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newsletter**

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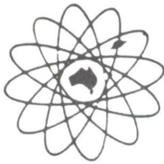
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# editorial

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## COMMUNICATION & COOPERATION

We talk about communication and cooperation and, happily, there is a world-wide trend towards exchanging information and maintaining contact. Nonetheless, we doubt anyone would dispute that there is room for improvement.

The most frustrating aspect of communication and cooperation is that there are those who preach it with apparent sincerity but practice it sporadically, at best. For example, in UF0RAN Vol.2 No.4, we ran, on page 16, "Project U.R.D.", an article explaining the Swedish system aimed at computerisation of UF0 data.

We felt quite enthusiastic about U.R.D. because it was claimed: "The project can unite the efforts made by various UF0 study groups all over the world if investigation and documentation methods are standardised sufficiently to provide a sound basis for scientific study".

We published the U.R.D. article to assist the project in "collecting information on a global basis". We believed it was important to bring this ambitious undertaking to the attention of our readers because UF0RAN aims at increasing communication and cooperation on a national and international scale. We were, therefore, very surprised that Project U.R.D. did not even acknowledge the complimentary copy, sent to them, of that UF0RAN issue, let alone follow through on the foothold that article gave them within Australia and other countries.

Happily, the non-responsiveness of Project U.R.D. is an isolated incident. UF0RAN is in the fortunate position of having consistent and ongoing support both within this country and overseas. We very much appreciate the international outlook of our contributors who practice communication and cooperation and, therefore, contribute vastly more than those who merely preach.■

# PERTH "LIGHT" PUZZLE

A preliminary report by PUFORG Special Investigator Adrian De Jong

At 3 a.m. during the morning of Friday, January 20, 1984, Police Constables Tim Moffitt and Mark Fleskens, both from Midland Station, were travelling north along the Roe Highway, near Hazelmere, when they were startled by a bright white flash of light. Another flash followed within seconds and Constable Fleskens, the passenger, believing the light came from within the cabin of their van, began searching for the source.

While Constable Fleskens was searching, and had his head down, Constable Moffitt witnessed a large green and white light which hovered for two seconds above Midland. It appears that the police radio in the van may have failed at the time the strange phenomenon manifested itself for officers with communications headquarters in Perth said they could not raise the two policemen for some time. They were trying to direct the constables to the home of Mr Sidney Bell, in Bishop Road, who had reported witnessing the same light.

Mr Bishop saw two forks of light come out of the sky and, in the middle of these, a huge green, white and blue light appeared. The phenomenon was about 30 metres high with a 6 metre wide base. The light effect was first noticed in the corner of Mr Bell's back-yard and seemed to come from above one tree. This tree and its neighbour were blowing around as if in gale-force winds which were confined to that particular area. The phenomenon was very brightly coloured bluish white and green. Its shape was hard to define because the light gradually lost

its brightness on the outside, however, it seemed to be conical in shape. Appearing in the sky, on either side, at the same time, were bright "zig-zag" vertical lines and three "star" like lights which were on the right above the zig-zag and formed a straight, but tilted line. They were approximately 36° above the southern horizon, about 20° south-west. The phenomenon disappeared with a "thump" noise and, at the same time, the wind stopped and the zig-zag lines and three stars vanished.

