said Lima native Natalie Arend.

Arend and her husband, Dan, live about a mile west of the crop circle. Mr. Arend and his two brothers farm 4,800 acres of land in Paulding County, including the wheat field where the circle appeared.

The couple's children have been keeping track of visitors. More than 1,000 reportedly were at the site on Monday.

"We've lived here six years," Mrs. Arend said, "and we've never had traffic like this."

The mysterious crop circle is similar to others that have been discovered around the world. Some people claim they are formed by supernatural forces. Some circles were found to have been made by machinery; others have been exposed as hoaxes.

So far, no one has come up with an explanation for this one. Not even veteran UFO researcher John P. Timmerman.

"We're still trying to find a visual witness to whatever created this circle," Timmerman said Tuesday. "There may be one. There may never be one."

Timmerman, 72, of Lakeview, is spearheading the investigation into the crop circle. A public relations officer with the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, he has called on several experts for help.

Timmerman first saw the circle on Saturday and will return today with an Ohio State University agronomist. Investigators want to take samples of the wheat and look for cellular changes. They also will

test the soil and wheat for radioactivity, he said.

The circle is remarkable for its geometric perfection. "It's spectacular," Mrs. Arend said.

Inside the circle, the wheat is pressed down flat in a counterclockwise direction. It is not burned or damaged. "It's just as if some large circular thing came straight

down, turning as it went," Timmerman said.

Outside the circle, the wheat stands 2 1/2 feet tall, ready for harvesting.

"I think it's a real crop circle," he said. "We're dealing with something that is truly interesting and has a need for scientific analysis."

Neither Timmerman nor Mrs. Arend believes the crop circle is a hoax, the work of vandals. Paulding County's sheriff isn't sure what caused it.

"I've heard all kinds of things of what it could be," Sheriff David Harrow said.

The two paths leading up to the circle were not there when the marking was first photographed on July 4, Mrs. Arend said. The paths and a ring around the circle are the result of curiosity seekers, she said.

The circle itself is cordoned off like a crime scene. It can be found southeast of Paulding off County

Road 126, between U.S. 127 and state Route 637.

News about the circle has traveled fast in Paulding County.

The pilot who took the first pictures informed one of Dan Arend's brothers, who then told Mr. Arend. Mrs. Arend remembered Timmerman's work as a UFO researcher and contacted him at once.

Timmerman said

the marking is unlike anything he has seen or heard about before. "I think it deserves careful study," he said.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Arend expects the flow of visitors to continue. "My husband and his brothers don't want to keep this from anyone."

"We're still trying to find a visual witness to whatever created this circle. It's just as if some large circular thing came straight down, turning as it went."

John Timmerman
veteran UFO researcher

CROP CIRCLE FOUND IN PAULDING



Law enforcement officials roped off the area of the crop circle Saturday in an effort to maintain the integrity of the site for experts who are expected to arrive today from Chicago and OSU.

Outside, looking in...

By DENISE GEBERS
Correspondent

The Arend family estimates conservatively 2,000 people have viewed the crop circle formation in their wheat field since Saturday. Here are responses from a handful of Monday morning visitors when asked for their first impression.

"A lot of times deer will come out and knock down a spot, but nothing like this," said Jackson Township trustee Dave Stouffer, adding, "It's weird!"

"I think it was a helicopter," said Paul Perry, Defiance.

Darrell Noffsinger, Oak-

wood farmer and Brown Township trustee said, "I've never seen anything like it."

His son, Dale Noffsinger of Cecil, gave a wary, "I don't know..."

Additionally Fr. Cleo Schmenk of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Paulding, came to the site Saturday and gave a blessing for the area and family members.

A representative from Gov. George Voinovich's office slipped in and out of the formation almost undetected Monday morning and couldn't be reached for comment.

COUNTY WHEAT FIELD

By DENISE GEBERS
Correspondent

People traveling the byways of Paulding County last week probably noticed emerging bean crops, fields of knee-high corn and ripening wheat. Nothing unusual, all peaceful and serene. But...

Those traveling the skyways may have noticed something VERY unusual. Something that caught the attention of four Oakwood area residents on an early evening flight July 4...an apparent crop circle, 93 feet in diameter.

Crop circle? In Paulding County? It appears to be true!

Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere spotted the strange occurrence while taking Sandy's brother and sister-in-law for a ride near their Charloe area home. In a telephone interview, Sandy said Mike made a wider bank than usual to accommodate a passenger uncomfortable in turns. She said they may have missed it otherwise, because they went farther west than normal.

Sandy said she didn't sleep well that night and by morning had determined to get pictures. She, her husband, and their son's friend, Jason Burt, went up July 5 to take the shots. Using a platbook, they concluded the field must be farmed by Arend Bros. Inc. of rural Paulding.

With Jason's aid, Sandy tried to find the landowner at each of the neighboring houses, to no avail. The two decided to take a dirt lane they thought would lead them to the correct field. When they came to the end of the trail, there was still no sign of the circle. But a quick trip between the wheat and adjacent bean fields proved fruitful.

About 72 feet into the field sat the huge compression, barely visible from the field's edge. Carefully making their way through nearly ripened waist high grain, Sandy and Jason took more photos, from ground level.

After having her film processed at a one-hour film developer in Defiance, Sandy was anxious to make contact with one of the Arend

brothers - Dan, Dave or Don. Her efforts were hampered by the families' holiday weekend plans and for a long time could reach no one.

Finally, Sandy said she reached one of Dave's daughters and around 8 p.m. got a hold of Don's wife, Sue.

"I told her, 'You're going to think I'm crazy, but you have a crop circle in one of your fields!'", Sandy said. "Sue wanted to see it right away. I met her and the girls there. Doug (Arend) and Don came later," she added.

Sandy said they didn't enter the field until Don and Doug arrived. The group walked to the edge of the phenomenon. Wheat stalks inside the circle were bent to the ground in a counter-clockwise direction. Plants at the edges were unaffected for a sharp precise rim. There were no signs of burning and hairs on the bearded wheat were still intact.

"It was dark by then," said Sandy. "We went back in the morning where Sheriff Dave Harrow met us and most of the Arend family." She said the occurrence is "kinda neat."

Sheriff Harrow said he and Chief Deputy Keith Baird inspected the site about 10:30 a.m., July 6. They walked the perimeter of the circle looking for tracks indicating the flattened grain was the work of pranksters.

"There was no evidence of any," said Harrow. He noticed deer droppings at the south edge, but said the area didn't appear to be a resting area for such animals.

"I thought it was a hoax," said the sheriff. "Now that I've seen it, I don't know...It's a very interesting situation. I'm unaware of any like it in the past 20 years."

None of the neighbors were interviewed by the department to see if they had heard or seen anything out of the ordinary July 1-4, but it

did provide barricade tape to help preserve the site until experts arrive Wednesday.

"We're not conducting a criminal investigation," Harrow said, "unless people trample the wheat field."

Dan's wife, Natalie, had once lived in Lima and remembered hearing about the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) office there. Dan called John Timmerman, public relations vice president and treasurer of the group, on Saturday morning. By 11 a.m., he joined the Arend families and Dobbelaere's in the 58 acre field south of CR 126 in Section 23, Jackson Township on land owned by heirs of James Walley. He spent nearly three hours investigating.

Timmerman photographed the area and the compressed wheat. With the help of Dan, he took measurements plus grain and soil samples. The circle's visual center was established by locating the middle of the ring of bent stems. By shifting the measuring tape 10 inches south, the actual center of a nearly perfect circle was established.

While taking more aerial photographs, it was noted that the circle lay in the exact center of two surface ditches in the field as well. Through later conversations, it was determined the circle wasn't visible on July 1, so it was found within three days of formation - at the most.

Timmerman, who does not claim to be a specialist on crop circles, received his Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Cornell University in 1950, after three years service in WWII. He has been involved with UFO sightings and related investigations since his days at Cornell. He has a close association with the leading crop circle expert and has field experience investigating them.

In a telephone interview, he said the crop circle phenomena grabbed high visibility in the early 1980s when hundreds surfaced in England. He said they are not commonly documented in the United States (he knows of one in Minnesota), although there have been many in Canada. (See related story)

"My feeling when I saw this circle was that if it was hoaxers, they must be pretty savvy guys or gals," Timmerman said. He detected no signs of human activity inside the circle, or out.

(Continued, next page)

Circle found

(Continued from Page 1A)

Timmerman said it can't be determined if the phenomenon appeared during the day or night unless a witness should come forward. Such a person would undergo tests to verify their testimony. He said in a few cases, people have said a UFO made the circles. "I'm willing to listen to those who claim crop circle or UFO phenomena," he said.

"I have had a lot of stories told and pictures taken. I don't think this was created by wind, aircraft or kids with sticks. It's too precise," said Timmerman. "I concluded something came down and went up."

He said the conditions forming the circle would be difficult to replicate. "Winds don't come straight down and go back up. They tend to wander," he added.

The Lima man has called experts in to research the site. Personnel from the CUFOS headquarter

in Chicago plus Dr. James Beurlein, OSU agronomist and wheat specialist will converge on the site today (Wednesday, July 10). More grain and soil samples will be taken inside and outside of the circle. Sophisticated testing, such as one for radiation, may follow.

"Cellular changes have been reported in some cases," said Timmerman, adding few instances of radiation have been determined. He felt this instance that possibility is a long shot. Copies of Timmerman's photos of the circle are being circulated nationwide.

How has all this attention affected the Arends? What are they feeling?

Don Arend said the situation is weird. "I was skeptical at first, but this is more than a hoax. Everybody's wondering. We see where deer have bedded in wheat all the time. And this is not that."

"I don't know what to think of it," said Dave Arend. "I've never seen anything like it. I'm trying to be open-minded."

Dave's son, Scott, said, "It's different. I don't think it's man-made." His cousins, Ken and Eric Kohart, agreed that they're not sure what to think.

"The whole thing is becoming overwhelming," said Dan Tuesday morning. "The crop circle is a fascinating phenomenon. It's fascinating to think of what it could be."

He did a live interview for a Cincinnati radio talk show early Tuesday morning.

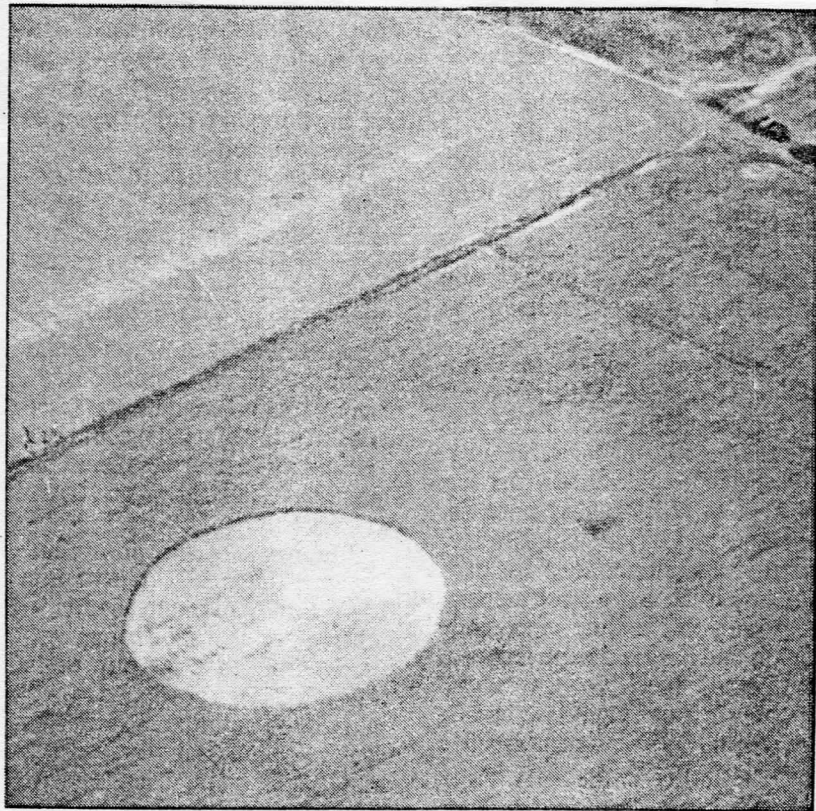
After news of the crop circle aired on Channel 21 out of Fort Wayne Saturday night, the family prepared for lots of curious visitors. To protect the integrity of the circle it has been cordoned off about two or three feet from the edges. Several members of the family (and some friends) have been on the site much of the time since Saturday.

An estimated 2,000 people have made a trip to the wheat field by press time Tuesday. The majority showed up Monday evening. Family members said visitors arrived early in the morning, and in spite of dark and bad weather have had to be asked to leave at 10 p.m.

Visitors have started to come from farther distances, (such as Indiana, Michigan, and counties of Logan, Fulton, Williams and Henry) as has interest of the media. TV crews from channels 15 (Fort Wayne) and 44 (Lima) with CNN have come to the site after Channel 21's initial transmission Saturday. Calls for radio interviews have come from Fort Wayne, Delphos, Cincinnati and even Philadelphia, Pa.!

WOWO radio personality Ron Gregory told the family the University of Michigan is conducting a crop circle study. So far the Arend's attempts to contact the school have been unsuccessful.

Now that the holiday weekend is over and real life tugs the family back to farming, (the wheat crop is ripe - they have 1,400 acres!), outside jobs, ball tournaments and just daily chores. Dividing their time is becoming harder, but as Sue Arend's said, "We're spending more (extended) family time together. We're bonding!"



From 400 feet, four quadrants could be observed in the 93-foot diameter crop circle discovered in the evening hours on July 4. The phenomenon is located in Jackson Township, Paulding County.

Crop circles remain an unexplained phenomena

By DENISE GEBERS
Correspondent

Editor's note: In response to the appearance of an apparent crop circle in a wheat field farmed by Arend Brothers Inc. in rural Paulding, Randy Robinett, an Arend employee, pulled information off the Internet on the subject. The following story is compiled from those articles plus information supplied by John Timmerman of the Center for UFO Studies, Lima.

Although crop circles have gained wide attention the past 15 years, the first circle in recent years was found in 1966 at Tully, England. It is said in Hertfordshire, evidence of the circles appeared as early as 1678.

Corn is the crop in which the

circles most commonly appear with wheat a close second. They show up in other grains as well, even flowers, trees and snow! Each continent has had its share, with only mainland China and South Africa not reporting any sightings.

Over the years, certain common denominators have been observed in the phenomena. Many appear mid-field (like the one in Jackson Township) with no evidence of disturbance to surrounding crops. Usually grain inside the circle appears dehydrated and grows 40 percent faster than that taken from outside the area within the same field.

Swirling of grain stalks can be clockwise or counter-clockwise, and on occasions

one is layered over the top of the other. Sometimes stalks are even woven like loose cloth. Once in a while selective swirling of stalks outside the circle occurs all around the perimeter. A few times formations develop new characteristics as grain grows in the field.

These formations are not exclusive to isolated fields. They've shown up near major highways and inside secure military installations. Often, aerial pictures show the formations aligned with surface features, such as the drainage ditches in Arend's field.

Research has divulged crop circles are formed over chalkbeds and underground water supplies. Apparently these conduct the earth's electromagnetic currents. How the two are related is being studied further. Certain geometric ratios, such as the phi and diatonic ratios, are always present inside the formations.

