

It all began, I suppose, with the stuffed animals. Johnny Musgrave was an army brat, born in Minneapolis in 1941. When the youngest was in Grade 3 his father received a transfer to California. When they left they took everything, including Johnny's stuffed animals, but for some reason the animals didn't stop moving once the rest of the family had settled in San Diego.

Not that it's unusual for a child to believe his playthings are real, but it is curious that one could actually convince his mother that the animals didn't seem to need any help to get around. Johnny and his mother even did tests: arranging the animals according to a specific floor plan, closing the bedroom door, waiting, and then checking to see who had gone where. Johnny's mother was convinced.

It wasn't until 1955, though, that he had his most remarkable encounter with strange forces. He was 14, camping near El Cajon, Calif., when he met a retired doctor who told him that he and some 10 others had been observing flying saucers for the past few days, always shortly after sunset. The doctor invited young Musgrave to join his group that evening. They waited a short while until the bright light the doctor had described showed up, moving slowly across the western sky, then breaking into two lights, one moving north, the other south. Next night the strange lights and Musgrave returned, and although he was the only non-adult among the witnesses to the event, it was that evening that he received the distinct impression the entire show was being staged for his sole personal benefit.

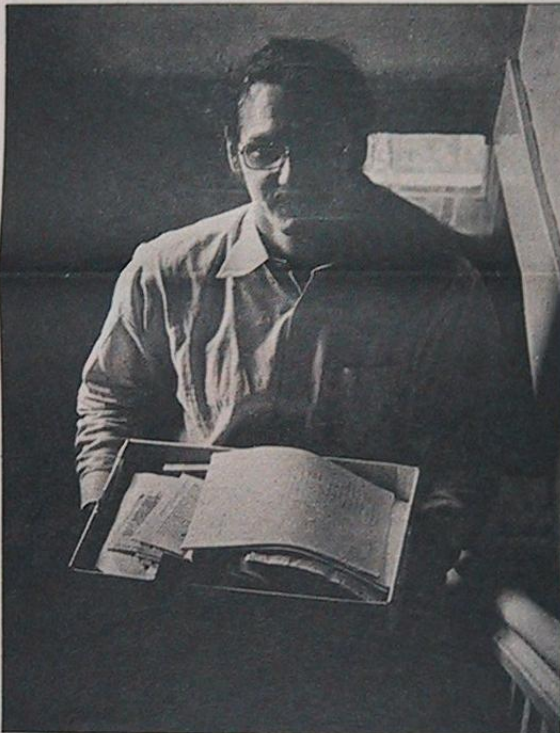
Next night he had a dream. It was not his first unusual dream: he'd dreamt once the house was going to catch fire, only to wake up next morning to find the kitchen ablaze. But this dream was not the same, not so easily passed off as mere coincidence. This time he felt he was being drawn up into the object he had observed the previous night, and while inside he spoke with some of its occupants — people-like, not monsters — and he believed it to be a conversation among equals. Musgrave was frank with them, telling them he just couldn't cope with the dreams and strange events that had been occurring. He told them it was too soon, that he wasn't yet ready. But, he added, he would be ready in his 32nd year.

When John Musgrave was 30 he went to Edmonton to accept a job as a computer analyst at the University of Alberta (there was no draft evasion involved — a football injury had left him ineligible for duty in Vietnam). When he was 32, he took the step the dream had predicted: he wrote a long, detailed letter to Dr. Jacques Vallee, the noted UFO examiner at the Institute for the Future in California, detailing the El Cajon

John Musgrave's Date with a UFO

The Canada Council is putting up \$6,000 to see that he keeps it

BY ROY MacGREGOR



sightings and his peculiar dream. A year later he applied for a Canada Council grant to study the UFO phenomenon in Canada, and last April he was given \$6,000. He felt he was simply answering a call.

When Paul-Émile Leblanc, head of the Council's explorations program, announced the grant he was quick to add, "It's not a put-on. It's a serious study." The very nature of the UFO grant was

enough in itself to give them worry — better, in some minds, that they use taxpayers' money to find out just what it is angels are up to when they gather on pinheads. But if the Council felt it had to defend the grant in some way, it's just as well they didn't also take on the task of defending Musgrave: certain things about him were probably better left untold. Bad enough that he was American, not one of our own rifling Ottawa's

pockets, but he was also a former 4-H Club member whose sympathies now lie with the Marxist-Leninist line of communism; he wears only denim and eats health foods; he keeps his hair, which runs halfway down his back, in a ponytail; and he considers the gossipy American tabloid newspaper, the *National Enquirer*, good source material.

Admittedly, it all sounds absurd, but it is also unfair. John Musgrave is as well qualified for the task as anyone else in this country. He has been taking specially assigned college courses since he was 13, entering the University of Chicago on a full scholarship when he was only 16, and he has done graduate work at the University of California at Berkeley, as well as a return stint back at Chicago. Although he has received enough credits to make his education roughly equivalent to a PhD, he never graduated as such, for the courses he took never lay in traditional directions; rather, they seemed mostly to be of value to someone engaged in the study of space and UFOs. "It was, I admit, in the back of my mind all along," he says.

During the decade he spent absorbing university courses in physics, psychology, computer analysis and history, he also kept up ties with the various UFO societies throughout the United States, so that when he applied for the Canada Council grant he had not only his formidable education, but he also had impeccable references that included, among others, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the highly respected Illinois scientist who is generally considered the expert on UFO phenomena.

Even so, the Canada Council must have been somewhat nervous about the grant, since Musgrave received barely half the amount he had initially requested. ("In essence, they gave me my expenses, but not my salary.") For a while he tried to hold down his job as course designer at Alberta's new Athabasca University and research UFOs as well, but he resigned in August to work full-time on the UFO research, figuring he could live off his savings until December or so. It was the only way he could arrange the time needed to travel. Since leaving his post at Athabasca, he's spent three weeks researching in California, and another week at Dr. Hynek's Centre for UFO Studies at Evanston, Illinois, where he uncovered nearly 1,000 pages of American-compiled data on Canadian UFO sightings.

And that is but one hint of the magnitude of the phenomenon in this country. So far he's filled a filing cabinet with stories of UFO sightings that took place in Canada, and is about to begin his second cabinet. The information comes from old newspapers, diaries, word-of-mouth, interviews, and from letters