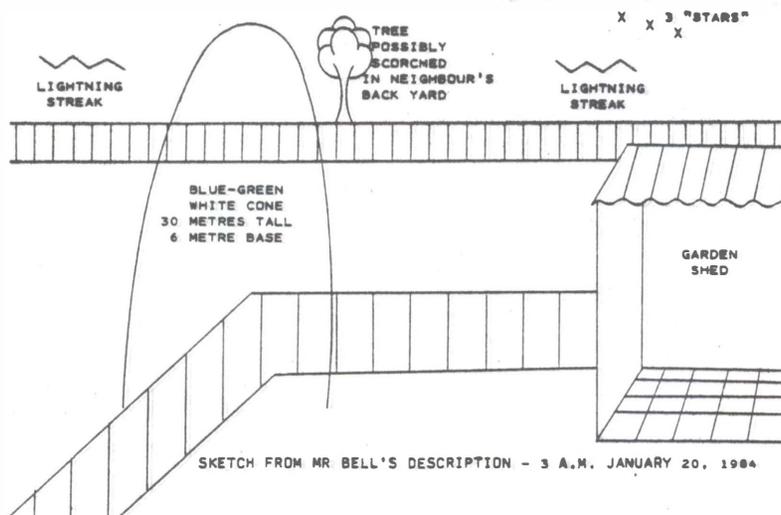
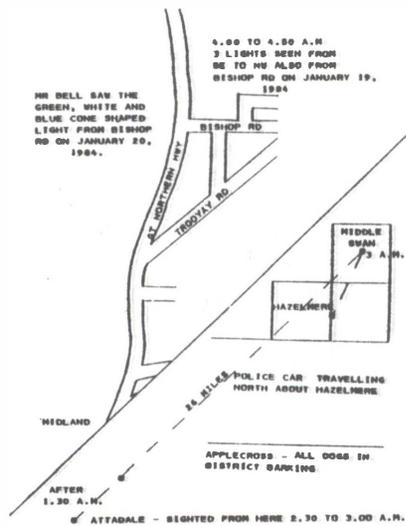
The tenants of the house, whose back-yard is adjacent to that of Mr Bell, noticed the bright light shining but didn't see the source. They, too, were aware of the gale-force wind and said that both effects vanished with a sort of "bang". Additionally, they noticed their electrical clock "blinking" as if there had been a blackout.

Several other residents in the area reported trouble with clocks and lights going on and off. There were reports of some people suffering mild electric shocks from metal objects and a microwave oven reportedly blinked on and off. Additionally, local dogs howled.

According to the Weather Bureau there had not been a gale-force wind in the area at that time.

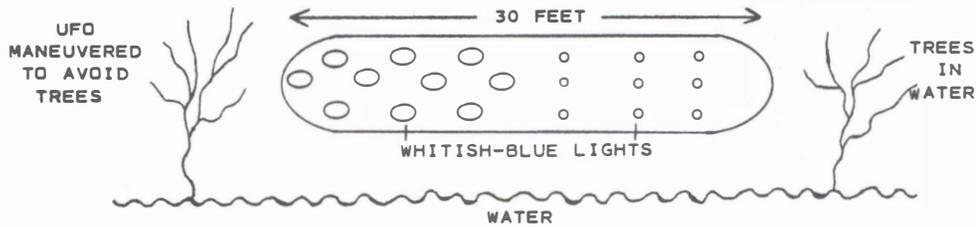
The physical effects noted here are for the information of readers only as investigations are still underway.

The investigations of the Perth UFO Research Group are continuing. ■



# OBLONG UFO LANDS ON WATER

By John F. Schuessler



Carl E. Moore, 14 years old, was fishing with friends near Newberry, South Carolina, when he saw a large cigar-shaped UFO land on the water. The sighting took place around 10:30 p.m. on July 15, 1981. The weather was excellent, with a clear sky and a temperature of 75 degrees.