Some people who visit crop formations have reported unusual reactions by their bodies or equipment. Physical effects have ranged from the positive giddiness to negative — pain, headache, nausea and dizziness, to the peculiar — being knocked off their feet. (Such reactions have not been noted locally.) Electronic and magnetic equipment sometimes go berserk. Researchers have discovered fresh crop circles may emit sound energy at 5 khz.

Scientists have developed three major theories to explain crop circles. After two Englishmen admitted in 1991 to making over 250 formations, the "all circles are hoaxes" theory got major support. Another hypothesis is called the "Plasma Vortex Theory," claiming electrified air (plasma) becomes mini-tornadoes and runs right into the ground creating circles and lights. Because UFO sightings are reported in the areas of some formations, extraterrestrial creation is a very controversial theory.



Here Mike Dobbelaere (left) and Dan Arend try to explain the strange occurrence of a crop circle in one of the wheat fields farmed by Dan. The circle was sighted Thursday evening when Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere were taking Sandy's brother and sister-in-law for an airplane ride near their Charloe area home.

(Continued next page)

Phenomena

(Continued from Page 1A)

John P. Timmerman, a Lima man who works with the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS), said the number of circles have increased with more intricate patterns appearing, beginning in the 1980s. He discounts the wind and wild animal theories due to the complicated nature of the circle floors, he said, "One would need a deep knowledge of math and physics to do some of these...It could be people. It could be some exotic life form."

Only one other crop circle has been documented in the United States, according to Timmerman. He said one appeared in Minnesota, while Canada has had a rash of them. He added, however, northwest Ohio has had two reports of strange occurrences. Both were documented in *The Farmland News* of Archbold.

In April 1974, an eight foot imprint was found in northwest Putnam County. It was 12 inches deep with seven four-foot-long grooves radiating from it. The ground between the grooves was heaved up almost 12 inches. At the depression's center were two 12 inch holes, 12 inches apart. Its cause was not discovered.

Nearly 10 years later, in 1983, a foot-deep crater was discovered west of Wauseon. A

star-shaped design had six 19-foot-long and four 9.5-foot-long points equi-distant from the center. Inside this pattern was an eight-inch deep depression eight feet in diameter. At the center of this circle was a two-inch wide hole running six-feet deep, with no evidence of compaction at the site. This incident, too, went unexplained.

Timmerman said people interested in learning more about crop circles may want to read *Circular Evidence* by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews (published by Phanes) and *The Crop Circle Enigma* edited by Ralph Noyes (published by Gateway Books).

Anyone with information on the Jackson Township circle or any other unexplained phenomena over the years should write Timmerman at P.O. Box 1621, Lima, OH, 45802.

Center for UFO Studies is a not-for-profit Illinois corporation started by astronomer J. Allen Hynek. Hynek acted as consultant to the U.S. Air Force on their Project Blue Book for a number of years. Timmerman was his assistant secretary for a number of years and has served on the CUFOS Board of Directors since 1989. He is available for speaking engagements.

UFO trackers experience busy week

MIDDLETOWN (AP) — A glowing red object that dozens of people said they saw in the southwest Ohio sky over three nights last week continued to puzzle UFO watchers.

A citizens' group that tracks purported UFO sightings said Tuesday the object was seen by residents of the Middletown and Carlisle areas Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

Tri-State Advocates for Scientific Knowledge, based in the Cincinnati suburb of Norwood, said it had numerous reports of sightings. Police in Middletown confirmed that several people reported seeing unexplained lights in the sky.

Kenny Young, spokesman for the group, said a 10-minute videotape of Friday's sighting showed a red ball with lights circling it.

"At this time, the best explanation

is that it remains unexplainable," Young said after watching the videotape Tuesday night.

He said the videotape, shot by a Middletown woman he did not identify, confirmed the information reported to police.

"What is unique about this is not only do we have a videotape, but it collaborates with excellent documentation. That is rare," Young said.

Dale Farmer, one of about a dozen TASK members, planned to analyze the videotape using computer enhancements. Farmer said his best guess was that the unidentified flying object was a medical helicopter from a local hospital.

Young said preliminary information based on firsthand descriptions indicated the object was not a flare or hot-air balloon — two possible explanations.

Middletown police Maj. Mark Hoffman said the department received about 30 calls about the sightings, including some reports from officers.

"There were some hot air balloons in town that weekend, but probably not at 10 o'clock at night," Hoffman said.

Bode Gibbs described the object as round, glowing red with red lights. Dozens of people from the neighborhood gathered to watch, and Gibbs said the object twice appeared to dump a "ball of burning liquid."

THE JOURNAL GAZETTE, Fort Wayne, IN
Saturday, July 13, 1996

Hollywood may prompt dubious reports of UFOs

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Attention "Independence Day" fans: It's only a movie.

A Purdue University professor says we're too trusting when it comes to pseudo-news reports of aliens, UFOs and other paranormal phenomena. And the result may be that some people are fooled by the summer blockbuster about an alien invasion.

"In a movie like 'Independence Day' that is depicting alien invasion and so forth, it is possible that it could make those ideas more believable for some people," Purdue communications professor Glenn Sparks said Friday.

Sparks has conducted several studies to see how documentary-style TV shows affect beliefs.

"Even though we recognize that this is just a Hollywood product, just seeing these images on the screen may make them more plausible," he said.

Movie or not, there are plenty of people ready to believe what they've seen or read, including one person who called himself "Dreamer" on the Internet news group alt.ufo:

"I saw one dim, goldish orange

light slowly descend from the sky down into a cloud bank (May 7 at Melbourne, Fla.) It broke up into five separate lights and broke through the cloud bank into the open heading west at a fast speed."

Indiana residents have had their own close encounters. A woman from Berne said a UFO hovered over her vehicle as she drove home from work early July 6. The object — which may have been a bright star — was also seen by a town police officer and Berne Mayor Blaine Fulton.

And in Ohio this week police were deluged with calls reporting an UFO. It later turned out to be a hoax produced by dangling a flare from a balloon.

"The interesting thing about whoever would do this is the timing. The movie might have been a contributing factor," said Kenny Young of a Cincinnati-area UFO tracking group that debunked the sighting.

Sparks has studied media issues for 20 years, mostly dealing with emotional effects on children. He is just starting research on the effects of media accounts of UFOs and other paranormal reports.

Alien origin ruled out for crop circle in field

BY AMI EDEN
BLADE STAFF WRITER

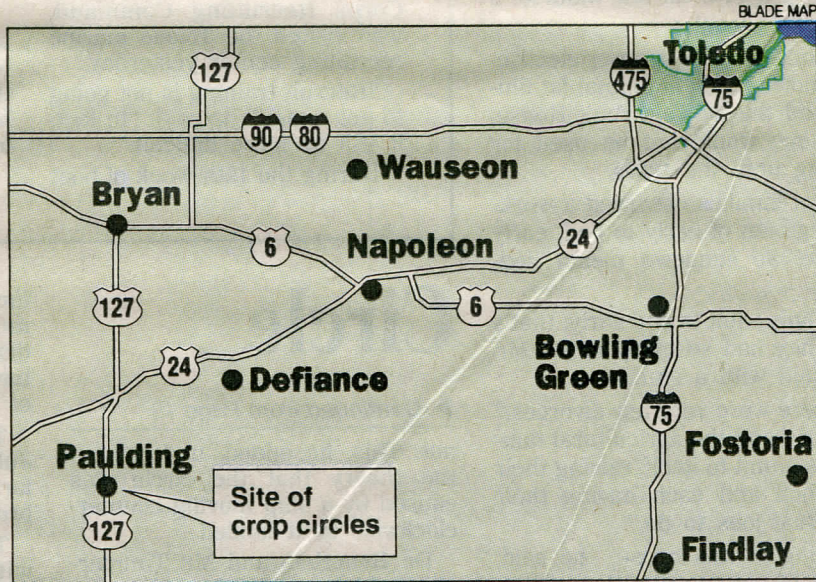
PAULDING — Have no fear, earthlings. Hostile aliens from outer space are not responsible for the crop circle that appeared in a wheat field on Paulding County Road 126, about three miles east of U.S. 127.

That is the conclusion of two specialists who inspected the site about noon yesterday with 50 spectators looking on.

James Beuerlein, a member of Ohio State University's crop science department, and John Timmerman, a Lakeview, O., resident associated with the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, agreed that the phenomenon was man-made and not the product of an intergalactic space ship.

"No aliens here today," Dr. Beuerlein said. "Just a lot of people interested in seeing them."

The two specialists said the combination of an uneven surface and uniformly bent grains ruled



out an alien landing. If the crop circle was caused by a space ship, they argued, the wheat stems would have been broken in different locations.

Although most of the grains were pointing counter-clockwise, Dr. Beuerlein said, many were

See *CIRCLE*, Page 20 ►

Circle

► Continued from Page 19

not. This, he added, undermined the theory that the circle was caused by a ship moving counter-clockwise as it landed.

Dr. Beuerlein and Mr. Timmerman said they didn't know how the circle was made, but Dr. Beuerlein said he would test the germination of the grain in an attempt to shed some light on the crop circle's creation. The test results will be available in about three weeks.

Theoretically, Dr. Beuerlein added, aliens still could be responsible for the crop circle, even if tests fail to turn up any sign of radiation.

"If intelligent beings came, they would not want to contaminate the Earth," he said.

Mr. Timmerman said pranksters may have timed the hoax to co-

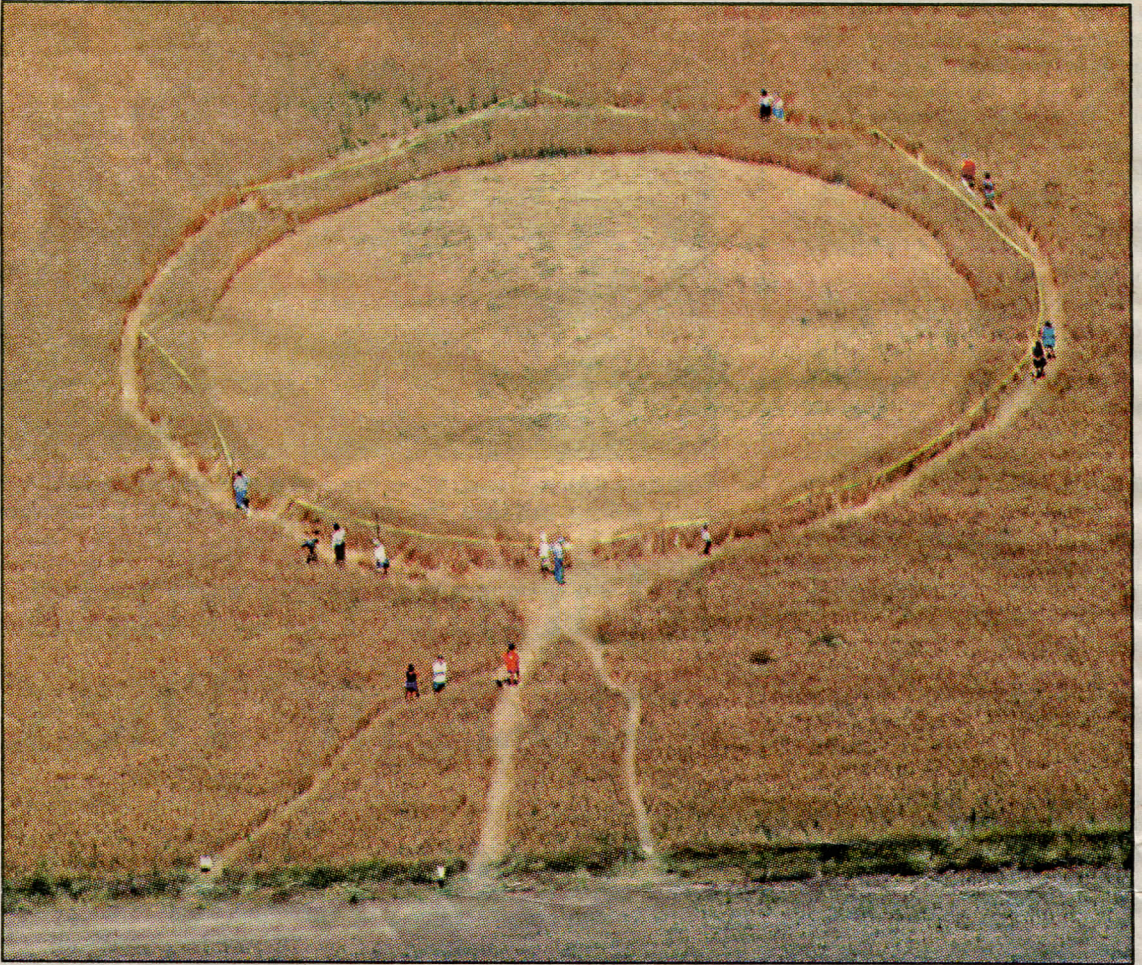
incide with the release of the alien movie *Independence Day*. He demonstrated how someone could have walked in between the rows of wheat without creating a trail.

The crop circle, which was seen July 4 by a local pilot in a field farmed by Don Arend and his two brothers, is 93 feet in diameter.

The Arend brothers have spoken with reporters from Toronto, Cleveland, Oklahoma City, California, as well as CNN. About 1,500 people visited the site of the phenomenon Tuesday, Mr. Arend said. Some came from as far away as St. Louis.

Mr. Arend said he and his brothers never thought about selling souvenirs or charging visitors to see the crop circle, but they did order a few dozen T-shirts for friends and family members.

The front of the shirts will read "I survived the Paulding Crop Circle '96," with a picture of an embarrassed alien hovering over the site, according to Mr. Arend's



The crop circle near Paulding, first seen July 4 by a local pilot, is 93 feet in diameter.

brother, Dan.

"Someone went to an awful lot of trouble to make the circle," Paulding County Sheriff David Harrow said. "As far as we know, no aliens have landed.

"But if anyone has a question, they can call the office," the sheriff added.

Some people believe crop circles are made by supernatural forces, and news that aliens might have landed here attracted more attention than the Paulding County Fair, which opened Monday.

Julie and Andrew Atkin traveled from Columbus to take photographs of the crop circle.

"This stuff always happens someplace else," Mrs. Atkin said. "It's kind of wild that it happened in Ohio."

She was unsure if aliens had anything to do with the phenomenon. "I think there is something out there, but I'm not in a position to say what happened," Mrs. Atkin said.

Dan Federspiel, a Fort Wayne, Ind., resident and longtime believer in UFOs, said he thinks his son, John, might have photographed an alien ship flying above the crop circle about 3 p.m. Sunday.

Mr. Federspiel passed around two photographs, each with an unexplained flash of light above the circle.

"I've seen photographs of UFOs, and they [look like this]. On one frame, they have a zig-zag of light," Mr. Federspiel said.

"Our civilization failed the test of Adam and Eve. If there is other life that passed the test, then they are billions of years ahead of us."

Mr. Federspiel said he wasn't sure whether the crop circle was created by space aliens or highly intelligent creatures living in a different dimension on Earth.

Blade Correspondent Bob Ulm contributed to this report.

Jury is still out

Evidence leans toward local crop circle being the work of pranksters

From staff and wire reports

PAULDING — The jury's still out on what caused Paulding County's crop circle, but evidence is leaning toward the work of pranksters.

Sheriff Dave Harrow says it's a hoax.

John Timmerman of the Center for UFO studies, Chicago, said earlier there was a possibility that the circle was not man-made. He has since changed his mind.

An Ohio State University agronomist says he can tell for sure that the circle was man-made.

But an astronomy instructor from Eastern Michigan University continued to breathe life into the popular supernatural theory Wednesday by reporting that radiation levels in the circle mysteriously register three times that of its surroundings.

