

Malcolm's search for ghosts and U.F.O.s

HAVE you ever seen a U.F.O.? Is your house haunted? At some time in your life have you had an unusual experience that couldn't be explained?

If so, Malcolm Robinson of Alloa would be delighted to hear from you. His spare time interest is investigating strange phenomena, certain aspects of the paranormal, and he travels throughout Britain in search of such stories.

In particular he is fascinated by the subject of unidentified flying objects (U.F.O.s) and as president of the Scottish U.F.O. Network, he follows up reports of sightings and interviews witnesses.

"Ninety-five per cent of U.F.O. sightings are all identifiable objects," he told me. "There are only a very small number of true U.F.O. sightings."

"These things have been tracked on radar throughout the world. They have sent jets up to inspect these objects and they have been well outpaced.

"What surprises me is that the governments of the world don't take this more seriously."

Orange object

Has he ever seen a U.F.O. himself? "I have seen something but I'm not sure it was a U.F.O.," he says.

"It was at Loch Ness back in 1979.

"One of the better stories is the one that occurred near Livingston in 1979," he said.

"Early one Friday morning a forestry worker called Bob Taylor was walking down a forestry path and approaching a clearing.

"In this clearing there was, he claims, a silvery grey object and two smaller objects came rushing out from underneath. They looked very similar to second world war sea mines (spherical objects with spikes sticking out).

"They projected these spikes to his trousers and, before he passed out, he felt a tugging sensation to his trousers.

"When he recovered, the object had gone but there were triangular and circular holes in the ground. His trousers were ripped and he had a terrible shock.

"The police put a fence round the area and experts were sent up to take samples from the ground, but they were unable to give an explanation.

"I found Bob a very convinc-

ing chap. He himself has no explanation for what happened. He has no interest in U.F.O.s and is very down to earth."

Along with Bill Gibbons, Malcolm has been co-writing a book for the past couple of years on U.F.O. sightings in Scotland. To some extent they have conflicting opinions on the matter.

"He believes that the U.F.O. problem is extra terrestrial but I'm not totally convinced," remarked 28-year-old Malcolm. "I am willing to believe that it may be other things."

At present Bill Gibbons is in the Congo with a party of twelve people in search of a particular monstrosity creature called dokotoe mbeey which natives claim they have seen.

Malcolm follows up newspaper reports of U.F.O. sightings, hauntings, and other paranormal phenomena by making contact with the people who have experienced them.

"I travel to various locations and interview witnesses to various kinds of phenomena.

nary incidents fascinates Malcolm.

As he says, "Man has not solved all the mysteries of the universe. There are many more mysteries still to be uncovered through people like myself throughout the world who are really interested in paranormal phenomena primarily to learn and understand."

Normally I do my interviews on cassette tape but I have now purchased a video camera and I hope to do interviews on video."

His he encountered any spooky himself? "Although I have been in many haunted houses and have heard so many tales about ghosts, generally no, I haven't," he admits.

Among the ghost stories he has looked into recently is a haunted pub in Stirling called The King's Stables Inn.

Banging doors

"The proprietors have been seeing the ghost of a man. It has no distinct shape but is just a cloudy, shadowy thing. Incidents happen like doors banging for no reason and a banging pot plant suddenly swinging violently to and fro.

"That was very interesting. One sensation I did feel there was that I was absolutely freezing and when I moved away to take photographs I was back to normal again."

Investigating out of the ordi-



Malcolm Robinson