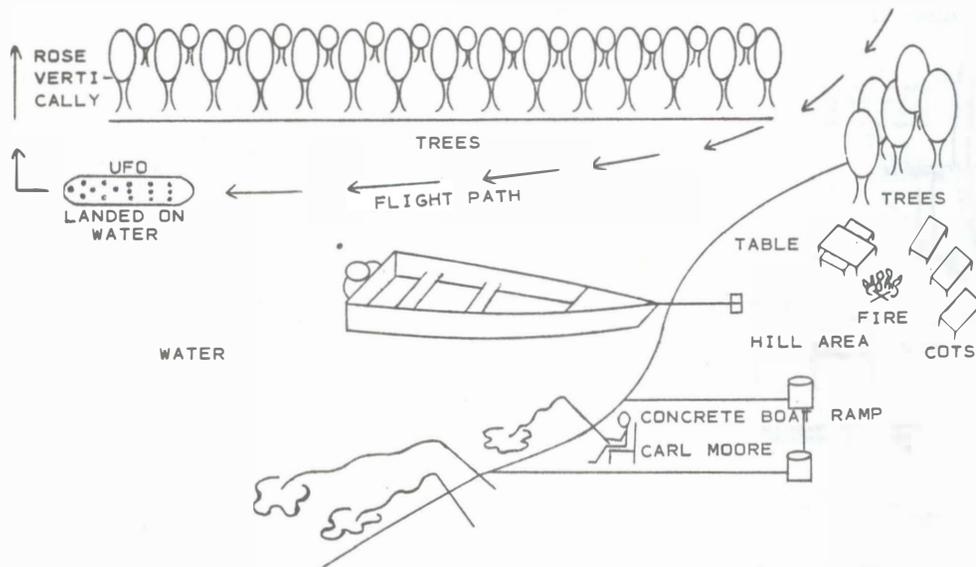
Carl, and his friends, had been fishing that day, but with very little luck. They had only a few fish to show for their efforts and were on their cots for a rest. Carl decided to go down to the boat ramp and check his trot lines; so he was alone when he observed the UFO.

The UFO was a 30 foot long glowing silver/white cigar-shaped thing. It was flying very slowly over the water - perhaps 20-25 miles per hour. He said it slowly settled on the surface of the water causing steam to rise around it. After about three minutes it rose slightly and hovered about

one foot above the surface. Suddenly, it shot skywards, rising vertically until it was out of sight. Carl described the speed as "faaast", claiming the UFO went from the hovering position to more than 250 miles per hour in an instant.

The UFO was larger than a standard sized automobile, without windows or doors. It was covered with small whitish-blue lights. These lights kept flickering back and forth as long as the object was in sight. When the UFO landed on the surface of the water it was less than 50 feet from Carl.

Carl described his feelings during the sighting as "quite disturbed", but he was able to "keep his cool" and observe the whole event. Because his friends were asleep on their cots, he felt that no-one would believe his experiences; but when he heard about Project VISIT in Friendswood, Texas, he felt compelled to make a report. ■



# TEXAS UFO CRASH IN 1897?

By John F. Schuessler

Did a cigar-shaped unidentified flying object really crash near Aurora, Texas, on April 19, 1897? Some people believe the whole story was a fabrication by S.E. Hayden, a local cotton buyer; while others are reasonably sure the tragic accident really occurred.

Sightings of strange airships were reported in the newspapers all across the United States during the spring of 1897. The Aurora case was just another UFO sighting; but with an unusual twist. It resulted in the allegation that an object crashed and left debris as proof of the event.

The flight path of the UFO carried it over sparsely settled farmlands as the farmers were out doing their chores. Farmer Jim Stephens told how the nose of the object hit the windlass over the water well on the farm of Judge Proctor causing a chain reaction explosion. The flash and fire was visible for more than three miles.

Mary Evans, about 15 years old at the time, said her parents went to the crash site and told her how the airship had exploded and that the pilot was torn up and killed in the crash. He was a small man and was buried later that day in the local cemetery.

Investigators of the Mutual UFO Network were able to track down the witnesses and piece together the sequences of events and the actual location of the crash. Using sensitive metal detectors, they found pieces of metal that could be subjected to

laboratory analysis.

Metal analyses, conducted in several laboratories across the country, revealed the material to be strange indeed. By using an electron dispersion x-ray analyzer it was determined that the material was ultra-pure aluminium. No trace elements, usually left by the refining processes, could be found. Photomicrographs of the sample showed large grains in the sample indicating it had truly undergone a heating and cooling cycle. The analysis showed how the material was constructed, the nature of its crystalline structure, and unusual purity. All this is consistent with the allegation that a UFO exploded spewing debris in all directions, impacting with a tremendous force.

Investigators were able to locate a crude marker in the local cemetery at a location supplied by the aging witness. The marker was inscribed with a shape resembling a cigar-shaped object just as the stories had related. However, before the legal process could be put in motion to force opening of the grave, the marker was removed from the cemetery, leaving the grave location a mystery never to be revealed.