Jeffrey Wilson from EMU's Center for Crop Circle Studies, said that he and another EMU representative established a radiation background reading of 20 clicks per minute outside the circle.

"We did that to establish what would be considered the normal reading for that area," said Wilson. "We got exactly the same reading on the edge of the circle and in the center. But in between the six- and 20-foot mark in the circle, it increased to 48 to 60 clicks."

Wilson wouldn't speculate what that increased reading meant, but he did note that it indicated some type of radiation abnormality.

"I would say that there is strong supporting evidence that this is not a hoax," stated Wilson.

Wilson based his assertion on several points, including the fact that there were a number of standing stalks left inside the circle.

"If someone had been walking around inside of there with a board they wouldn't have left one single standing stalk," he said.

"If you pull up the crop and examine it, it is bent right at the ground," he said. "If a board or some other object would have flattened it, it would have been bent slightly above the ground."

Other factors that convinced Wilson of the circle's authenticity include the way the crop is woven together in the middle, the radiation readings and undamaged grainheads.

"Due to the dry weather in this area we found the stalks in the field to be very dry and brittle at this time," said Wilson. "We feel that they would have broken very easily if they had been stepped on. We were impressed with the way the stalks weren't broken."

In spite of Wilson's belief, he refused to associate the phenomenon with an unidentified flying object.

"I will go out of my way to say that I don't think a UFO landed here," said Wilson, "but some type of directional energy happened here to make the grain lie down like it is."

"It was a prank," Sheriff David Harrow said Wednesday. "It is a man-made circle out there. There was no extraterrestrial landing."

A local pilot last week spotted the circle measuring 93 feet in diameter in a field farmed by Dan Arend and his two brothers.

Hundreds of people who have been flocking to Arend's farm every day to gaze at the circle. They had been debating whether the circle was left by a UFO or was a hoax.

Harrow said an Ohio State University agronomist examined the circle on Wednesday and said he could tell the circle was man-made.

"Someone went through an extreme amount of effort to do this. I really don't have an answer as to why anybody would do this," he said.

Crop circles have been found around the world. Some people claim they are formed by supernatural forces, but doubters think they are more likely the work of pranksters.

Those responsible for the Paulding circle could be charged with criminal trespassing, Harrow said.

The circle was found on July 3. Pilot Mike Dobbela, his wife, Sandy, and two relatives spotted the circle during a plane ride.

They told Arend, who contacted Timmerman, who examined the circle and then called in Jim Beurlein, an OSU horticulture and plant specialist.

They both examined the circle Wednesday.

"We could tell it was a hoax by the way the grain was laying in the field," Timmerman said. He declined to elaborate.

"If I tell you too much, it would make it easier for someone to do something like this again," he said.

At first, Harrow said he didn't think the circle was the work of vandals. Neither did Timmerman.

"When I was out there Saturday, I didn't see any tracks leading in or leading out of the circle," Harrow said.

Earlier in the day, Timmerman indicated that he felt the circle could possibly be a hoax.

"I find some evidence that it could have been made by people moving their feet," said Timmerman. "It could have been made by something about three feet long trailing along toward the center.

"Toward the center there are changes in the grain. It's hard to believe that an object coming down didn't compress this more than it did," he added.

Wednesday's visit represented the second time that Timmerman had checked the site, located just off of County Road 126 and west of Ohio 637, approximately seven miles west of Paulding. During his first visit, when he found the circle to be less disturbed, he had indicated that he felt that it was not a hoax.

"It wasn't formed by an aircraft or a wind vortex, such as would be created by a helicopter.

"Because of the counter-clockwise nature in which the wheat is laid out, it appears that whatever caused it was turning

as it landed, whatever it was," Timmerman had said. "Something caused the wheat to all fall in the same direction, but I don't know what it was."

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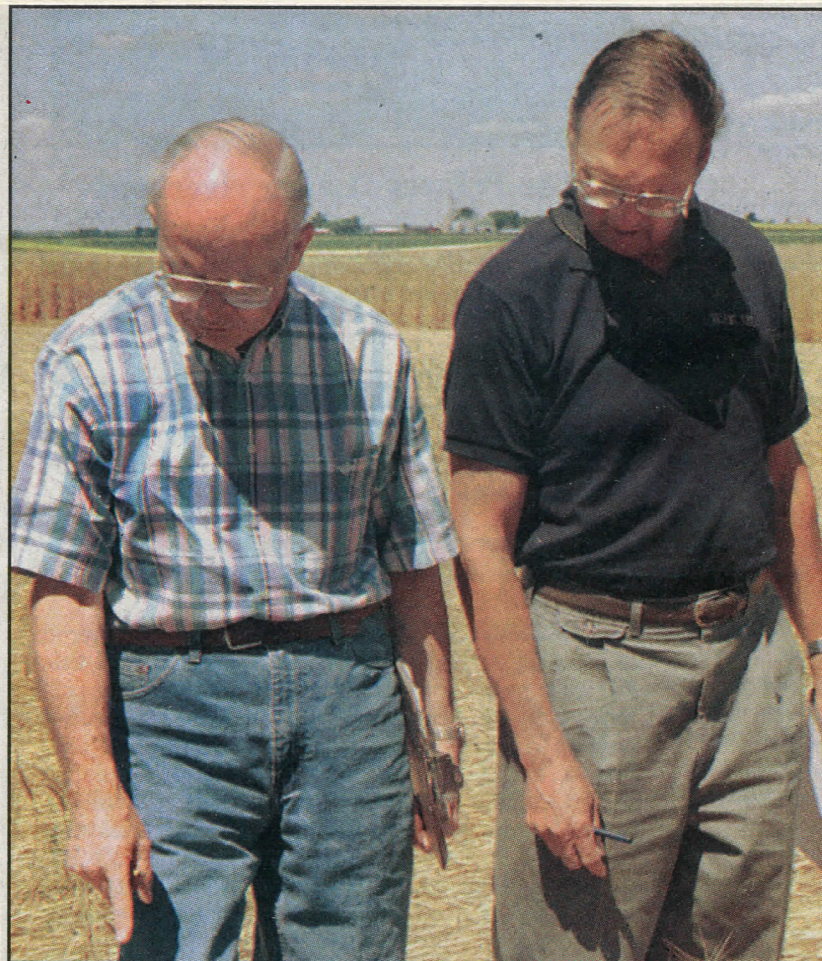
"When I was out there Saturday, I didn't see any tracks leading in or leading out of the circle," Harrow said.

Whatever they believed about the formation, people continued to trek up the lane leading to the circle Wednesday evening like extras in the film "Field of

Dreams." By noon, an estimated 3,000 people had visited the site — and each one had their own opinion about what they saw.

"I saw it in the paper and decided that I wanted to see it firsthand," said Forrest Rayle, of Leipsic. "I've always been interested in UFOs. I think something made this and I don't think it was pranksters."

"It's amazing," said Chester Ziolkowski of Buffalo, N.Y. "We were here yesterday and we wanted to come back again today to see it. I can't believe it. I've never seen anything like it in my life."



Jim Langham/C-N Photo

HOAX HUNTING — John Timmerman (left), vice president of public relations for the Center for UFO Studies, Chicago, and Jim Beurlein, an Ohio State University agronomist, examine the Paulding County crop circle on Wednesday.

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Teen receives some reassurance

Girl who reportedly saw UFO visits circle

By JIM LANGHAM
Staff Writer

PAULDING — It was a unique merging, a girl who had reportedly seen an unidentified flying object in Indiana, standing by a crop circle in Paulding County.

Dawn Sprunger, 19, Berne, Ind., reported last Saturday morning that a UFO had hovered over her car as she traveled a seven-mile stretch of highway west of Berne. Local law enforcement officials, including Berne Mayor Blaine Fulton, also observed the phenomenon, which Fulton captured briefly on a camcorder.

Berne police chief Merlin Bixler, along with three others officers, headed east out of town and verified the object.

Sprunger said that the object eventually drifted to the east and northeast and finally disappeared. Berne is located

in Adams County, approximately 40 miles southwest of Paulding.

At the time, Sprunger hadn't heard of the crop circle discovered in a Paulding County field later on July 4, but once she did, she knew she wanted to visit it.

Tuesday afternoon, Sprunger and a cousin, Shane Dailey, walked up the field path off of Paulding County Road 126 to observe the formation.

"I was overwhelmed by what I saw," said Sprunger, describing her first impression of the circle. "It was unreal to think that the same thing that I had seen might have something to do with that crop circle."

Sprunger's description of what she had seen was that of a triangular-shaped object, in vertical position, with red and blue lights blinking. When she realized that it seemed to be hovering over her

(REASSURED, Page A12)

Timmerman asks possible hoaxers for explanation

By JIM LANGHAM
Staff Writer

PAULDING — John Timmerman of the Center for UFO studies, Chicago, requested this morning that the individual or individuals responsible for constructing the Paulding County crop circle send an unsigned letter to *The Crescent-News* explaining their action.

"There are still a lot of unanswered questions in this situation and we are continuing our investigation. (ANSWERS, A12)

THE BLADE: TOLEDO, OHIO ■ FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1996

UFO investigator says wheat field crop circle likely to be forgotten

BY AMI EDEN
BLADE STAFF WRITER

PAULDING — Investigators say the aliens never came, and soon the tourists will probably go home. But how will the Paulding crop circle be remembered by UFO enthusiasts, a group that is still talking about a "space ship" that crashed almost 50 years ago in Roswell, N.M.?

The crop circle, in a wheat field on Paulding County Road 126, about three miles east of U.S. 127, will probably be forgotten, according to Richard Thielmann, a Toledo-based investigator for the Mutual UFO Network.

"The 'UFOlogy' stories that persist are the ones that have been thoroughly investigated by police, doctors, and scientists [yet no explanation has been found]," Mr. Thielmann said. "It is also important to have eyewitness [accounts] from random people who don't

know each other and report the same phenomenon."

A key difference between the Paulding phenomenon and more famous incidents like the Roswell crash is the absence of a government cover-up, according to John Timmerman, a Lakeview, O., resident associated with the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies.

"When the government seems to be involved in terms of covering up information, these cases gain the serious attention of serious researchers," Mr. Timmerman said. He added that there is no evidence of a government conspiracy in Paulding.

"This is not a major case," Mr. Timmerman added. "It's just an interesting anomaly, which we think will be resolved as a hoax."

Mr. Timmerman and James Beuerlein, a member of Ohio State University's crop science depart-

ment, investigated the phenomenon Wednesday and agreed it was man-made.

The specialists said the combination of an uneven surface and uniformly bent grains ruled out an alien landing. If the crop circle was caused by a space ship, they argued, the wheat stems would have been bent in different locations.

Most UFO watchers will probably forget about the crop circle after hearing Mr. Timmerman's conclusion that the phenomenon was a hoax, Mr. Thielmann said.

"I would trust John. He's a former bank president. He is reputable and knowledgeable of phenomena," Mr. Thielmann said.

"If he says it's a fake. He is highly respected within the UFO community."

The crop circle, which was seen on July 4 by a local pilot in a field farmed by three brothers, Dan, Don, and Dave Arend, measures 93 feet in diameter.



Jim Langham/C-N Photo

Sprunger: Examines wheat by crop circle

REASSURED

From Page A1

car, she became frightened and telephoned local law enforcement officials.

The Indiana woman's report came on the wings of UFO sightings in the Middletown and Carlisle areas in southwest Ohio on July 4 and 5. Tri-State Advocates for Scientific Knowledge, based in the Cincinnati suburb of Norwood, had said that it received numerous reports of sightings.

"It (visiting the crop circle) reassured me that I wasn't crazy," said Sprunger. "I didn't feel that it was something that was man-made. I sensed within my self that it was something that was related to what I had seen."

On Wednesday, Sprunger was back on the scene again with a close friend. This time as she approached the site, she was more relaxed.

"I didn't feel nearly as nervous as I had earlier," she said. "I told my friend all about it and she wanted to see it. She was in complete awe about the whole thing."

One of the things that Sprunger

found interesting were the remarks of individuals at the circle. One person was certain that it was a hoax.

"I wanted so bad to tell him what I thought, but I decided to keep quiet because I knew that he wouldn't understand," said Sprunger. "People need to give these things a chance. It really bugs me when people judge the situation when they don't even have any facts or know how it feels."

One conversation that particularly grabbed Sprunger's attention was that of a couple discussing how they had heard on television that "some girl from Berne" had seen a UFO.

"I wanted to tell them so bad that I was the one who had seen it, but I didn't know how they would react," said Sprunger. "It was strange because they were all wondering, but I knew. It was so neat to know that, but nobody knew who I was."

"I feel so privileged. The thing I really like about it is the way that it's all bringing people together who wouldn't have met otherwise," she said.

ANSWERS

From Page A1

gation," said Timmerman. "But there's still a possibility that this is a hoax."

Timmerman asked that the individual sending the letter explain in detail how his actions were carried out, including how and when. This information, he said, could assist with analysis of the situation. And he emphasized that it would be a waste of time to send a hoax letter.

"We have enough information to verify whether or not the letter is a hoax," said Timmerman. "We can identify false information. But there is a lot of time, money and study going into this. This is not a joke. If there is a perpetrator out there, it would save everyone a lot of time and energy for that individual to come forth."

"We need to be sure that we have the right analysis of this thing," he said. "We need to get this thing taken care of as soon as possible, in respect to the Arend family. They are very kind people and have been most cooperative. We need to do all that we can to speed up this study so that they can go on with their lives as farmers."

Timmerman has also asked that individuals in the area who might have any additional information concerning the crop incident report that information.

"Anyone who noticed anything out of the ordinary could have helpful information," he said. "It's hard to say what piece of information out there could be something helpful to us."

Timmerman had said on Wednesday, after studying the situation with Jim Beurlein, an Ohio State University agronomist, that there was a possibility that the crop circle could be man-made.

"That's still a possibility," Timmerman emphasized this morning, "but we need to get all of the facts together in this. There are still a lot of questions we need to answer before we can give a conclusive analysis."

The crop circle, located approximately seven miles east of Paulding on the Arend farm, has drawn national attention since it was first discovered by Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere on the afternoon of July 4 during a plane ride.

By Thursday afternoon, an estimated 4,000 people had visited the site to view the phenomenon.

Those having addition information are asked to send it to: John Timmerman, Box 1621, Lima, Ohio, 45802. He noted that he would accept letters or tapes. Information may also be faxed to 513-843-3834.

The address for *The Crescent-News* is 624 W. Second St., Defiance, Ohio 43512.

Crop circle a multi-state draw

By JIM LANGHAM
Staff Writer

PAULDING — Lines of cars along Paulding County Road 126 this past week beside a wheat field farmed by the Arend Brothers have displayed license plates from Iowa, Oklahoma, Michigan, Indiana and other states in between.

Visitors have also come to the rural Paulding farm from as far away as Arizona, Florida and New York — all in search of an answer to the question — “What caused a crop circle to appear in the

middle of a wheat field?”

“It’s hard for me to believe that it would be a hoax,” said Deb Keller of Clarion, Iowa, who is visiting in the home of her mother in Monroeville, Ind. “If somebody stood in there and held something to do that, it seems like they would have broken some wheat.

“I was amazed,” she added. “It’s so uniform. I definitely plan to come back.”

“I believe it. There’s no trace of footsteps,” said Ayersville’s Kevin Ross. “I can’t believe all of the people that are out here.”

