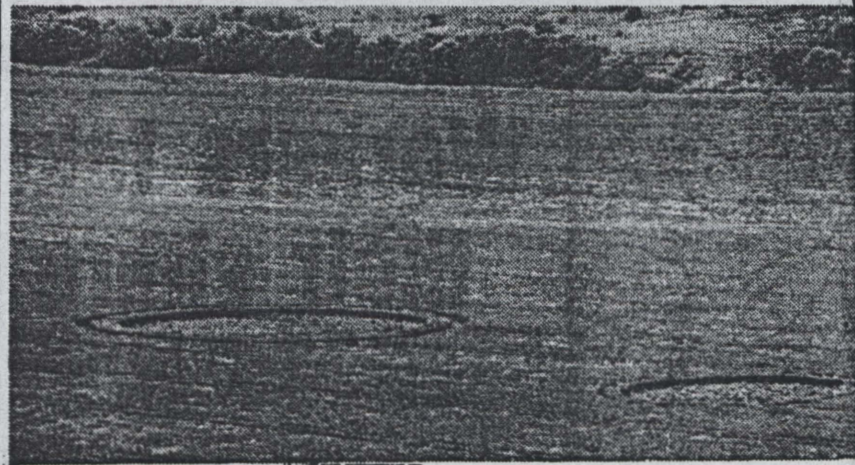


RIGHT ON TIME AGAIN . . .



RIDDLE: The wheat rings at Cheesefoot Head

DAILY TELEGRAPH
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**PUZZLE OF
THE DEVIL'S
PUNCHBOWL**

In the quiet of a Hampshire field, the phenomenon of precise circles of flattened corn which has been puzzling scientists for more than a decade has appeared again.

The mysterious circle in the wheatfield at the Devil's Punchbowl, near Winchester, measures 68 feet in diameter and is surrounded by another ring four feet wide, five feet from the circle's outer edge.

Over the years, the circles, which appear in several parts of England and overseas, have been said to be caused by visits from space, freak weather conditions, druid ceremonies or electro-magnetic fields.

**Halo! Ring mystery
turns full circle**

TWO MORE of the mystery rings that have confounded farmers, the public and scientists have appeared in a field near Winchester.

A great swirling circle of flattened wheat can be seen alongside a smaller version at Cheesefoot Head in an area known as "The Devil's Punchbowl".

According to Alresford man Pat Delgado, who has made a study of similar happenings in the past, the rings have appeared on time.

"They usually arrive during the last two weeks of June or in the first two of July," said Mr. Delgado (67), who has been making early morning patrols of the area during the past three weeks in the hope of finding such rings.

Mr. Delgado said the largest of the weekend's rings is 68 feet in diameter. "It's different in that it has a halo around it," he explained.

"What you have is a disc of wheat all swirling in a clockwise direction, except the last four feet which swirls in an anti-clockwise direction. Then around that is a band of untouched standing wheat, for about five feet, followed by a further flat ring four feet wide," said Mr. Delgado.

The former electro-mechanical and design engineer, said the rings were too uniform and "perfect" to be part of some hoax.

"Similar rings have been recorded in this area, even in this same field, since the Second World War. They have also been known to appear in Australia, America and Canada," he said.

He also rules out the UFO theory and, instead, prefers his own of "some electro magnetic power, either from the earth or the atmosphere reacting in some way with the wheat."