Perhaps the people of Aurora were afraid their longstanding popularity would be diminished if the grave were opened and science proved the whole event was a hoax. On the other hand, what if the grave did hold the remains of an alien pilot? At this time, the investigators' files hold sufficient evidence to cast reasonable doubt on the hoax theory.■

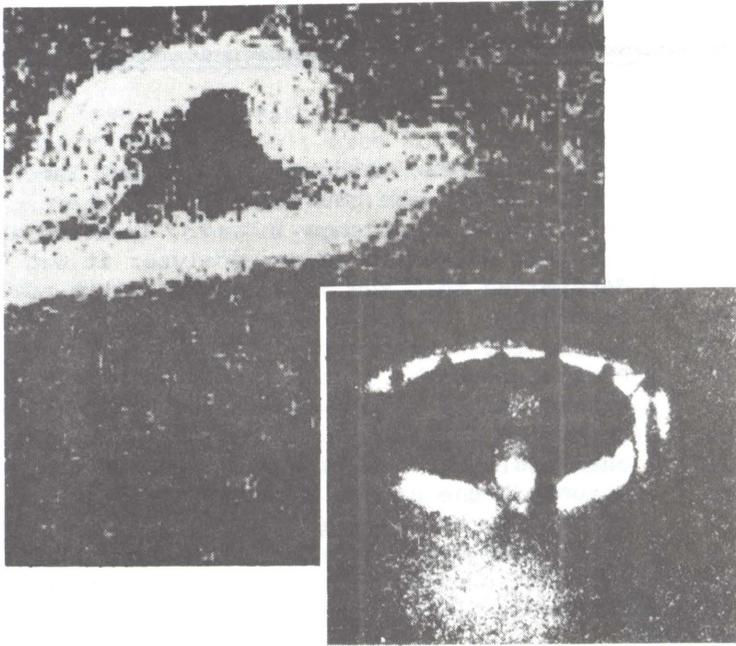
## NEW UFORAN FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

We welcome Professor A.J. Gevaerd, Coordinator of the Center for Flying Saucer Research (CPDV), Brazil, to our staff of foreign correspondents.

Professor Gevaerd is also the Brazilian Representative for the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) and the Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON) among other reputable organizations.

Within his own country, Professor Gevaerd is Director of the National Scientific Investigators of Ufology Committee and Secretary of the National Assoc. of Brazilian Ufologists.

In addition to accepting a UFORAN Foreign Correspondent position, Professor Gevaerd has also agreed to be the Brazilian Representative for the Australian Centre for UFO Studies. In exchange, Vladimir Godic has agreed to be the Australian representative for CPDV. This organisation is a scientific, non-profit group investigating all aspects of ufology. CPDV has 400-450 members, 10% of which are foreign, and is the largest organisation of its type in Brazil. - Ed.■



# WHAT IS A UFO ?

BY MARK MORAVEC

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When scientists initiate a study of a particular subject, they usually begin by defining what they are studying. This acts to focus the research effort as well as to ensure that different researchers are communicating about the same phenomenon.

What is a suitable definition of "UFOs"? A number of researchers have attempted, with varying success, to define the subject of our studies.

Condon defined a UFO "as the stimulus for a report, made by one or more individuals, of something seen in the sky (or an object thought to be capable of flight but seen when landed on the Earth) which the observer could not identify as having an ordinary natural origin, and which seemed to him sufficiently puzzling that he undertook to make a report of it to police, to government officials, to the press, or perhaps to a representative of a private organization devoted to the study of such objects" (Condon, 1969, 9).

Hynek differentiated between the potentially explicable "UFO report" and the unexplained "UFO" residue. A "UFO" was hence defined as "the reported perception of an object, or light, seen in the sky, or upon the land, the appearance, trajectory, and general dynamic and luminescent behaviour of which do not suggest a logical, conventional explanation and which is not only mystifying to the original percipients but

remains unidentified after close scrutiny of all available evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common sense identification, if one is possible" (Hynek, 1974, 26).

