

UFO



EVERYBODY'S doing it: housewives, scientists, schoolboys, policemen — especially policemen — farmers, milkmen and plumbers' mates.

In fact UFOs are surprisingly unselective in their audience. Of course some of the spotters are nuts, partially blind or given to hallucinations, and most of the rest have seen nothing more sinister than a weather balloon, an unusually bright star or a plane at an odd angle.

They're easily laughed off, and partly because of them that's still the natural reaction even to the tiny proportion — a few thousand, maybe — whose sightings are not so readily explained away.

Take Deputy Sheriff Jim Robertson, just one of dozens of witnesses who reported a UFO four months ago near Willard, Ohio.

"All of a sudden it was there. It had been travelling from east to west and then it stopped in mid-air about 100 feet up just in front of me. It was shaped like a gigantic football with a sort of tail beneath it and a lighted transparent dome on top.

"At the sides were red and white lights flashing and the lights in the dome kept getting slightly blocked as though someone were moving about inside."

At the same time, but several miles away, 18-year-old Dorothy Goble spotted what she called a "crazy flying schoolbus in the sky".

And three years ago Virginia businessman Cliff Crowder had an even stranger experience. He was driving home to South Hill when . . .

"I saw a huge object on the road. I saw the object clearly for at least five seconds. It was perhaps 12 feet in diameter and 15 or 20 feet high. It seemed to be sitting on legs three feet high.

"Suddenly there was a blinding flash of white fire from the bottom of the thing. I don't remember hearing any sound at all. I thought I saw the object go up from the ground, but all of this happened so fast and the intense light may have blinded me for an instant.



"When I was over the surprise I bent down and looked up through the windshield. I didn't see anything except the moon and some clouds."

He reported it straight away to the police, and when they arrived around half an hour later they were more than a little surprised to find a burned patch of road about four feet by two — still hot. The plot thickened when they discovered four half-inch holes in the road around the burned patch forming an almost exact 12-foot square.

There have been many more equally convincing sightings around the world, from Russia to Australia, Canada to New Guinea, Brazil to Britain.

How are they to be interpreted? How much importance should be placed upon them?

Tricky questions, especially in an age of scepticism when anyone who hasn't actually seen a UFO is more likely to reject their existence out of hand.

And of course there is good reason to do so: basic logic is against UFOs from the start.

Their behaviour, for instance, follows no recognisable pattern. Compare it with the natural progression of our exploration of the moon: if there had been any intelligent life there it could have been in no doubt of our intentions and, moreover, would have been able to prove conclusively that we had landed.

You can't say the same for UFOs. Nobody has yet come up with concrete proof of their existence: photographs are generally not clear enough to make out more than smudged blurs, and they have left nothing behind that wasn't here before other than impressions on the surface.

Their intentions are a mystery too: are they malignant, benign or indifferent? There's no way of knowing, since they have never communicated with us.

So there is a conflict: while it is quite impossible to rationally dismiss the various reported phenomena it is equally impossible to deny the absolute sanity of the many hundreds of observers all over the planet who certainly believed what they have seen.

What is the reason why? If they are malignant they are clearly so far ahead of our technology that we would stand no chance of defending ourselves.

And if they are benevolent, here on a day trip to what they might well regard as some of kind of galactic zoo, it seems they have no wish to

Last week four Staffordshire policemen on duty saw and photographed what they described as a squarish-shaped light, drifting about 300 feet. The Home Office has their film and is refusing to show it. Here JOHN STEAD examines the UFO mystery to a man who has taken it seriously for 25 years.

UFO-TYPER:			
TALLERKENFORMEDE, SIKARKORMEDE OG ANDRE TYPER, DE AVBLØDEDE UFO'ER MAR NESTEN ALLE VART OBSERVERT I ELLER FLERE SØNDER			
 "TALLERKEN"-TYPE 10m Dia.	 STØR TALLERKEN-TYPE 20m Dia.	 "MIDREKJØ" 300-3000m L.	 CYLINDER OBJ. SETT I FORSK. 1950
 "TALLERKEN"-TYPE 10m Dia.	 "SATURN"-TYPE	 SETT OVER AFRIKA 1951 70m L.	 OBJ. FOTOG. CALIF. 1957
 "TALLERKEN"-TYPE 10m Dia.	 FOTOG. BRAZIL 1952	 OBJ. MED. ISMALE 1947	 RAKETTILIK. OBJ. -ITALIA
 "TALLERKEN"-TYPE 10m Dia.	 "NY TYPE" FOTOG. BRAZIL & CALIF.	 OVALT OBJ. 1952 - 25m L.	 TYPE SETT I USA & ITALIA
 "TALLERKEN"-TYPE 10m Dia.	 TYPE FOTOG. CALIF. 1950	 "SIBAK" MED. JETEXHAUST 1952	 KULEF. OBJ. 194 20cm - 25cm
 "TALLERKEN"-TYPE 10m Dia.	 FOTOG. NEW MEXICO 1947	 SIKARKFORMET MODERNKIP.	 SNURREBASEFORMET OBJ.
 "TALLERKEN"-TYPE 10m Dia.	 FOTOG. CALIF. 1945 10m Dia.	 SIBAKF. OBJ. N. VINGER. 1952	 ROMBER. OBJ. FL. A. USA 1941
 "TALLERKEN"-TYPE 10m Dia.	 SKIVEFORMET OBJ. 1950	 CYLINDERF. OBJ. N. VINGER.	<p>NB: OBJEKTERNE ER IKKE TEGNET I INDBYRDES RIKTIG MÅLESTOKK.</p> <p>Tegnet af Knut Ashwin. 2-57</p> <p>IN: UFO-INFORMASJON post box 4203 Oslo 4.</p>

escalate their degree of contact with us.

But this view denies that very basic human characteristic, curiosity, in which one Antoni Szachnowski is especially well blessed. Mr. Szachnowski lives in one of South London's seedier backwaters, a treble-chinned pudding of a man reminiscent of half a dozen different comedians rolled into one.

By day he is senior export clerk for Chrysler cars, but by night he assumes the mantle he clearly prefers: Global Co-ordinator of Project International UFO Petition to the United Nations.



His first contact with the unknown came during the war. "I was an artillery Lieutenant in the Second Polish Corps stationed in Italy — near Loreto. It was 11 o'clock one morning when suddenly I saw our soldiers looking up and pointing and I looked there and saw an egg-shaped glittering thing, metallic glittering.

"It made no movement or sound. A few minutes later our anti-aircraft batteries opened up and you could see the pop-pop-pop of the shells bursting. But they couldn't reach it.

"After a while our guns stopped, but we could still see shells bursting and so the Germans must also have been firing on it.

"So that precluded it being German; but not entirely, I suppose. It was after the Monte Casino break and there was a lot of movement, so it was possible that one section of the front didn't know what the other was doing.

"But I don't think it was normal: there were no balloons that could fly above the barrages