Ross’ friend, Josh Rethmel, Defiance, didn’t know what to believe about the circle which mysteriously appeared in the field late last week.

“I do and I don’t believe it,” said Rethmel. “It looks real. There’s a good circle there. I don’t see how anyone could do that. It is all woven together so neat. I don’t think it’s a hoax, but I don’t think it’s aliens.”

Gary Roughton, an employee with Motion Industries Inc., Defiance, was passing through the area on business and decided to stop and take a look. Roughton said that viewing the formation has made him a believer.

“I’m a believer. I don’t think it was done by humans. When I look at it I say, ‘How could they do that,’ Roughton said. “It’s hard to say. It’s just such an amazing perfect circle.”

The crop circle, located approximately seven miles east of Paulding, has drawn national attention since it was first discovered by Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere of Oakwood during a plane ride. Since that time, more than 4,000 people have walked up the quarter-mile path to view the phenomenon.

Penny and Shannon Johnson, Van Wert, first visited the circle last Sunday and were so impressed that they decided to return later in the week. It’s the unseen aspects of the experience that drew both women back the second time.

“I think it’s cool,” said Shannon, “because you don’t see what made it and you don’t see how it happened.”

“It’s unbelievable,” noted Penny. “You look at it and you go back and tell your friends. We’ve read about these a lot, but we’ve never been to one.”

Jesse Giutierrez of Custer made the 35-mile-trek after he heard about it on the news.

THE BLADE: TOLEDO, OHIO ■ SATURDAY, JULY 13, 1996

Fallen wheat in circle likely to be removed

BY BLADE STAFF WRITER

PAULDING, O. — Time is running out for people who want to analyze the crop circle seen by a local pilot in a wheat field on Paulding County Road 126, about three miles east of U.S. 127.

Randy Robinett, an assistant to the three brothers who farm the field where the circle appeared last week, said the fallen wheat probably would be removed tomorrow. Dan, Don, and Dave Arend also plan to clip about a foot off the

surrounding three-foot stalks.

“The rain is coming, and we don’t want people trodding mud [through the field],” Mr. Robinett said.

The brothers’ mother said she had mixed feelings about tampering with the circle, which measures 93 feet in diameter, because she didn’t believe it was man-made.

“I have no explanation for it,” said Eloise Arend.

Mr. Robinett said the brothers probably would harvest and plow the entire field in the next few weeks.



Jim Langham/C-N Photo

Visitors have come to rural Paulding from as far away as Arizona

"I don't know what to say, but this whole thing sure is weird," he said.

Paulding's Becky Carr was still skeptical about it all, but couldn't provide any explanation about the origin of the formation.

"I can't say whether or not it was actually man made, but it's such a perfect circle," she said. "It's pretty amazing."

On Wednesday, John Timmerman of the Center for UFO studies, Chicago, and Jim Beurlein, an Ohio State University agronomist, inspected the circle and indicated that they believed that it could be a hoax.

But Jeffrey Wilson, representing the Center for Crop Circle Studies, Washington, said that he didn't believe that it was.

Wilson reported that radiation levels inside the circle on Wednesday measured three times higher than outside the circle. On Friday, Wilson returned for another reading. This time he discovered that readings inside and outside the circle were compatible.

"This leads me to believe that it might have been much higher before Wednesday," he said. "It appears to be dropping."

"We've been trying to make contact with other forms of life for a long time. We have satellites out in space and on the moon," said Larry Finseth, Paulding. "If there are other forms of life, there's no reason why they wouldn't be just as curious. This could be their attempt to reach out to us.

"Or it just could be God's way of trying to get our attention," he added. "Whatever it is, it has people thinking and talking about things they wouldn't have if this hadn't been here."

Paulding family deals with 'circle-mania'

"Lines of cars lined the road and people were trekking up to see the phenomenon all hours of the day."

Home
spun



By Jim Langham
Staff Writer

PAULDING — Eight-year-old Jennifer Arend finds life "sort of weird" these days. Since last weekend, her family has been under siege from an invasion of onlookers curious about a crop circle that showed up in one of their wheat fields on July 4.

"I've never seen so many people come down my street (Paulding County Road 126) before," says Jennifer. "I keep thinking, 'what's the big deal about this circle anyway?'"

While they have enjoyed meeting people and the excitement of having a crop circle on their property, members of the Arend family are looking forward these days to seeing their lives regain a sense of normalacy.

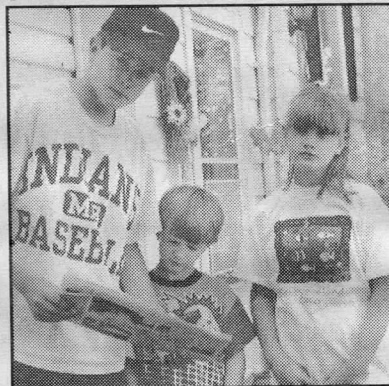
Life for the Paulding county farm family had been tough enough this spring — all of the rain, the hard time getting crops out — and now the extended dry spell.

None of that, however, could touch the interruptions and changes that have taken place since a crop circle was dis-

covered on property farmed by their family late in the day on July 4.

That's when Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere of Oakwood were giving some friends an aerial tour in their Piper Cub. While they were flying over the Arend property they noted a crop circle in a wheat field just off of County Road 126 west of Ohio 613.

It didn't take long for news of the discovery to spread. By Tuesday of this past week, calls were arriving from media personnel from as far away as Ok-



From left: NICHOLAS, MATTHEW AND JENNIFER AREND

lahoma City, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Los Angeles and other points in between, including the Associated Press.

Family members could hardly take a bite of food without the telephone ringing. To try to visit or get anything done was unthinkable. Lines of cars lined the road and people were trekking up to see the phenomenon all hours of the day. Family members have been forced to guard their property and set up signs to help control and direct the flow of traffic — all of this at a time when wheat harvest is impending.

"At first it was exciting. Now I think it's a little tiring," comments Joanna Arend, whose husband, David, helps

farm the land. Somebody has to be here all of the time. We never expected all of these people. We never thought that everything would turn out like this."

"I can't believe how big this has gotten. It's weird," says Joanna's daughter, Jackie. "We've had to put signs up. People are coming here from all over asking how to find the circle.

"Our phone never stops ringing. It starts at 7:30 a.m. and doesn't stop," said Darcy, Don and Sue's other daughter. "I can't believe it happened to us. Why would this happen to us?"

"Interruptions, that doesn't phase me," emphasizes Jennifer's mother, Natalie Arend. "With five kids I'm busy. I think we function well with interruptions. Everybody should enjoy the circle. There's something in the circle itself — like reaching for things, or friendships. In other shapes, you have to stop and make turns. But circles go on forever."

"It's amazing what people are doing and saying here," adds Jackie. "People were in the center of the circle with their dogs to see if they could pick up any kind of scent. One man told me I was the first person he met from Paulding. He was from Arizona."

Jackie's cousin, Laura, notes that, at last count, more than 3,000 people walked along the field path to observe the circle — and they're still coming, almost like the movie, *Field of Dreams*. Although to Laura's mother, Sue, it is becoming more like the movie, *Independence Day*.

"I really want to know what caused it," says Sue. "I don't particularly care at this point whether it was manmade or not. I just want to know. I don't think I'll ever be quite as excited about seeing news cameras. As far as I'm concerned: been there, done that. I don't need that anymore. I can hardly wait for the day for life to get back to normal."

Crop circle t-shirts on sale, proceeds will go to hospital

Arend partially finds way to repay Shriners for their past assistance

By JIM LANGHAM
Staff Writer

PAULDING — Since the time that Jackie Arend spent 11 days in Shriner's Hospital in Chicago earlier this year, she has been looking for a way to show her appreciation for the special care she received at the medical facility.

During the time she was hospitalized, the daughter of David and Joanna Arend, rural Paulding, experienced surgery to correct medical problems caused by scoliosis in her back. Following surgery she spent five days in the hospital's intensive care unit. While that type of hospitalization would have normally been very expensive, Arend and her family came home debt free, due to the generous provisions of Shriner organizations nationwide.

Finally, Arend has found a way to partially repay medical staff personnel for their assistance at that time — and in a way that she would have never imagined.

She and members of her family are selling t-shirts commemorating the crop circle in Paulding County. Shirts sell for \$15 a piece and *all proceeds* are being directed back to Shriner's Hospital.

"I have felt all along that we should do something for them," observed Arend, who assisted other family members in selling shirts from the back of a pickup truck near the entrance of a lane leading to the circle which is located on land they farm along Paulding County Road 126.

"They (Shriner's) did so much for me and for our family. They were so nice about it," continued Arend. "We were going to go to the Shriner's Circus, but then this came up."

Members of the Arend family take turns tending the small makeshift sales booth. Shirts can also be purchased by visiting or telephoning Kohart Surplus and Salvage in Broughton (399-4144).

Although incidents of scoliosis have occurred before in the Arend family, Jackie's medical problem wasn't uncovered until she submitted to a physical prior to becoming involved with the junior high volleyball program. At that time, the attending physician pointed her in a totally different direction than the front row of an athletic team.

Paulding physician, Dr. William Miller, picked up possible indications of a progressing form of scoliosis. A visit to a specialist in Fort Wayne confirmed Miller's suspicions and Arend was placed in a cast.

For over a year, the aspiring young athlete observed competition from the sidelines, but her back condition didn't improve. Finally she was sent to Shriner's Hospital where attending physicians advocated surgery.

"At first I wore the brace all of the time, but then I just wore it at night because it wasn't doing any good anyway," recalls Arend. "When I got to Chicago the doctors there told me that it wasn't going to help any."



Jim Langham/C-N Photo

Jackie Arend: Holds up one of the crop circle shirts

Arend underwent surgery this past Jan. 11. Although she returned home late in the month, she wasn't able to go back to school until March. During that time, she continued her schooling through the help of a tutor. She also found the task of starting to walk and rehabilitating to be quite a challenge.

Although she has made a strong recovery, doctors informed her at the time of the surgery that she wouldn't be able to participate in her favorite sports of volleyball and softball for at least a year.

"Hopefully that means I'll be able to start participating in sports again by the second semester," says Arend.

Arend attributed much of her rapid recovery to the fact that her mother was home encouraging her.

"Everyone was really good to me. I got a lot of help at the hospital," observes Arend. "It helped to have mom at home all the time. She really helped in keeping me thinking positive. I kept looking forward to going back to school.

"A lot of people have told us that they appreciate that we're doing this," says Arend. "I think it's a good idea but I also think it's weird. I never thought that we would be paying back Shriners' Hospital because of a crop circle in one of our wheat fields."

Aliens are everywhere this summer

Alien visitors. Crop circles. Angels. Take your pick, signs and portents of mysterious life forms are everywhere this summer. Is there a deeper meaning to be found?

The new alien-invasion hit film, *Independence Day*, had us jumping in our seats. Far from the kindly messengers often described by alien-ophiles, these visitors were pure malevolence.

Our attitude was no doubt affected by *Connections* (Wild Flower Press, 1996), a new book by Beth Collings and Anna Jamerson, that chillingly documents their ongoing experiences with powerful beings who respect no one's rights.

Meanwhile, outside Paulding, O., a wheat field now has a huge flattened circular "footprint," the newest crop circle (it has since been declared man-made). And yesterday at the office, someone passed along a picture of clouds shot from an airplane — if you look closely, you can see a feathery creature some swear is an angel.

What are we to make of the latest pressing of inexplicable fruit? What sort of vintage are we going to bottle in 1996, to be uncorked a decade or so from now? If some massive upheaval is under way, it won't surprise

FRED & SALLY VALLONGO



the major and minor prophets who have foretold such things for centuries.

For example, massive earth changes and destruction would vindicate those who justifiably worry about our wanton waste of natural resources.

An invasion by callous aliens might settle, once and for all, humanity's endless wrangling over minute differences — skin color, religious heritage, political philosophy. But consider the greater cost — as graphically depicted in the film.

Beautiful angels bringing love to a sorely tested earth would be the wish for those of us who believe that good will triumph over evil.

Among all these events, real and imaginery, the story of Ms. Collings and Ms. Jamerson is most haunting. Neither set out to be authors, yet some force was unwilling to let the women go their own ways in peace.

In an intense and detailed — if rather confusingly organized — first-person account-times-two, Ms. Collings and Ms. Jamerson recount of their unwanted experiences with beings of immense power and little compunction. They tell of physical harm: bruises and burns, mysterious false pregnancies, punctures. Worse than that are the endless questions about their sanity.

Their prose is convincing in its lack of slickness, its convoluted exploration of what is clearly beyond their ken. Through their wide, fearful eyes we learn minutiae about their experiences, and feel their confusion, anger, and frustration at lacking control to end the experiences.

Also through Ms. Collings and Ms. Jamerson we see their treatment by others, from scientists to journalists, each eager to tap the women's lives for their own ends. For those who claim alien encounters are hoaxes, their writing asks the question, why would someone manufacture such turmoil?

Americans are too fearful of mental and emotional illness for anyone to seek attention that would raise such questions. Skepticism about the inexplicable is a far more comfortable

Aliens are everywhere this summer.....(continued)

stance to maintain.

"We do not propose there is but one explanation for what is happening to us and to so many others out there," they write. "We do not presume to understand it, nor do we have a clue how to make it stop." Since the women have opened up about their strange encounters, other family members have recounted similar experiences, not a rare phenomenon among contactees.

One more book about experiences, it adds a little more proof to our position that what our senses tell us about the limits of life are not the entire picture. What appeals to us in alien films, angel sightings, and the whole realm of inexplicable occurrences is that all of it may add up to proof that we are neither alone nor really very powerful.

"If we have learned anything from our past philosophies, we

should have learned that nothing is impossible, nothing is permanent, and truth lies somewhere between interpretation and understanding," write Ms. Collings and Ms. Jamerson.

To that we would add one thing: May the Force be with all of us.

Sally and Fred Vallongo's New Age column appears each Sunday.

Family attempts to be fair and generous to the public

Arends try to answer questions and satisfy any liability concerns

By **JIM LANGHAM**
Staff Writer

PAULDING — Nicholas Arend admits he has been surprised by some of the things he's seen around a crop circle on the family farm the past few days.

One morning he discovered that someone had thrown a beer can in the center of the circle. On another occasion, family members were forced to chase out some late night intruders who had gone back to the circle.

And these are just a few of the incidents that have taken place on the Arend farm since the circle was discovered late on July 4.

"My responsibility in all of this has been to try to keep things cleaned up," said Nicholas, the son of Dan and Natalie Arend. "I

pick up trash and try to keep things in shape around here as much as I can."

During the time that the Arend family has allowed public viewing of the circle, family members have patrolled the site to answer questions, and also to satisfy possible liability questions.

"We've felt all along that this is something the public should be able to see. Besides, it gets me away from home," he quipped. "I like to just sit here and try to figure out what they think about it."

"We've felt that someone needs to be there because of our fear of liability," explained Sue Arend, Don's wife. "We know what lawsuits can be like these days."

Sue said that family members made the initial decision to make the formation available to the public when experts originally informed them that they felt that the phenomenon was authentic.

"We thought, 'Oh, gosh, if that's

(FAMILY, Page A12)

the case, yes, people, you can see it," said Sue. "We thought that if we had some type of phenomenon like that, people should be able to see it."

Since those initial assessments, appraisals of the site have brought mixed opinions. Last Wednesday, Ohio State agronomist Jim Beurlein said that he felt the circle was definitely a hoax.

