

JOAN TRAECKS WEST'S UFOs

NEW SERIES
STARTS TODAY

IN SUPERNATURAL ADVENTURE, a new book published by Bantam, price £2.50, Cornishman MICHAEL WILLIAMS investigates a whole range of Supernatural subjects. Today in a SUNDAY INDEPENDENT series, extracted from this, the 151st title from the cottage publishers of St Teath, Michael Williams concentrates on the subject of UFOs.

JOAN AMOS has a substantial file of UFO sightings all over the West Country — detailed descriptions by men and women who are absent from subsequent publicity.

I had come to Lucy Cottage, Plover Tey, where Joan Amos and her husband live. It is a delightful Devonshire village sitting high above Tavistock on the edge of Dartmoor.

Joan, who is in her early sixties, told me how her interest in the subject took root at 6.30 on a bright April morning in 1975. The sun was shining out of a clear blue sky and Joan was in Tavistock Hospital with four other women waiting for the day to begin — and the early morning tea to arrive.

One of the group suddenly pointed into the sky above Cote for and asked: "What's that?"

"I've all recognised it as a UFO in the haze of light as bright as the sun. It hovered and then moved away towards the moor."

"Though we were all in hospital, we were perfectly okay. None of us was ill at that moment. All five of us had our full faculties," said Joan.

Other events intensified Joan's depending interest. In May a policeman saw a green fire ball hovering over Mary Tey, not far from the Amos' cottage. Then a terrified fisherman, fishing for trout, was chased across a field by a flying saucer.

Even more astonishing, though was the experience of St Dunstan, a 13-year-old girl from Bideford, Plymouth.

This is how she recalled her enlightening experience to the Plymouth UFO Research Group: "I was coming into my house at approximately 11.15pm, and as I approached the corner of the bonagard, I saw some lights behind the house."

"Then I got to the back door and could see up the hill behind our house, I saw an enormous UFO hovering above the houses on top of the hill."

"The object was white and a dark metallic grey, but coming from underneath and shining down on the rooftops beneath it were six or seven broad shafts of light."

Frightened

"These were lovely pastel shades of pink and purple, and also white. I saw all this in an instant and I was terrified. I hurriedly reached for the

It was as if a film had been stopped then started again. I had been stopped in mid-air and when the beam went off I continued the same movement. I opened the door and rushed into the house."

"As I did so the UFO lifted into the sky slightly and moved away and out of my sight. Gubbing my hand I ran in and told my sister. We went

'A lime green pencil of light' hit my hand'

door but as I put my hand on the handle, from the wall side of the ship, a lime green pencil of light came down and hit the back of my hand.

"As soon as it hit my hand I couldn't move. I was stopped dead in my tracks. The beam stayed on my hand for at least 30 seconds, in which time I could only stand and watch the UFO."

"I was very frightened, although the UFO was a fantastic sight to see. It was huge and silent. In fact, the whole area seemed very quiet."

"The green beam, which didn't give off any illumination and was rather like a rod of light, then switched off and I continued to open the door."

back outside but there was nothing to be seen. Coming in my sister examined my hand but there was nothing there.

Sting

"I went and sat down, and a few minutes later my sister's sting stung my hand making it sting. On looking at it I noticed spots of blood and after washing I saw it was a burn."

Joan Amos, on my visit to Lucy Cottage, handed me a colour photograph of Doctor's hand, clearly showing the burn.

Moreover, Joan had no doubts about the authenticity of Doctor's experience. Bob Boyd, chairman of the



UFO BURN: Plymouth girl's hand she says was burned by a UFO

Plymouth UFO Research Group, had taken the photograph and had interviewed the girl between 1.15 and 5pm that night — the family having been given his telephone number by police.

Joan has personally had as many as five UFO sightings, on separate occasions, in the vicinity of Breton Church on the edge of Dartmoor.

"I asked her how she had felt. "It's like being alone in a bubble," she said. "You're somehow isolated. We call it the OZ Factor. It's a special state of consciousness."

Joan is an Devonshire as the moor itself. Plymouth born and bred, her maiden name was Exworthy and her family originally came from the Hecroverby area of Dartmoor.

But there's nothing narrow or parochial about Joan when it comes to UFOs. Her own claim reports of sightings from all over the world.

Kidnapped

One account by UFO investigator Gordon Creighton, editor of *Flying Saucer Stories*, claims that extra-terrestrials are visiting our planet to make love with earthlings.

Bob Boyd, chairman of the

refers to a Brazilian farmer and a Swedish alien girl. The farmer was kidnapped in a field and taken aboard a flying saucer. There he was stripped, washed and left naked in one of the cabins. Half an hour later a naked woman alien with bleached hair, very high cheekbones and cat-like eyes came into the room and made love to him.

Gordon Creighton says it is one of many cases of sex between man and alien and he further reflects: "Usually a post-hypnotic suggestion is given to people who are kidnapped so they don't remember what happened."

"Maybe the aliens want to salvage our stock in case of a nuclear war, or they may need some of our genes to revitalise their own stock."

Inspired

The whole UFO business has been treated seriously in that the 8th Earl of Chaucery, an expert, has spoken on the subject in the House of Lords and chaired the all-party UFO study group in the upper chamber.

According to the Earl, Sirpeter Speerberg's films *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *ET* were inspired by extra-

terrestrials.

Close Encounters was based on a real life meeting between UFOs and President Eisenhower, who is supposed to have met aliens by arrangement at a secret base, claims the Earl.

"Five aircraft of different shapes flew into the base. The aliens looked like us but were dressed in outfits similar to motorcycle clothes."

Sightings

"Eisenhower decided that the aliens were so advanced that the world was not ready for open contact yet. But the aliens suggested an education programme should go into operation to prepare the way."

"I believe *ET* and *Close Encounters* are part of that education programme."

Joan Amos, for her part, believes UFOs could be keeping an eye on us on Earth. The number of sightings has kept dramatically in recent years while we have been developing nuclear weapons and rockets.

"I believe they have an interest in Earth, and Joan very seriously, "and they would probably intervene in the event of a war between the Super Powers. They would want to stop all-out war and save us and our world."