The Condon definition has been criticised as being too general, allowing countless events to be referred to as UFOs and implying that all can be identified. The Hynek definition excludes potentially relevant unexplained phenomena which appear not as objects or which appear underwater. Because of these perceived shortcomings, some researchers have suggested the need for a new definition.

The British-based Working Party on Standards in UFO Research suggested the following definition for a "UFO Report": "A statement by a person on persons, judged responsible and psychologically normal by commonly accepted standards, describing a personal visual, or instrumentally aided, perception of a phenomenon and/or its assumed physical effects, that does not specify any known physical event, object or process or any psychological event or process". A "UFO" is defined as: "The stimulus giving rise to the UFO report" (Hill, 1979, 2).

The Working Party definition can be criticised as being so general that it could be applied to sub-microscopic quantum particles, the Loch Ness monster or just about anything else that is vaguely anomalous.

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## WHAT IS A UFO?

Probably the main reason for the difficulty in defining the term "UFO" is because we are dealing with an "unidentified"; an unknown. Consequently, we are not sure what range of phenomena is covered by the label "UFO" and we are not sure of what subjects are relevant to our inquiry. A possible way of overcoming these difficulties is by formulating two definitions. One definition would narrowly specify what we understand to be a UFO. The other definition would apply to the act of studying UFO phenomena, i.e. a definition of ufology.

For a definition of "UFO" I would suggest the following:

A UFO is the stimulus behind the reported perception or awareness of an object, light source or presence of something; in the sky, upon the land or beneath the surface of a body of water; the appearance, trajectory, and general dynamic, luminescent or reflective qualities of which do not suggest an explanation that conforms with current conventional or logical explanations and which remains unidentified after all evidence surrounding the sighting has been studied by technically capable persons.

(This is an edited and modified version of the definition suggested by Haines, 1980, 22.)

Next, a definition for ufology:

Ufology is the scientific study of UFOs and related phenomena.

So there we have a specific definition of a "UFO". And our definition of ufology is sufficiently general to allow us to be flexible in both our choice of events to study, and in our choice of the disciplines (fields of knowledge) relevant to our inquiry. This flexibility is necessary because we do not yet know the causes of UFO manifestations nor which exact approaches will lead to the ultimate solution of this mystery.

