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PETER TORY



I see no hoax, says Patrick

PATRICK Moore has been accused of perpetrating a major hoax involving flying saucers.

He's hopping mad about the suggestion and has threatened to sue anyone who brings the matter to public light.

Well, it is being brought to public light. And, dare one say, it is a rather intriguing story.

Some years ago — in the fifties — a book was published by one Cedric Allingham, called *Flying Saucer From Mars*. It was a best-seller.

The author claimed in its pages that he had witnessed the landing of a UFO in Scotland and that he was taken on board and whisked around the Solar System.

This wonderful tale, told

as it was in the rather less sophisticated times when man had not yet vaulted into space, very much excited Fleet Street.

The papers tried, indeed, to track down the amazing Mr Allingham so that he could tell them in some detail about his wonderful celestial voyage.

Alas, the publisher's Muller's, claimed that Mr Allingham was dying in Switzerland. And that he was unable to speak.

Plain

This week, however, a magazine called *Magonia* — it is dedicated to paranormal matters and the like — will claim that Cedric Allingham never existed.

And, further, that the author of the book was none other than our much respected astronomer, the eccentric Patrick Moore.

Says Jenny Randles, director of investigation for the British UFO research association: "It's as plain as anything that he did it. The magazine has spent

five years, on and off, researching this. Patrick Moore did it as a joke and to upstage another author who was making absurd claims. Moore has always regarded UFOs as 'absolute rot.'"

However, Patrick Moore himself, possibly fearful for his revered reputation, will have nothing to do with it. He said to us: "I can't be bothered with these people.

"It's the closed season for nuts. Thank you. Goodbye."

