

Things that went whirr in the night

MRS. DAWN Barnard is not the sort of lady given to flights of fancy about UFOs. She is a down-to-earth telephone sales supervisor.

But she was rather alarmed when, on Tuesday night, a brilliant icy blue light illuminated the bedroom of her Cottingley home and was followed by a whirring noise. She was even more alarmed when the performance was repeated about five minutes later.

At work the following morning a colleague who lives at Cullingworth said she had seen the same thing. Mrs. Barnard phoned me — and soon, so did several other people including the Vicar of Cullingworth, the Rev. David Wightman, who saw a flash, heard a bang and thought at first that his boat was being stolen.

So Argus went on the trail of the Cottingley Flashes. A Met Office spokesman at Bawtry said that at that time, between 11.30 and 11.45 p.m., "the chances are that it was not at all associated with the weather." So was it, your columnist wondered, the famous Cottingley Fairies materialised again and up to spectacular pranks?

Police at Bradford, Bingley and Shipley could throw no light on the matter, so it was next stop the YEB.

"Ah yes," said a spokesman. "We were having grid problems that night with severe clashing on the grid lines which caused dips in voltage."

Ice on the power cables can, it seems, cause bright flashes of light and is pretty noisy with it. Mystery solved. Cottingley Fairies R.I.P.

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Stanton Friedman

UFO expert to lecture

Stanton Friedman, who describes himself as the "flying saucer physicist," will deliver an illustrated lecture "Flying Saucers are Real" tonight at the ENMU College of Business auditorium.

Friedman holds a master of science degree in physics from the University of Chicago. He has spoken at over 500 colleges in the U.S. and Canada, and is currently making a swing through New Mexico.

Friedman said one of the reasons he came to New Mexico is to investigate a July, 1947, incident in which a flying saucer was reported to have crashed near Roswell. Part of that "saucer" was also reported to have gone down near Socorro.

A book on the incident "The Roswell Incident" was published in October. Friedman researched portions of the work.

Friedman asked anyone who remembers the incident to attend the lecture, or call him collect at his office. The number is (506)457-0232.

The lecture is sponsored by the ENMU Associated Students Activities Board. It begins at 7 p.m. in the College of Business auditorium. It is free of charge.