The same day, Jeffrey Wilson, from the Center for Crop Circle Studies at Eastern Michigan University, said that he felt it was not a hoax. Wilson based much of his conclusion on the fact that he found elevated radiation counts inside the circle.

All of this has left family members confused, sometimes frustrated, but wanting to be generous and fair to an interested public.

"It's a frustrating feeling having people come in as experts, but not one of them having ever seen a crop circle before," noted Sue. "If they had said from the beginning that they had doubts about it, we would have just cut the wheat and that would have been it."

Paulding County Sheriff David Harrow had nothing but praise for the Arends and their attitude through all of this.

"Nobody would trade 15 minutes of notoriety for all they've been through this past week," said Harrow. "People bringing pets out there, driving through their field — and they haven't made any profit off of this."

"I've known the Arend family for over 20 years," said Harrow. "If this does turn out to be a hoax, it has nothing to do with



Jim Langham/C-N Photo

FAMILY CIRCLE—During the time that Paulding County's Arend family has allowed public viewing of the crop circle, family members have patrolled the site to answer questions, and also to satisfy possible liability questions. Here, Kaelyn Arend (left), Nicholas Arend and Beth Endsley talk over their experiences since the discovery of the circle on July 4.

them. In fact, I would be very surprised if anyone in Paulding County would have anything to do with this."

"This is a normal, reputable, hard-working Paulding County farm family where this phenomenon just happened to occur," said Paulding County Commissioner Tony Langham, who visited the circle. "This has cost them a lot of time and the loss of crops."

"Not only have they given of their time and effort to make this possible, they've developed t-shirts to help raise money for Shriner's Hospital. They've more than gone out of their way to turn

this into something for public good," added Langham.

One individual who has worked closely with the Arend family throughout the study has been John Timmerman of the Center for UFO studies, Chicago. His office continues to investigate recent tidbits of interest concerning the circle.

"From the standpoint of investigation, if it had to happen, it couldn't have happened to a better situation," said Timmerman. "They are very solid people. It's because I recognize that solidness that I continue to give this situation all of the time that I can."

Having 4,000 unexpected visitors in the middle of harvest hasn't always been the easiest thing, noted Joanna Arend, wife of David Arend.

"It's been quite a year, the wet spring, the dry summer, and now this," she said.

"It has helped strengthen my faith," added Sue. "Not that I think that some big miracle happened out here, but because everything that has happened surrounding this has made me reach deep inside to find peace through my faith in Jesus. I feel that we've taken some needless ridicule, but God doesn't give us more than we can handle."

THE BLADE

PAGES OF OPINION



Toledo, Ohio

Tuesday, July 16, 1996

Page 6

Those wacky aliens

THEIR appearance tempts one to begin humming the theme tune to *The Twilight Zone*. Crop circles. If you haven't seen one, you've heard about them. They tend to be perfectly formed circles or geometric patterns showing no discernible signs of human creation.

Kind of like the potholes in Toledo's streets.

Anyway, another of these circles cropped up in Paulding County a few days back. The circle first was spotted on July 4, leading to speculation that somebody was trying to sell some tickets to the new movie, *Independence Day*.

It had occurred to us that the indentation might also have been formed by a party of Columbus bureaucrats going round in circles trying to find their way to U.S. 23, but again this was not the case.

It now appears that far from being the work of aliens — from outer space or the state capital — come to discover the lost territory of northwest Ohio, this was the work of pranksters having, excuse us, a "field" day.

This isn't the first crop circle to be found in

northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Last year, four of them were discovered in Adrian Township. Sadly for UFO-believers, these, too, were man-made — although come the fall classic football game between Ohio State and Michigan, many folks from the Buckeye State believe anyone from Michigan is an alien.

Corn circles also have been found in Britain. The first of recent times was noted in the 1970s, and since then thousands have appeared in fields around that country. Some were admitted pranks. Others have no plausible explanation.

Their appearance has given rise to a crop of organizations dedicated to investigating the phenomenon. Each is keeping its ears to the ground, but none is any closer to determining what causes these close encounters of the agricultural kind.

And in northwest Ohio, with a terrestrial explanation unlikely for the Paulding County crop circle, it looks as though E.T. wasn't here, either.

Researchers continue to gather evidence at crop circle formation

By DENISE GEBERS
Correspondent

A lot has happened in a Jackson Township wheat field west of Paulding in the past 13 days. A crop circle discovered July 4 was declared a manmade prank by experts on July 10. Yet other experts continue to come forward for a look at the formation and many come away with a different conclusion.

Roger Sugden, field investigator for Texas based Mutual UFO Network, Inc. (MUFON), was in the field collecting data even as the prank determination was being taped for television a few feet away. Jeff Wilson, an independent crop circle researcher, arrived from Eastern Michigan University (EMU) as the media cameras deserted the area. Before leaving the site, neither man agreed with the statements aired on TV that evening.

Fort Wayne resident Sugden quietly took soil and crop samples according to guidelines from the Center for Crop Circle Studies (CCCS), talked to potential witnesses and took infrared photographs from the ground the afternoon of July 10. He came back the next day to do low-level aerial shots.

As Center for UFO Studies representative John Timmerman and Ohio State University agronomist James Beurlein finished collecting their samples they were approached by Jeff Wilson and Greg Huber from EMU. Both are members of the CCCS, U.S. Network. Wilson joined those collecting samples inside the circle, using a much different approach.

Wilson immediately began taking readings with a handheld geiger counter. The data proved interesting. The device that measures alpha, beta and gamma radiation picked up radiation levels up to three times higher than readings taken outside the circle. He noted readings along the edge of the circle and in its center were average, but those taken at six feet, 15 feet and 22 feet from the center

were unusual. Magnetic tests showed no irregularities.

While Wilson was busy inside the circle, Huber made notations from without. He said he believed the crop circle was a natural phenomenon for three reasons. He noted the hairs on the bearded wheat remained intact, random patches of wheat were left standing, and the swirl laid well. He also asked if other, practice, circles were found in the area. No one knew of any.

"Just look at the way its laying," he said. "If you came through with a board why would you leave some standing?"

While taking slide photos inside the circle, Wilson stated his assessment of the formation. "From looking at this I wouldn't say it is manmade. I wouldn't say a UFO landed either," he said. "Directed energy usually causes these, not UFOs...It looks to me like some kind of energy flowed through the area."

He agreed with Huber's assessment of the circle and added a few more reasons he didn't think it was manmade. Pointing to an area of standing wheat inside the circle he noted several narrow strips of wheat laying through it. He also said the wheat at the center was woven.

"I'm really impressed with how the (Arends) kept visitors off this and kept it in a pristine state," said Wilson. Although this was the first circle he was in, Wilson, also a member of CCCS in England, has been studying the phenomena 10 years.

"There are very few eye witnesses to the formation of a crop circle," Wilson said. "We're kind of up in the air." He encourages people to get involved by coming forward with any information they have.

Huber said the Paulding County formation is the only circle to be reported in Ohio, although there have been some in Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota and the west coast in the past. Wilson added the only

other circle in the United State this year was in California. (This statement was made before the Columbia City formation reported Monday.)

The pair and two others returned to Paulding County July 12. They remeasured the formation's diameter, took more radiation readings, and black and white pictures. Wilson said he found the shape to be more elliptical than circular. After taking 15 diameter measurements, they varied in range from 91'10" across to 95'3" across. The geiger counter showed all readings, inside and out, to be in the normal range.

"What radiation was there had a short half-life," said Wilson. He said it is not known if the radiation was coming from the soil or off the wheat. "The ground may have been irradiated, like a microwave irradiates, or something activated radiation from the soil or grain. I don't know which."

Wilson pointed out another phenomenon during a telephone interview Monday night. A barely formed circle was picked out of one of Sandy Dobbelaere's aerial photographs in a computer analysis he performed. According to Wilson, due west of the flattened wheat, and overlapping by about 10 feet, is a second circle in just the heads of wheat. He was not back in Paulding to examine this finding at press time.

In a telephone interview Saturday, Sugden expressed his feelings of extreme upset with what he perceived as a "hoax" pronouncement in the media last week. He said the "statement has no basis...I was pretty aggravated to hear someone say (the formation) is manmade before they even closed their Baggies," making reference to soil and grain samples taken after the media interviews July 10 that had yet to be tested.

At the site, Sugden took soil and grain samples from the circle's center, edge, and half, plus 100 feet outside. He took black and white

(Continued, next page)

Crop circle's origin still questioned

By DENISE GEBERS
Correspondent

It was almost a week since Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere flew over an Arend Bros., Inc. wheat field in Jackson Township and discovered a crop circle. Now, on July 10, the local TV and print media representatives gathered in the sunshine with FOX Network's EXTRA crew for the opinion of the experts.

Arriving on the scene just after 11:30 a.m. with Dan, Don, and Dave Arend were John Timmerman representing Chicago's Center for UFO Studies and Ohio State University wheat specialist, agronomist James Beurlein. In approximately 15 minutes time, the pair made ready for on-camera reports of their findings. In separate interviews, the two declared the Paulding County formation to be manmade.

"Somebody spent a lot of time to make a pretty picture for somebody to see," said Beurlein. "Right now it looks very much manmade."

Nearby Timmerman said, "Evidence supports that an object was moved around. It was probably created by some people having fun...You can read a couple books

in the library to learn what you need to know," he added. "I feel a little awkward being here."

He went on to demonstrate how a person can walk backwards between the rows without leaving a trail. Then he explained their theory. Timmerman said they think two men carried something, perhaps the kind of lawn roller one puts water in, into the field after locating the center of the two surface ditches. He said one person stood at the center while the second, using a wire or string to keep the radius right, rolled around the outside edge. He said this was probably repeated again and again until they reached the center.

He said this theory was reached by observing overlapping layers of grain stalks every three feet or so into the circle. He added the final small center circle was pressed down onto the adjacent wheat, crushing it.

Timmerman said the next phase of his investigation will be analysis of the samples. Dr. Beurlein will test one set of samples, while another set is sent to Dr. Levengood in Grass Lake, Mich. Dr. Levengood is a retired agronomist who has investigated over 100

crop circles. Timmerman said they will be looking for changes in the cellular structures in the samples. If oddities are found, further tests will be conducted. He expects results in a couple of weeks.

Reaction in the Arend family at the site was immediate. Denise Kohart wasn't sure what to think. "If it's such a hoax, how did they do it? They couldn't drop a roller from the sky. I think there's something strange."

Her sisters-in-law, Joanna Arend and Sue Arend, expressed feelings of upset and betrayal. "Why would someone do this to us?" Sue asked while husband Don said, "We thought all along that there was a good chance it could be manmade, or not. Hopefully this will slow the crowds down."

Before heading to another wheat field for harvest, Dan said, "I can't imagine who or why anyone would do it. I don't know why they waited five days to investigate."

BUT, there's more to the story...according to the family, Dr. Levengood is on his way to Paulding County where he will meet the crew from "Sightings." Look for them in Jackson Township on Friday (July 19)!

Researchers

(Continued from Page 1A)

infrared and color pictures from the ground and air. Tests with a compass and strong magnets both showed no unusual magnetism. He has been gathering expert opinions from bio-chemists, astronomers, his state MUFON director and others. He attempted to locate credible sources of other information as well.

Sugden said he won't make a determination until all the facts are in. "This is my first investigation. I'm most certainly going to do it right," he said. "There is enough evidence gathered, but it's not analyzed yet. You cannot say it is a hoax, but neither can you say something landed here."

Citing too many unknowns to draw a conclusion yet, he awaits test results and consideration of others' findings before he makes his determination. He expects the

results in about three weeks.

Like Wilson, Sugden was also impressed with the circle's condition. "I'm surprised that the circle was intact after all that time," he said. "It reflects well on the people of Paulding County."

Other researchers have visited the crop circle, but were not able to be reached for comment. One of these visitors was Dr. Charles Lietzau, biologist from Wayne State University at Pontiac, Mich. After taking wheat samples at the circle Sunday, July 14, he stopped by the home of the Carlisle family who live on SR 637 just a half mile east of the circle.

Bonnie Carlisle said Lietzau seemed knowledgeable and was very informative. Her family was told 20 percent of reported crop circles are hoaxes and he did not feel the local formation fell into that category.

"He was more than impressed," said Bonnie. "He was excited."

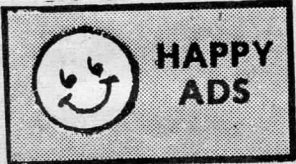
The Carlisle family related to Lietzau an experience they had around 2:30 a.m. July 4 when he took notes. The adults in the three homes on the property were all awakened by an awful odor.

"We were all laughing about the smell," said Carlisle. "We didn't know about the circle then. My brother came closest to describing it - 'burnt skunk'."


She said the smell lingered Friday in their homes and even longer in the barn. None of the family saw or heard anything out of the ordinary though. "The dogs didn't even bark," said Carlisle.

Carlisle described living so close to the crop circle "like living next to a national monument. It's kinda fun."

Other people living in the vicinity have told Arend family members of unusual sights and sounds around July 4. These could not be confirmed at press time.



CROP CIRCLE FOUND at DON'S BARBER SHOP DEFIANCE



Don Schultz the Barber was 50 Monday. We told him & told him & told him he'd pay. It didn't take scientific experts to coax the girls next door. THIS CROP CIRCLE IS NO HOAX.

'Significant change' seen in wheat at circle site

By **JIM LANGHAM**
Staff Writer

PAULDING — Even as a production crew from FOX Network's television program, "Sightings," was filming an upcoming broadcast at the Paulding crop circle Friday, a biophysicist indicated that lab results showed a "significant change" in wheat samples taken at the site.

Dr. William C. Levengood, a biophysicist from Grass Lake, Mich., associated with BLT Research Team, Cambridge, Mass., said that wheat taken from inside the circle had swollen nodes and significantly enlarged cell wall pit diameters in bract tissue.

Levengood said that nodal enlargement in the wheat from the Don Arend farm was about
(CHANGE, Page A8)

CHANGE

From Page A1

20 percent, but such factors as age of the crop, weather conditions and moisture content all effect the amount of enlargement that takes place.

Nancy Talbot, field research director with BTL, noted that swelling tends to be larger in younger plants because they contain more moisture.

"Twenty percent swelling in mature wheat could be as significant as 60 percent in a younger crop," said Talbot. "The important thing is that there are changes here, minimal, but statistically significant."

"What he (Levengood) is saying here is that this is the "real McCoy," based on lab results," stressed Talbot. "This is not something that was made by people. People don't make changes like this."

Both Levengood and Talbot were present at the circle on Friday to present their findings, based on plant analysis.

"Soil analysis hasn't been completed yet, but it very possibly could add some very interesting information," said Talbot.

Last week John Timmerman of the Center for UFO studies, Chicago, and Jim Beurlein, an Ohio State University agronomist, visited the circle. Based on their observations, Timmerman said that the formation could be man-made. Beurlein said that he could tell that it was manmade.

"If I hadn't looked at a crop formation before, and this was the first time I saw it, I would have agreed with Beurlein," observed Levengood. "But when taken into a lab and measured by many different things, there are differences in the crop. This one is marginal but the differences are significant."

BTL Research Team has looked at thousands of individual samples from crop circles worldwide



Jim Langham/C-N Photo

Sets up: 'Sightings' crew ready to film crop circle in Paulding County

including England, Israel and the United States. But the genuineness of a crop circle does not necessarily imply the presence of UFO's, stressed Talbot.

