



David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Lincolnite John Foster, a witness of UFO encounters.

A Lifetime of Close Encounters

By Lisa Stankus
Staff Reporter

"It happens all around the world, all the time," he said.

According to Foster, UFO phenomenon can be broken into branches. One is dedicated to research and investigation of sightings. The Mutual UFO Network was formed as a worldwide organization of professionals and citizens who coordinate information across nations and publish their findings in a monthly journal. MUFON's headquarters are in Seguin, Texas.

Another branch deals with the abductees, or contactees with the UFO and its inhabitants -- a category in which Foster includes himself.

The contactee, said Foster, is the person who has been periodically contacted throughout his life by aliens. Contactees normally are approached at an early age, allegedly because of personal qualities or interests the same as the alien's, Foster said.

"For example, if I wanted to be an artist in my lifetime, and they (the aliens) wanted me to be an artist, then they would make my path easier," he said. "If I wanted to be a banker, and they didn't want me to be a banker, they would make my life difficult. I would probably give up my quest as a banker and become an artist."

Speaking from a studio-addition of his east-Lincoln home, Foster confessed of an obsession with UFOs from early in his life. On many occasions Foster would stay awake half the night observing the sky for possible spacecrafts.

It finally happened.

One summer evening in 1981, Foster and his now estranged son-in-law were sitting on the balcony of Foster's apartment. Intent on seeing a UFO that evening, they said a prayer. Three minutes later, an orange, glowing disc whisked over their heads and then disappeared into the evening haze.

But it was in March of 1986 that Foster received his first extensive experience of recollection, or the process of becoming aware of past incidents he didn't recall.

He remembered a vision of a bright cluster of lights, an image he had had before, and proved to be just the first vision of a very complex sequence of experiences.

As days passed, Foster remembered more details of the event, until, three weeks later, he had gained almost full memory of the incident.

"It was the most frightening experience of my life," he said. "It was also the most involved and extensive event that I have ever heard of. I tried to write about it, but that upset me. You would have to experience it for yourself to know the awesome effects of an incident of this nature."

"Anyway, that summer I was pretty much out of it. I didn't really care if I lived or died. I knew there were extra-terrestrials. I knew they existed."

In October 1986, Foster recalled another experience of contact with aliens, as well as scattered sightings of saucers and unexplainable images. It was at this point that he enlisted the aid of professionals in

the field of UFOs, namely, the Mutual UFO Network and the Fortean Research Center.

Between November 1986 and January 1987, Foster recalled many experiences of his past, some dating back to the early 1940s.

"It was through consultations with R. Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D., and author Ida Cannenburg, I was able to come to some terms," Foster said. "Due to the fact that they were both contactees, as I am, it was helpful for me to talk with them. I was able to recall, in more detail, many incidences."

"Then, I began to get leery of pursuing things further. So I backed away. It was too much for me to handle at this point, and I couldn't possibly think of going public with everything. I was having some problems with my family members thinking I was losing my mind, so I decided to take it very slowly."

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The following is a detailed account by Foster of an incident dating somewhere between 1946 and 1951. The setting is Bethany Grade School, 63rd and Holdrege St. Foster was between the ages of 10 and 14.

(At the actual time of happening, Foster experienced a block of time that he could not account for. This approximately two-hour period then is explained through his usage of recollection.)

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