

NIGHT-DRIVE TERROR ON ISOLATED ROAD

A QUIET drive turned to terror for a young family when they had a "close encounter" with a UFO.

Tony and Sharon Davies and their three children were driving over a remote hill road near Blackwood, Gwent, when their ordeal began.

"The road ahead was pitch dark when the car bonnet suddenly lit up with a strange bright greenish glow," said Mr Davies, a 22-year-old excavator driver.

about ten feet above the car.

"Behind the lights was a circular shadow, and the whole thing looked like one of the fancy illuminations you see in discos.

"However, the object behaved like nothing I've come across before. Though it made no noise, it remained directly above the car what-

ever speed I drove at. "Soon Sharon and the children became very scared and I got the feeling that we dare not stop in such an isolated spot or something terrible might happen.

"Just as we were beginning to panic, the object, which was 15 to 20 feet in diameter, vanished as abruptly as it had first appeared.

"We were very relieved when we arrived at the village of Aberargoed and seeming security soon afterwards.

"The shocks weren't over yet, however. When we stopped and got out of the car for a welcome breather we could still see the UFO much higher in the sky but still hovering over the car.

Passer-by

"We called a passer-by over to make sure we weren't seeing things, and he was as perplexed as we were.

"We were all still watching the UFO when it started to shudder and once again disappeared without warning.

"Immediately we drove to the local police station to report our sighting, and the other witness also came forward.

"Now we have all recovered our nerves but it will be long time before we travel on the same road again."

Blackwood is no stranger to UFO sightings.

Only two years ago strange lights in the night sky above Blackwood were seen by a number of reliable witnesses, including two policemen out on patrol.

None of the sightings has ever been satisfactorily explained.



Bognor's girl

A NICE smile from actress Joanna McCallum, who's currently back in her role as girlfriend of TV's private eye, Bognor.

London-born, Joanna grew up and was educated in Australia, where her parents now live.

She's married to an advertising executive and the couple have an infant daughter.



"Send for a plumber? But you ARE a plumber!"

TIME OUT FOR LAUGHS



"Mmm! Delicious — just like mum used to throw at dad!"

CAR BATTERY EXPLOSION DANGER

THERE was a fright in store for a man who went to his garage one morning to check on his car battery, which had been recharging overnight.

Everything looked fine as he disconnected the leads of the charger from the battery terminals.

But suddenly there was a spark at one of the terminals and the top of the battery blew up, spraying out sulphuric acid.

Fortunately, the man, from Newport Gwent, was not hurt, but he was shaken by the incident.

Explosive mixture

The mistake he had made was to take the charger leads off the battery, before he switched off the mains current.

When a battery reaches its fully-charged state and is still being charged, an explosive mixture of hydrogen and oxygen is created within the battery cells.

Any spark or naked flame near the battery before the gas has dispersed will cause an explosion.

All the major car battery manufacturers put clear warnings on the side of their batteries to keep naked flames well away from them.

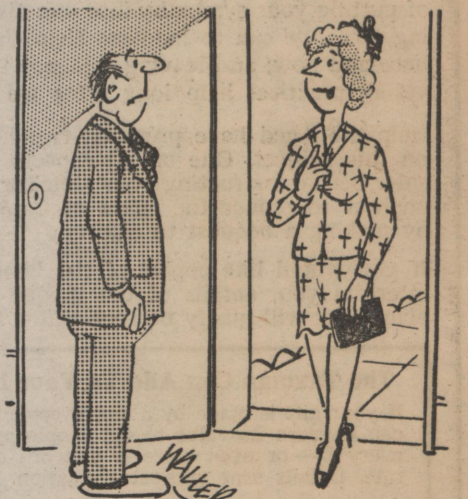
Well ventilated

And they advise that the place where the battery is being charged is well ventilated so that no gas concentration can build up.

"We recommend a battery should be taken out of a car to be recharged, so that if there is any spark it is away from the engine," Mr Brian Naylor, of Chloride Batteries, told "The Weekly News."



"My brother was an army karate expert until he killed himself saluting!"



"I just couldn't think of a single thing to get you for your birthday—but I finally decided it would make your day to see me in a nice, new hat!"

BAILIFFS TAKE OVER

ONE local authority has taken the drastic step of employing bailiffs to recover library books people have failed to return.

And after just three months, the experiment seems to be working. Books worth £2600 have been recovered with £768 in fines, plus £119 for lost books being paid.

"So far, we're extremely pleased with the experiment," said Mr John Renolds, chief administrator of Hampshire County Libraries Department.

A certified bailiff tracks down the fines if books are not returned after 14 weeks of issue. His fee is 10 per cent. of the debts recovered.

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LAUGH LINES

● Author — "You've read my last book, haven't you?"

● Critic — "I certainly hope so!" — E. C., Woking.