"Most crop circles are not associated with UFO sightings," she emphasized. "The ones that are, however, seem to be more prevalent in the midwestern United States."

Talbot said that the research team is studying the possible connection of ozone depletion, certain pollution buildup, magnetic potential in the soil and meteor explosions in connection with the formations.

Last weekend, another formation, more elaborate than Paulding County's, appeared in a wheat field just outside of Columbia City, Ind. A research team led by Jeffrey Wilson, an instructor in the astronomy department at

Eastern Michigan University, determined that there was a radiation anomaly present in that circle similar to the one in Paulding County.

Roger Sugden, Field Investigator for Mutual UFO Network, Inc., (Mufon) has investigated both sites and has noted some interesting similarities between the two.

"Both have an angled swirl in the northwest section and they both have radiation readings triple what the readings are outside the circle," said Sugden. "In both situations the lay of the wheat is a little puffier in the southwest section of the circle. Both had some standing wheat in the eastern portion of the circle."

Even though Sugden recognized the significance of the similarities, he refused to make any correlation between the two sites

without the presence of crop and soil testing.

Don Arend, who farms the land on which the Paulding circle is located, responded to Friday's lab results with a sense of relief.

"We're just glad they (BTL Research Team) were willing to take the time to do an analysis to see if there was something that occurred there," said Arend. "We felt that the conclusions reached by Beurlein and Timmerman were a little hasty.

"It wasn't what they (Timmerman and Beurlein) concluded that bothered us," added Arend. "It's just that they didn't have the lab testing to back it up at that time. Dr. Levengood and Nancy Talbot spent a lot of time, at their own expense, studying this. They didn't charge one penny in any of this. As it turned out, something apparently did occur here."

Crop circle determined...

By MELINDA KRICK
Correspondent

UFO? Ion plasma vortex? Or another kind of natural phenomenon? Whatever the source of the mysterious crop circle that has drawn crowds to a wheat field in Paulding County, new evidence has ruled out one explanation: It's *not* a hoax.

On Friday, a film crew from the TV series "Sightings" visited the crop circle site on the Arend Brothers farm on County Road 126. (See related story.) At the same time, two researchers arrived to present the early laboratory results on the plant samples taken from the formation.

The visiting scientists were biophysicist Dr. William C. Levengood of Grass Lake, Mich., and Nancy Talbott of Cambridge, Mass., both of the BLT Research Team. Their team has analyzed plant and soil samples from more than 200 crop formations all over the world since 1989. Of those, about 90 percent are found to be authentic. Sample plants have included wheat, barley, oats, corn, sweet flag, soy beans and meadow grasses.

PHYSICAL CHANGES SEEN IN PLANTS

"The point we want to get across is that physical changes *do* occur" to plants in crop formations, Talbott said. Based on the presence of those physical changes, they can rule out any faked formations.

Levengood announced that his analysis of two samples from the Paulding County site "pretty much confirmed it's a 'marginal' formation - not a lot of damage to the plant and the cells of the plant ... There's no question it's a genuine formation."

In his research on crop formations, Levengood has noted specific findings in crop formation plants, as opposed to plants outside the circles. These changes include:

- alteration in the germination and development of seed embryos, largely depending on the stage of development in which the plants were affected. The seeds are some-

times non-existent, or cease development, or are stunted but have high germination and retarded growth. In late stage (as in this case), the seeds when germinated will often show accelerated growth, despite their poor appearance and low seed weight.

- alteration in plant stem node length and circumference. This is a primary criteria for determining an authentic formation. The changes can vary greatly, with up to 200 percent node enlargement found at one site.

- on the microscopic level, cell wall pit diameters in bract tissue are observed to be significantly enlarged, as compared to "control" or normal samples.

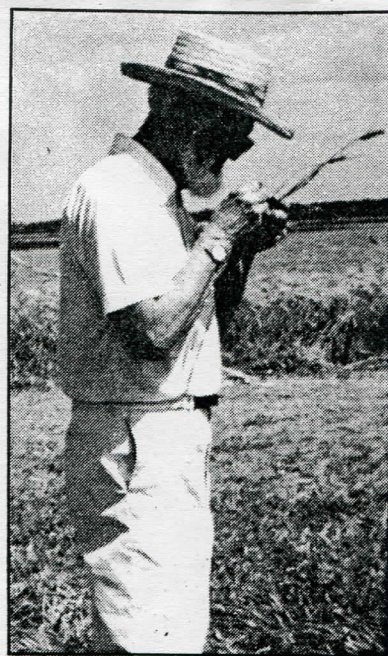
TEST RESULTS

Levengood said the samples from here show a "statistically significant" 20 percent stem node expansion. In comparison, the percentages average from about 30-80 percent in England. He added that a "significant change" was found about two-thirds of the way from center to edge of the circle.

Tests on seed germination will take three to four weeks because the seeds first must go through a dormancy period. Levengood also will be performing analysis of soil samples. He said a final report on his findings should be completed in one to two months.

Before presenting his findings, Levengood walked about the circle and examined some plants with a hand-held magnifier. He explained he was getting a general impression of the formation. He stressed that a person cannot just walk up to a circle and tell by looking whether or not it's a real one. "There's no way to tell unless there's a qualitative investigation, in the lab," he said. Analysis of samples from purposely made formations have turned up no physical changes in the plants.

Levengood said that a "second circle" reportedly found during an analysis of aerial photographs of the site has turned out to be remnants of a forest fire there many years ago.



Dr. William C. Levengood, a biophysicist from Michigan, performed a scientific analysis of plant samples from the Paulding County crop circle and found "significant changes" in the plants. He said the formation is authentic. Levengood, who rarely travels to formation sites, and research partner Nancy Talbott visited the circle on Friday. Here, he examines some of the wheat. (Staff photo by Melinda Krick)

EXTERNAL ENERGIES

If the crop circle is authentic, what caused it?

"When you put it all together, the logical conclusion is that there's a very powerful, transient energy" affecting the plant and expanding every cell, Levengood said. He continues that the crops show evidence of being affected by external energies involving rapid air movement, ionization, electric fields and transient high temperatures, combined with an oxidizing atmosphere.

One naturally occurring and organized force incorporating each of these features is an ion plasma vortex. Microwave energies are known to be associated with ion plasmas.

He admits that there's no one-

authentic



Friday was a busy day at the crop circle on the Arend farm southeast of Paulding. Not only were researchers at the site, but a film crew from the TV series "Sightings" (at left) taped interviews for a segment about the phenomenon that has drawn more than 8,000 visitors. Here, field director Chris Harty directs members of the Arend family during filming at the circle. (Staff photo by Melinda Krick)

sentence explanation of the phenomena. Atmospheric-associated plasma formations may possibly originate in regions where there are indications of an energy exchange between earth's ionosphere and electric storms in the upper atmosphere.

Levengood added that geometric formations seen in crop circles are also seen in plasma physics labs. No two formations are exactly alike.

SCIENCE FACT OR FICTION?

Also present on Friday were John Timmerman of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) in Lima, and Roger Sugden, field investigator for the Texas-based Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON).

Timmerman, who visited the site twice before, said he was "not

really surprised by (Levengood's) findings." He was delighted to hear that Levengood would be involved, and hoped the energies expended on the investigation would show that the circle was something other than a hoax.

Timmerman added that he believes there will be many skeptics who will refute the biophysicist, but if someone will come forward who is equally qualified in training and experience, then their conclusions will be compared. "That's what science is all about," he said.

Regarding Levengood's findings and the ion plasma vortex theory, Timmerman commented, "I don't know if this phenomenon and the UFO phenomenon are related."

Sugden didn't have a chance to talk with Levengood at the site to

discuss the lab results. Sugden said he was there for photography purposes and to deliver some early samples from the circle, and from one in Whitley County. Sugden said that MUFON is excited about the circle. "It doesn't happen that often ... In the United States, an authentic one is very rare."

Added Sugden: "People are afraid of the unknown, and this is a big unknown."

The Arends have estimated that more than 8,000 people have visited the circle since its discovery nearly three weeks ago. And people are still coming, as they were Friday when they saw a crowd milling around the site, some carrying video cameras. And despite scientific evidence to the contrary, many will still be saying it's all a hoax.

Circle captures national attention

By MELINDA KRICK
Correspondent

The crop circle near Paulding has captured national attention, ending up on radio and television across the country and even on CNN. This fall, the circle will be up for public debate again as it is profiled on a segment of the TV series "Sightings."

On Friday, a three-person crew from the series spent the day filming around the site. The episode will be shown on cable's Sci-Fi

channel. No date has been set.

During a break in filming at the crowded home of Eloise Arend, Sightings field director Chris Harty said she was "extremely impressed" by the Arend family's generosity in letting people see the circle, and by their eagerness to field answers, and explore the different options around what caused the circle. "They've been great about it," she said.

The crew filmed interviews at the site, with Don and Sue Arend,

Helen and David Carlisle, Mark and Sue Dobbelaere, Justine Holtsberry, and with Dr. William Levensgood and John Timmerman. (See related story.) They also filmed members of the Arend family at the circle.

In a telephone interview from California, Sightings segment producer Joyce Goldstein said this isn't the first crop circle the show has presented. They decided to do this story "because it's a good example of a circle in North America and the reaction of the town, the shape and form, and its interest to scientists and others."

Despite the theory that the circle was produced by natural forces, Goldstein said that her series wanted to show what happens when a circle is formed, that there are organizations and specialists who are interested in investigating, and a protocol for obtaining samples.

Also, she added, "it's a mystery. No matter what anyone says, there's no definitive answer. It's open to interpretation."



The Spice Rack

by Dortha Schaefer

Since the Rack appeared last, many exciting events have taken place in Paulding County, a place where life usually goes on in a quiet fashion. The appearance of crop circles put us on the national news, not to mention all the area newspapers, radio stations, and TV news shows.

Talking with Sue Arend, who spent many hours standing in her famous wheat field, I heard that TV personnel and newspaper reporters were polite and friendly. Not so with the radio representatives. Many of them ridiculed her and were downright rude.

She remarked at the number of responsible citizens she has known all her life who told her stories of seeing UFOs, but never before relating their sightings. They were afraid their listeners would think

they had lost their minds. Sue was concerned about damage to the wheat field, one they hoped to harvest since that is the way the Arends make their living.

In fact, she said, she would just like to go home and get on with her life.

...

I was among the thousands who visited the strange circle in the Arend's wheat field. It is hard to believe, as claimed by one of the experts who visited also, that it is a hoax.

...

A reliable source reports that UFOs are not new around Paulding. She says many have been sighted in past years hovering around the huge gravel pit north of town.

...

A resident of Payne reports a strange happening on the night of July 3, the fateful night when, maybe, some alien force made a crop circle near Paulding. The next day it was discovered that all three TVs in her home weren't working well.

One in the kitchen was still usable, but the other two, one in the living room and one on the front porch, declined to operate. Later in the day, two of them started working well again, but the third one had given up the ghost.

What also seemed strange was the little trick played on her by the bedroom electric clock. It had jumped ahead an entire hour and had not been touched by human hands.

It is again working normally as before, after resetting.

We can't be alone, can we?

The ad is likely a decade old by now, but just lately it keeps coming back to me, what with the space people coming and all. Just lately I keep seeing the old man again and again, his rake and his wild hair and his low reasonable voice, and mostly that crazy light in his eyes.

It's a beer spot, this ad, and it's all about how this particular beer is brewed with pure artesian spring water. And everyone wants to know just who these Artesians are, and where they came from.

Naturally, Old Crazy knows.

"I've seen 'em," he says firmly, and, boy, that's that.

And, boy, that is that, these days. Slimy gooey alien thingies making matchsticks out of the White House on our movie screens. Mystery crop circles appearing in some wheat field over in Ohio. Unexplained lights hovering in the night sky over Berne and Time Corners.

We've seen 'em, by golly.

Why, last weekend, we packed theaters to watch the slimy gooey alien thingies kill off some decent actors - Randy Quaid!

How could they? - in "Independence Day,"

a fun if largely unimaginative ride about bad guys from space turning Earth into beef brisket. Cities explode and crop dusters learn to fly F-18s in a matter of minutes, and despite such wonders, "War of the Worlds" did this better back in '53.

But, oh, how "Independence Day" has captured the imagination of the public, and I mean that literally. The very day it opened, that crop circle turned up in a field farmed by Dan Arend and his brothers. It was 93 feet in diameter, perfectly round, and Arend's wife allowed that she wouldn't be surprised if it was the work of a UFO.

Of course, of course. And then a couple nights later people spotted strange lights in the sky over Berne, and then over Time Corners, and, well, it will take a better man than me to say it wasn't just the work of imaginations overheated by cinematic slimy gooey alien thingies. The coincidence just seems too strong to ignore.

Not that I'm entirely immune to flights of fancy, mind you. I saw way too much "Star Trek" as a kid to deny there might be Something Out There, if only badly made-up thespians chewing the galactic scenery. Anyone who's ever seen William Shatner act, certainly, could hardly dispute there's indeed something strange going down out on the final frontier.

And, no, we're not talking about Romulans sneaking across the Neutral Zone, either, those neo-fascist war-mongers.

We're talking about the completely rational notion that Out There, in all those billions and billions of galaxies Carl Sagan always talks about, there must be some other intelligent life somewhere. Has to be. And of course - and here the logic breaks down badly - they have to be much, *much* more advanced than we are.

Apparently the notion of aliens living in caves, waiting for us to find them, just isn't sexy enough to even consider.

No, the aliens always have spaceships and mind probes and death rays and force fields no human weapon can penetrate. The spaceships are always saucers, of course, in much the same way that the government always knows about them but has managed to keep it a secret for decades.

To which I say only: *Our* government? The government whose official seal is a sieve? You're kidding, right?

They are not. On the same day slimy gooey alien thingies turned New York into kitty litter in the movie house, a crop circle shows up in an Ohio field and strange lights appear in our skies. And, of course, it's not a coincidence. Of course, it must be real slimy gooey alien thingies, checking us out.

I want to believe this, as a lapsed Trekkie. I want to believe that the Somethings Out There aren't still stuck on the beach at some interstellar Kitty Hawk. I want to believe the crop circle isn't just an elaborate prank. I want to believe that, if we

are being visited by aliens, they really would eschew the Big Apple and El Ay to come to Berne and Fort Wayne.

Maybe that flying-saucer/fog thing in Headwaters Park drew them. Maybe they heard about the Three Rivers Festival beer tent. Or maybe they were just looking for that Coney Island place they'd heard so much about.

I'd like to think so. I'd like to go for a drive some starry night, and there, up in the sky, right where I couldn't mistake it for a weather balloon or Santa's sleigh or anything else, see some slimy-gooey-alien spaceship, fresh off the lot.

It'll be round, of course.

And all lit up.

And just chock full of Artesians.

Ben Smith is a Journal Gazette columnist.



Ben Smith

New group may investigate if circles return

COLUMBUS (AP) — If crop circles return to Paulding County, a newly-formed organization might investigate.

The Central Ohioans for Rational Inquiry says it will target reports of alien encounters and similar "fringe-science propositions and other unusual claims" that contribute to science illiteracy.

Ann Pratt, a retired Capital University psychologist and temporary secretary for the group, said its goal is to help educate the public about science-related topics, such as evolution, and to challenge claims of paranormal activity.

A meeting Saturday at a church attracted 28 people, said Pratt. Addressing the group about evolution and creation science was Wright State University biologist Kathy Beale.

