



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.

In the 1940s, people around the United States began to report odd sightings of "daylight discs" and circles of light in the evening sky.

The 1950s brought detailed accounts of uncommon flying crafts, or flying saucers.

And in the 1960s, unexplained phenomena surrounded the events of these peculiar sightings. Sections of scorched earth, downed trees and incidences of cattle mutilations were linked to these reports.

Science supposedly was unable to offer distinct explanations for these phenomena, so society did. The term "unidentified flying object," or UFO, became prominent. People began to come forward with their personal experiences and encounters with these space objects.

John Foster was one of these people.

Foster, 52, of Lincoln, said he has had several such adventures throughout his life and, until recently, has restrained himself from making his experiences known.

"I felt it was my duty to mankind to come forward with what I know and have experienced," Foster said. "It's for the good of mankind."

These encounters with UFOs have been recorded by a cross-section of the public, including professionals, blue-collar workers, scholars and government officials, Foster 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."

• • •

**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.)

"Before the movie operator said

See FOSTER on 11

**Aloha Tan and Tone**

**43**

Days Till Spring Break  
12 for \$25 + 1 visit FREE!  
Bring this ad for one additional visit Free!  
14 for \$25!

**7 Tanning Beds**

5555 S 48th      423-2134

**Beer  
Bash  
Ammunition.**