Most of those involved in the group so far are people with technical backgrounds, she said.

The Crescent-News, Defiance, Ohio - Wednesday, November 13, 1996

Is Ohio crop circle a hoax? Experts differ

■ *More studies are necessary to determine the cause of the the Paulding County circle, they say.*

By Tina Grady
Dispatch Staff Reporter

While some investigators think a crop circle discovered recently in Paulding County is man-made by pranksters, others think it may have been caused by whirlwinds known as vortices.

And some have speculated it may have been created by alien visitors.

An unexplained 93-foot wide circle was found in early July in a field farmed by Daniel Arend and his brothers, David and Donald, of Paulding, Ohio.

James Beuerlein, an agronomy professor at Ohio State University who inspected the site, believes the circle is a hoax.

Beuerlein said he performed a germination test on wheat from the crop circle, which was an evaluation to determine whether tissue damage occurred, and results were negative.

"There was no difference in the crop circle wheat than the rest of the wheat in field," he said. "I'm sure some people made it. It was just someone messing around."

Small weeds and red clover plants were growing in the center of the circle, Beuerlein said, and "the plants were perfectly healthy."

"I think someone just had some fun one night," he said. "I am not doing any further testing."

However, Nancy Talbott a biophysicist disagrees.

The Paulding circle "is definitely not a hoax," Talbott said.

Talbott is field research coordinator for BLT Research, a Cambridge, Mass. laboratory that is studying how the Ohio crop circle may have been formed.

Changes were found in the crop circle wheat's cell tissue during testing, changes which "could not be replicated by people," Talbott said.

"In our preliminary finding, there was a 20 percent enlargement in the stem nodes," she said in a telephone interview. "So we cannot support the notion that it (the circle) was man-made."

The Crescent-News, Defiance, Ohio -Monday, August 12, 1996

Scientist says local crop circle no hoax

PAULDING (AP) — Although an Ohio State University agronomist declared a northwestern Ohio crop circle a fake, another scientist will continue her investigation because she believes it's not a hoax.

Biophysicist Nancy Talbot disputes the claim that the 93-foot circle near Paulding, 65 miles southwest of Toledo, was man-made.

Crop circles have been found around the world. Some people believe UFOs create the mashed, perfectly formed circles. Doubters think they are more likely the work of pranksters.

The Paulding circle was discovered on the farm of brothers Daniel, David and Donald Arend. Hundreds of people visited the field to see the circle after it was spotted from the air on July 3.

Jim Beurlein, a horticulture and plant specialist at Ohio State University concluded the circle was manmade. He said testing showed no tissue damage to wheat inside the circle.

But Talbott said changes were found in the wheat's cell tissue that could not have been done by people.

"In our preliminary finding,

there was a 20 percent enlargement in the stem nodes," she told The Columbus Dispatch for a story published Sunday. "So we cannot support the notion that it (the circle) was man-made."

Talbott is field research coordinator for BLT Research, a Cambridge, Mass., laboratory that is studying how the Ohio crop circle may have formed.

Talbott, along with retired biophysicist William Levengood of Grass Lake, Mich., and other researchers think the circle may have been formed by microwave radiation due to weather conditions, the newspaper said.

Ionized particles in the upper atmosphere sometimes are brought together by weather conditions and form vortices, like tornadoes, she said. That creates what scientists think are highly charged ionized plasma balls.

"They are collected in this vortex system and at that point emit microwave radiation. We believe they are drawn to Earth in particular locations, perhaps because of magnetic deposits or anomalies underneath the earth's surface," she said.

John P. Timmerman, treasurer for the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, also thinks the circle probably was man-made.

"It might be a hoax," said Timmerman, who inspected the site. "We thought we saw evidence of how it could be accomplished, but we're looking for evidence to discount the hoax idea."

Researcher finds natural explanation for Paulding's puzzling crop circle

BY AMI EDEN
BLADE STAFF WRITER

PAULDING — When a crop circle first appeared in a wheat field on Paulding County Road 126 about three miles east of U.S. 127, many believed the town had been visited by aliens. But two investigators who inspected the circle said it probably was manmade.

So were earthlings or martians responsible for the circle seen by a local pilot on July 4 in a field farmed by brothers Dan, Don, and Dave Arend?

Neither, according to William Levensgood, a biophysicist from Grass Lake,

Mich., who has spent the last seven years studying unexplained crop formations.

"The data certainly indicates that this is a natural phenomenon," said Dr. Levensgood, a member of the three-person BTL Biophysics Research Team that has created a protocol for investigating crop formations involving a series of plant and soil tests.

Preliminary tests of wheat samples from the circle revealed an 18 to 26 per cent enlargement of the stem nodes, according to Dr. Levensgood. These increases, Dr. Levensgood added, could not have been created by human beings.

James Beuerlein, a member of Ohio State University's crop science depart-

ment, and John Timmerman, a Lakeview, O., resident associated with the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, inspected the site on July 10 and agreed that the circle was probably a human prank.

Dr. Beuerlein recently announced that germination tests revealed no differences between wheat samples from within and outside the circle. However, Mr. Timmerman said, Dr. Beuerlein's tests were different than Dr. Levensgood's.

"I began by feeling that it was undoubtedly a hoax," said Mr. Timmerman, adding that he and Dr. Beuerlein had never seen a crop circle before they saw

the one in Paulding. "It was harsh to jump to that conclusion without waiting for [Dr. Levensgood's] report."

After visiting the circle, Dr. Beuerlein and Mr. Timmerman said the combination of an uneven surface and uniformly bent grains ruled out an alien landing. If the crop circle was caused by a space ship, they argued, the wheat stems would have been broken in different locations.

Before he can evaluate the theory that the circle was a natural phenomenon, Mr. Timmerman said, he will need to become better acquainted with Dr. Levensgood's work.

Dr. Levensgood said he believes a highly charged, microwave-emitting, gaseous ball, known as plasma, that fell from the sky was responsible for the Paulding crop circle.

The gaseous ball possibly was attracted by magnetic deposits or anomalies beneath the earth's surface, he added.

Nancy Talbott, BTL's spokesman and financial backer, said the group believes the plasma ball was formed in the earth's upper atmosphere and may have been caused by a meteoric explosion, air pollution, weather conditions, or changes in the ozone layer.

Microwaves from the hypothesized plasma ball created a quick and intense burst of energy that created the crop circle and caused the swelling of the stem nodes, Ms. Talbott said.

Experts differ.....(continued)

Talbott said she believes the enlargements were caused by a strong energy.

Talbott, along with retired biophysicist William Levensgood of Grass Lake, Michigan, and other researchers think the circle may have been formed by microwave radiation.

"There are highly charged ionized particles that exist in the upper atmosphere," Talbott said. "Occasionally, they are brought together by weather conditions and form vortices, like tornadoes, creating what we think are highly charged ionized plasma balls.

"They are collected in this vortex system and at that point emit microwave radiation. We believe they are drawn to Earth in particular locations, perhaps because of magnetic deposits or anomalies underneath the earth's surface."

However, Talbott and her research team have not ruled out other possible explanations.

"Since no one really knows what UFOs are, we can't rule them in or out," Talbott said. "But our theory is a fairly plausible physical situation. It is in our opinion more likely to be the cause."

"We'd rather stick with what we do know than speculate on what we don't know." More tests are being done, she said.

Like, Beuerlein, site inspector John P. Timmerman thinks the circle is most likely man-made.

"It might be a hoax," said Timmerman, treasurer of the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies. "We thought we saw evidence of how it could be accomplished, but we're looking for evidence to discount the hoax idea."

Crop circles also have been found this summer in the western United States, New Zealand, England and Japan.

Crop circle phenomenon produces researchers

PAULDING (AP) — They track crop circles like Wile E. Coyote hunts the Road Runner. Last month, their chase led them to Paulding County.

Things haven't been the same for this farming village of about 2,600 residents since a local pilot flying over a wheat field July 4 spotted the mashed circle measuring 93 feet in diameter.

The discovery — one of many reported around the world since the late 1970s — attracted circle researchers and fans of the paranormal from all over the country. Some believe the circles are messages from outer space; others think they're the work of mischievous Earthlings.

Researchers took grain and soil samples and interviewed residents about whether they saw anything unusual in the days before the circle was discovered. They also questioned reporters and just about everyone else within earshot.

"I like to read about UFOs and stuff like that. That's why I came. But I was shocked to see so much interest in a crop circle," said Jim Gillen, 42, of Toledo, one of the thousands of people who visited the field to take a peek at the circle.

So was Joe Nickell, an investigator with the Skeptical Inquirer, a nonprofit group that investigates paranormal claims such as UFOs, haunted houses and crop circles.

His group investigated circles for two years in the early 1990s and came to one conclusion: "They're all hoaxes — 100 percent of them."

He is amazed that some people believe otherwise.

"They need to get informed. They need to get a life," he said.

Circles began appearing in England in the late 1970s. The simple rounds soon began showing up in more elaborate designs. Sometimes there were three or four circles with arrows and stars; others had symmetrical floral

patterns in the center.

They became a magnet for New Age types, who brought along crystals and pendulums and claimed the circles possessed healing powers. By the late 1980s, they were the rage in England and circle sightings soon spread to other countries, including the United States.

At first, some believed the circles usually found in fields were formed by the wind. A few opined they were formed by UFOs. Others said they were created by brief, intense bursts of microwave radiation from outer space.

But in the early 1990s, Doug Bower and Dave Chorley admitted that they created the first circles in England as a joke.

They admitted they would sneak into fields at night with narrow, rectangular boards, and walk around in a circle, using the board to mash the grain.

Many circle enthusiasts refused to believe them.

Nancy Talbott, 57, who lives near Boston, used to produce country music shows. Now she is spokesman for BLT Research, which researches circles. She got involved in circle research after reading an article about them nearly 10 years ago.

She traveled to Paulding to investigate the circle. This, she declared, "is no hoax." But she wouldn't elaborate.

Her organization has several teams of volunteers that investigate circles in the United States, Canada, England and several European nations. BLT Research's main researcher is William Levengood, a former University of Michigan physicist who owns his own seed consulting company.

Levengood said he has conducted extensive studies on plants and seeds found in and near the circles. He claims some plants show gross abnormalities, possibly caused by microwave radiation.

Those abnormalities, he contends, either cause the plants to stop growing or grow five times faster than normal. He does not know the origin of the radiation.

Talbott bristled at the suggestion that circles are the work of pranksters.

"The press lumps crop circles in with other anomalies — UFOs, hauntings, every other damn thing. It's stupid," she said. "The press presents the idea that crop circles have to be either fakes or UFO-related. Why the hell aren't they asking what the real cause is?"

James Beuerlein, an Ohio State University agronomist, studied the Paulding circle. He believes the circle is a hoax.

He found nothing unusual about the grain inside or outside the circle — no radiation, no abnormalities. It looked, he said, as if someone used their feet to squash the wheat.

"Everything I saw could be attributed to man's activity," Beuerlein said.

Chris Rutkowski, an astronomer at the University of Manitoba near Winnipeg, Canada, has been cataloging circles for years.

Most circles are hoaxes, he said. But he's not sure all of them are. Part of the problem is that all but a few mainstream scientists have ignored the issue.

Why are people attracted to them?

"We are looking at a New Age religious movement. ... People are really, really devoted to something that is out of the scientist's hands because there is a reactionary viewpoint against science. And it is a growing phenomenon," Rutkowski said.

"There's always a possibility that some of it may be real. ... I don't discount that, although I question why aliens wouldn't just communicate with us outright rather than drawing 50-foot pictures."

THE PAULDING, OHIO, CROP CIRCLE

BY JOHN P. TIMMERMAN

Our phone rang at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 6, 1996. Imagine my surprise when the man calling, a farmer from near Paulding, Ohio, told me that he had a large circle in one of his wheat fields and wondered if I would be interested in seeing it. His wife had attended school with our daughter and knew of my interest in the UFO phenomenon . . . and I was reasonably nearby.

Being only minimally informed regarding crop circles, I knew that this call should have gone to someone much better qualified to examine and evaluate such evidence. However, having examined, confirmed, and been disappointed by fairy rings, ATV wheelies in light snow, and other "unknowns" such as bike tracks in backyard lawns, my interest in this call was reaffirmed when I was told that the circle was found in an isolated area and was more than 75 feet in diameter with the grain pressed down counterclockwise.

About 85 miles and two hours later, I pulled into a driveway on County Road 126 just south and east of Paulding in Jackson Township. Dan Arend greeted me with a friendly smile at the door and I followed his truck a mile or so east to an access road leading south to the back of a long field of mature wheat ready for harvest. Dan, Don and Dave Arend, who farm several thousand acres of wheat and other crops in the area, immediately impressed me with their sincere interest in this formation in their field. I sensed no indication of their having played a part in it being there.

The circle was first seen by Sandy and Mike Dobbelaere, who live on a nearby farm, while taking Sandy's brother and sister-in-law for a ride in Mike's Piper Cub airplane on an early evening flight on July 4. The next day they flew over the field and took the first photographs of the formation. Checking local maps, they identified the land and contacted the Arend family. On July 6, Mike flew me over the field for aerial photographs and Paulding County Sheriff David Harrow placed security tape around the formation to limit damage.

Dan helped me take measurements with my 50-foot steel rule, which revealed a diameter of approximately 93 feet with a slightly offset center. The grain stems, which were swirled counterclockwise, were pressed down and bent at varying heights from the ground, but mostly close to ground



Photo credit: Sandy Dobbelaere

Photo of circle taken from Mike Dobbelaere's Piper Cub on July 5, 1996, the day after its discovery.

level. Some stems were bent and others were broken. The formation was almost exactly 175 feet from each of two parallel drainage ditches running north and south through the field, and the circle's southern edge was 72 feet from that edge of the field.

I visited the field three times. When I examined it again and took pictures on July 6, I was convinced that specialists in wheat and crop formations should be called in as soon as possible. Through friends in my area I was fortunate to secure the interest and assistance of Dr. James Beuerlein of the Department of Horticulture who specializes in wheat and other grain crop economics at Ohio State University. On July 10, he accompanied me to the first crop circle examination for us both and, after a visual inspection of the site, secured grain samples for germination tests of seeds found both within and outside the circle area.

Beuerlein also secured grain samples for the BLT (Burke-Levengood-Talbott) Research Team primary scien-

John P. Timmerman is CUFOS Treasurer. He is active in UFO investigations in Ohio.



Northeastern edge of the Paulding, Ohio, crop circle on July 6.

tist, Dr. William C. Levensgood, a retired biophysicist in Grass Lake, Michigan, who has been examining plant and soil samples from over 200 crop formations worldwide since 1989, and who has, through in-depth analysis, found significant unexplained differences between the characteristics of samples taken from within crop-circle formations and those from outside many of those formations.

My impression on July 6 of the first large circle I had ever visited was one of awe. Apparently there had been little disturbance by man or beast, except small amounts of deer spoor. The standing grain wall was gracefully curved around most of the formation except where tall weed clusters and patches of clover apparently had reacted differently to



Dr. William Levensgood collects samples for analysis.

balance. The north wall of the circle for about six feet was straight and not curved outward. This is seen in some of the photos taken from aircraft. All stems were broken at the ground surface. In the center there were four clumps of grain that were mashed down and did not conform to the rest of the circle. They were folded outward on top of grain that was flat on the ground, suggesting that the circle had been created in a sequence beginning at the perimeter.



Stem nodes were longer and darker on plants gathered within the circle (three on the left) than those gathered outside (three on the right).

whatever had forced the wheat to the ground and made it stay there. I first examined the apparent center of the formation and recognized no evidence of a hole or any other turning location. The ground was very dry and widely cracked due to little or no rain for many weeks and I was surprised to learn that wheat will thrive under such growing conditions. The grain had a golden hue, as it had reached maturity that week.

On July 10, Beuerlein pointed out some details I had not recognized. The grain rows had been sown far enough apart to permit me to straddle a row and walk through the field, leaving an almost invisible trail behind me. Dan Arend told me he had examined the grain in the field surrounding the circle when he first approached it and observed no evidence of grain distur-



Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere.

Beuerlein mentioned later that he "saw no traces of tissue-killing kinds of radiation, as indicated by the fact that there were numerous small red clover plants and a few small weeds growing. They were all perfectly healthy, approximately one week after the incident probably occurred." Photo evidence of these and other conditions at first led me to think that it could have been a man-made formation. Levensgood had not yet received his samples.

On July 19, I made my



The author stands in the center of the circle on July 6 to illustrate its dimensions.

third visit to the site. There I met Levengood and his associate, Nancy Talbott, from Cambridge, Massachusetts. He had received and begun testing the samples we had sent him earlier and had some preliminary findings. His feeling was that "the data indicate statistically significant alterations in node (a joint on the grain stem) lengths in the samples (about 20% enlargement) as opposed to their controls (material from outside the formation). Although much greater enlargement in node lengths has been seen elsewhere, the degree of change becomes statistically significant due to several variables. Germination trials were begun on the Paulding samples . . . and several other analyses are in progress. When all of the laboratory studies are completed, a final report will be prepared and made available. As of July 21, 1996, it is our (BLT's) opinion that the Paulding, Ohio, circle is not man-made." That report was not available at the time of writing. For ordering information, contact the BLT Research Team, Box 127, Cambridge, MA 02140, or call (617) 492-0415 from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. EST.

On July 29, Beuerlein wrote to me that "seed germination test(s) were performed on a total of 400 seeds collected from within and also outside the crop circle near Paulding, Ohio. The testing was conducted by the staff of the Ohio Seed Improvement Association at their laboratory in Dublin, Ohio, using the standard procedures accepted throughout the United States. Four replications with 100 seeds each were used for both seed samples and the results evaluated using a standard Analysis of Variance procedure. The enclosed output from the analysis results of variance test indicate no difference in either the percent germination or the percent dead seed for the two grain samples. The percentage of seeds showing abnormal growth for the two samples was the same."

One other matter that deserves mention is the minor media frenzy this case generated. It was triggered by a telephone call to the Fort Wayne, Indiana, WPTA-TV Channel 21 newsroom. Their news crew appeared at noon on July 6 for interviews and, with the feed of their broadcast to the ABC network, the calls from media people all over the country began cascading upon Paulding and those of us who had become involved. The Arend family and the Dobbelaeres were overwhelmed with requests for interviews. I began by

telling the press that I didn't think it was a hoax. This raised the level of mystery and I realized that I was speculating when I should have been saying, "I don't know." It was too late to undo the press extrapolation and thousands of people began to arrive at the Arend wheat field. Now I was wishing I had said that it was possibly a hoax and did so at interviews on July 10, based upon Beuerlein's supporting observations. The Arends were losing days of beautiful weather for harvesting mature crops they could not reach because hundreds of automobiles were preventing the harvesting equipment from approaching the fields. Instead, they were trying to control the crowds of visitors. I felt I would be helping the Arends get to their crops in good weather by cooling the mystery of the circle.

It didn't work. The people continued to arrive to see the beautiful hoax and members of the Arend family were upset by my reversal of opinion. They knew they had not created it and wanted to know that they had helped science by making it available to researchers instead of just harvesting the field and not bothering with the public. In addition, they had made a couple dozen t-shirts for family members. The public saw them and wanted to buy them. The family decided to order some more and donate all of the proceeds to the local Shrine Children's Fund. A newspaper article reported that "some" of the proceeds went that way, implying that the Arends were out for personal profit. This upset them greatly.

After learning more about Levengood's work, I will simply state that, until his report is received, I don't know what caused that crop circle to appear and that it joins thousands of other events and reports we in the study of UFOs and other unexplained phenomena must acknowledge as still being beyond our complete understanding.

Finally, this field of study, not unlike that of the UFO phenomenon, sorely needs other qualified scientists willing and able to replicate investigation techniques and develop new ones to add breadth of study and possible verification of current findings in these fields of evidence. ♦

NATIONAL UFO AWARENESS WEEK

CHICAGO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
SEPTEMBER 20-21, 1996

"EXTRATERRESTRIAL CLOSE ENCOUNTERS"

Outdoor Exhibits

Kluczynski Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn St.,
Chicago — 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. — photo displays
— free literature — open-forum discussions

Friday, September 20

Lectures

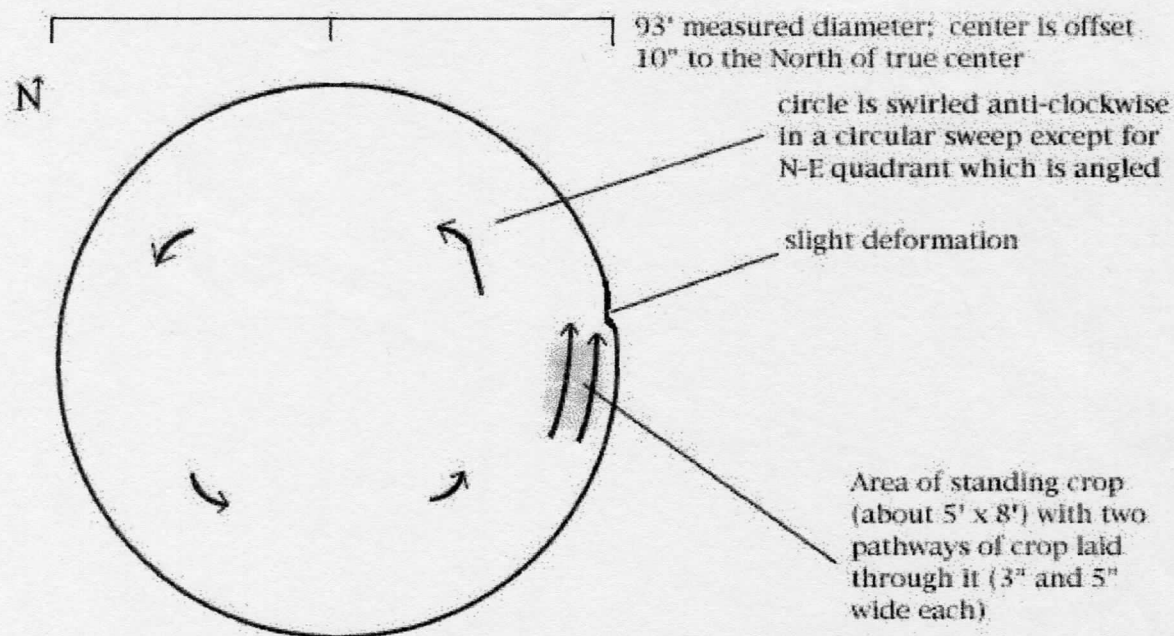
First Chicago Center, First National Bank of Chicago at
Monroe and Dearborn, Dearborn entrance —
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. — featuring Courtney Brown and
Roger K. Leir

Saturday, September 21

\$10 admission covers both presentations

Chris Olivo (312) 271-7446 Mary Kerfoot (847) 985-1123
Karen Klinger (708) 453-3698

Single Circle found in Jackson Township, near Paulding, Ohio, USA on July 4, 1996 off Paulding County Road 126



When surveyed (July 10), there were many single-standing stalks.

The crop itself was bent right at the point it left the soil. (I cannot emphasize this enough!)

The crop in the immediate center was woven.

Because of the local drought, the stalks and wheat grain heads were very dry, brittle and fragile. In the areas that had not been walked on by the farmers, the researchers and the sheriff, none of the crop was broken or damaged. Even the hairs on the bearded wheat were still intact!

There was a radiation anomaly detected:

using a gieger counter, 10 readings were done at various distances outside the circle to establish a normal background. The readings ranged from 15 "clicks" per minute to 25 "clicks" per minute, with an average of 21 "clicks" per minute.

Inside the circle, at the center, and around the inner edge, the same background radiation numbers were detected. BUT, starting at 6' from the center to 22' from center 2-3 times normal background radiation was detected. Between 44-60 "clicks" per minute, with an average of 52 "clicks" per minute was detected.

In addition, there are drainage ditches in the field located 350 feet apart, the center of the circle was located 175' from both (directly inbetween).

Diagram by Jeffrey Wilson. Circle measurements by the farmer Dan Arend, John Timmerman (CUFOS). Radiation measurements by Jeffrey Wilson, Greg Huber (Both CCCS)

PAULDING, OHIO CROP CIRCLE PHOTOS
INVESTIGATOR: Chris Steele.

Paulding Co. Crop Circle

[[Follow Ups](#)] [[Post Followup](#)] [[The EBE board](#)] [[FAQ](#)]

Posted by [Keith Foster](#) on December 03, 1996 at 22:17:54:

Hi, This seems odd as I have never really belived in beings from other worlds. But on July, 4 of this year my wife and I were traveling on a main road on our way home, When she said let,s stop and make a crop circle. The area we had been traveling is covered by large wheat fields. I laughed and just forgot about it. The next day when the newspaper came out the front page was covered with the news of a crop circle in the area, as I got to thinking about her comment, and checking around the area I was amazed to find out that when she made that comment we had been six-tenths of a mile from the 93ft. dia. circle.

There was no way for us to see or know about it for the thing was discovered by a local pilot had flown over it with his family and spotted it. IT was not publisized untill the next day after the holiday july 5.

The thing that puzzled me was, WHY did she think of such a thing at that time and place. Has this ever happened to anyone else you know of???

It kind of made me THINK

Follow Ups:

Crop circle mystery lives ...

"... the sphere, which measured 93 feet in diameter, was under investigation by agencies from across the country."

Home spun



By Jim Langham
Staff Writer

A hypothesis spins to life

By JIM LANGHAM
Staff Writer

PAULDING — Research analysis received from BTL Research Team in Cambridge, Mass., reveals significant data concerning soil and plant samples taken from the site of the Paulding County crop circle which occurred last summer.

While it has not been absolutely determined with 100-percent certainty, researchers believe there is a 95-percent chance the formation was caused by an atmospheric plasma vortices. Although little is understood about the concept it is characterized by down-rushing whirlwinds of partially ionized air that spin to life from the turbulence of weak front systems.

PAULDING — As waving fields of golden wheat ripen for harvest in the northwest Ohio countryside, several Paulding County families are reminded of an event that took place last summer which still leaves some questions in their minds.

It was late in the day on July 4, 1996, when Mike and Sandy Dobbelaere, of Oakwood, were flying over fields farmed by the Arend brothers when they spotted what appeared to be a crop circle in the wheat field. Within days, the sphere, which measured 93 feet in diameter, was under investigation by agencies from across the country.

Thousands of curious people visited the Arend farm to see the spectacle and form their own opinions about what caused the phenomenon.

"I still wonder what it was and why it happened to us," says Darcy Arend, who developed a science fair project as a result of the event. "I look back at it now and I think, 'Wow, why did this happen to us?'"

And while no one has been able to solve the puzzle with 100-percent certainty, reports returned earlier this spring from BTL Research Team, laboratories that have specialized in analyzing crop circles worldwide from Cambridge, Mass., do suggest a possible

cause of the circle.

A research team headed by Dr. W.C. Levensgood and Nancy Talbott initially drew wheat and soil samples from the circle and surrounding area last summer. Subsequent samples were taken for the next several months.



Darcy Arend

In the final analysis, Talbott suggests the presence of a complex, turbulent, intensely energetic atmospheric energy system to be the cause of the Paulding County circle.

"It certainly wasn't people stomping about in the fields with plants and boards," Talbott says.

Other significant formations occurred near Elida, Columbia City, Ind., and Butte, Neb. Late in the fall, a farmer harvesting a corn field in Grant County, Ind., discovered a circle believed to have been formed in August.

For her science project, Darcy Arend, planted wheat taken from plants inside the circle and wheat taken from plants outside the circle. To her surprise, the wheat grew better from samples taken outside the circle.

"The hypothesis was that the wheat

"The Paulding event strongly supports the hypothesis that these atmospheric plasma vortices are the responsible agent in crop formations — and that something new and as yet not fully understood, is occurring," said BTL's Nancy Talbott.

In addition, Talbott and Dr. W.C. Levensgood have gained the following information from statistically significant data:

1. Significant node length (from wheat) alterations ranging in the 18-to-20-percent range.
2. High concentrations of magnetic iron particles occurring within the formation of regions where plant stem node changes were maximum.

3. A detailed sampling of the area surrounding the formation disclosed very low, near normal amounts of magnetic soil particles.

4. Microscopic characteristics of magnetic particles indicate meteoritic origins.

5. Data consistent with the concept of organized plasma vortices which through their associated magnetic fields attract meteoritic dust.

6. No significant difference between the germination of seeds from the formation and controls.

Members of the research team initially took samples from wheat inside and outside

with Paulding residents

from the circle would grow better. It was wrong," explains Arend. "Wheat from the crop circle did not grow better. In fact, it did not grow as fast."

Arend's cousin, Nicholas, performed a similar project with soybeans. He also sent soil samples to a laboratory for professional analysis. To his surprise, soil taken from inside the circle was richer, but the soybeans grew better in the soil taken from outside the circle.

"I look back at all of this now and I'm just in awe," says Nicholas. "You always hear about things like that happening to somebody else. I still can't believe that it happened to us."

One family member, Jackie Arend, who underwent major surgery at Shriner's Hospital in Chicago used the public's interest in the phenomenon for the good of others. She had T-shirts designed and sold them, donating *all* profits, which were more than \$4,000, to hospital research.

"In some ways I'm glad these things happened so that we could help the hospital," says Jackie. "It gave us a chance to give back to the hospital for all that they did for us."

"It was an exciting walk in fame," adds Jackie Arend. "Sometimes now it seems kind of creepy. It was a lot of fun."

This summer seems kind of boring."

One thing community members will never forget is the graciousness and hospitality shown by the Arend family during the days they were converged on by national media and more than 8,000 individuals who walked on their property to view the circle.

Rev. Cleo Schmenk, of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Paulding, believes the spirit exhibited by family members should be the real remembrance when recalling the days of the crop circle.



Jackie Arend

"I was personally edified by the way they handled all of this," says Rev. Schmenk. "It could have been really troublesome, but they made it a rather pleasant and enjoyable experience for all of us."

"They didn't take advantage of it or profit from it. They accepted donations for a very good cause," Schmenk adds.

"They always viewed it in a very objective manner. The hospitality they showed is something we should all remember and appreciate."

the circle and from soil inside and outside the circle shortly after the formation occurred. Other samples were taken to the laboratory by Mrs. Judy Robinette of Paulding, James Buerlein of Ohio State University, John Timmerman and Randy Robinette.

Samplings were provided at various periods throughout the year, including soil samples from the winter months.

Concerning the team's research and conclusions, Talbott said, "Dr. Levengood did a great deal of work on this formation, obtaining a second set of soil samples during the winter because of the finding of such massively increased concentrations of magnetic material in the first soil samples.

ETL Research Team is part of laboratories specializing in analyzing crop circles worldwide.