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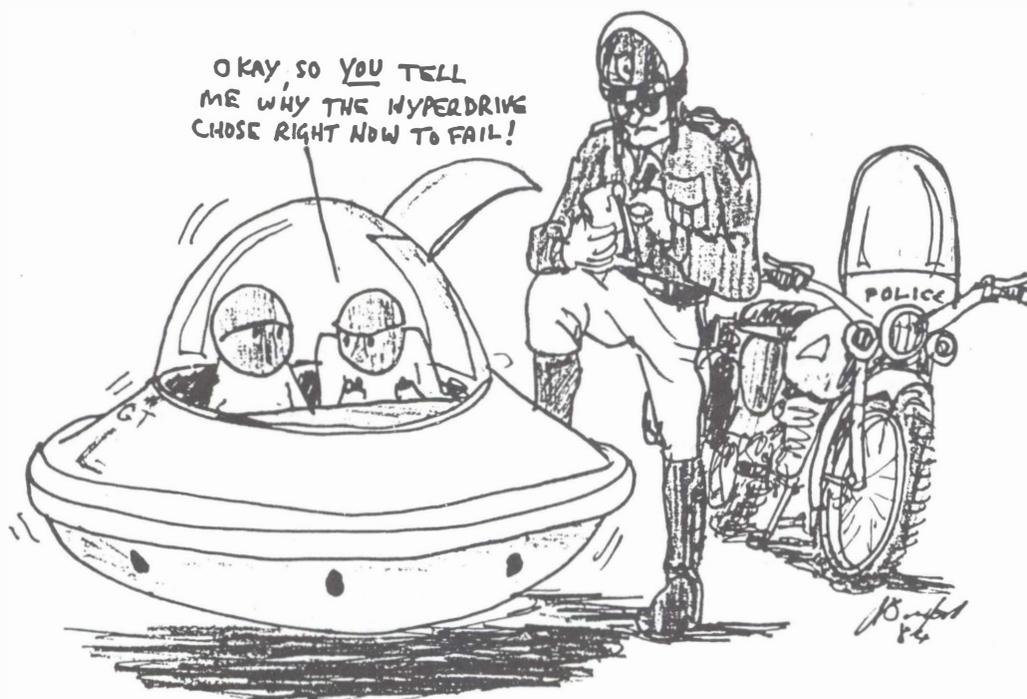
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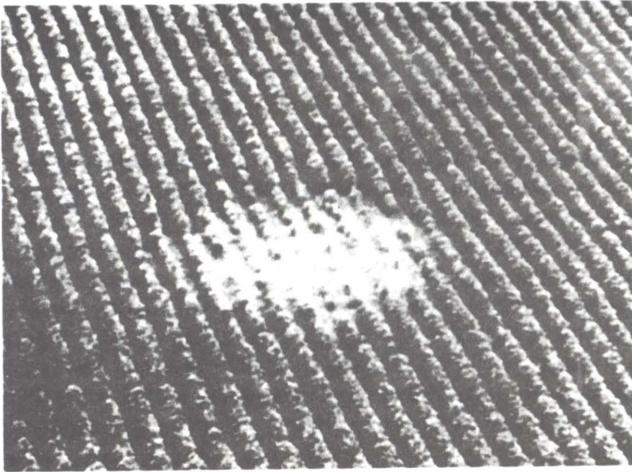
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(January 1984)■



# AN INVESTIGATOR'S GUIDE TO SOME NATURAL GROUND MARKINGS

By Keith Basterfield



Over the years there have been a substantial number of physical ground markings, some of which have been associated with the UFO phenomena. However, investigation reveals a proportion of these are clearly explainable in more mundane terms.

Every investigator should be aware of at least some of the natural phenomena which can, at times, appear unnatural in origin. Once these possibilities are eliminated, in any one case, then an investigator can be more confident that he or she may be dealing with a new unknown phenomenon.

The natural causes for the ground markings I speak of are fungi, leaf smut and slime mould.

## FUNGI:

If you come across a circular doughnut-shaped ring, that is, a ring of grass growth different to the central portion and the surrounding grass, in a paddock/field/lawn/sporting oval or grasslands then suspect a fungus.

Fungi are a large group of plants having two important characteristics:

- (a) They are non-green plants devoid of chlorophyll, and
- (b) the plant body is composed of a thread-like, branching, structure termed hyphae. These may occur in an interlocking tangle, collectively known as mycelium.

Fungi thrive in any environment providing

good growth conditions, for example, soil, the living and dead remains of plants and animals and other organic materials such as foods and leather.

The perennial mycelium of the fungus grows and spreads outwards in a radial pattern, thus creating a circularly affected area. Mycelium, like matted cobwebs, live below the soil surface at a depth of a few to, perhaps, 30 cm.

The rings we see on the surface are formed by the outward growth of the mycelium from the central point, followed by death of the older region. Mycelium breaks down the organic matter in the soil and liberates ammonia which encourages growth of grass immediately outside the ring. The mycelium prevents water entering the soil and so a bare ring is formed. Bacteria in the soil converts the ammonia to nitrates so the older mycelium dies. These nitrates then become available to plants and growth, inside the ring, starts again.

Fungus rings, which are often referred to as "fairy rings", increase in diameter from year to year, if conditions are right. Diameter then, depends on age and rate of growth. Studies of rings in Colorado, USA, sight a species of *Agaricus* which was 54 metres across and an estimated 250 years old.

Mushrooms and toadstools are the fruiting bodies of the fungi and appear at the outer edge of the ring when conditions are suitable. You may recall that the Flying Saucer Review reported the finding of huge mushrooms in South America which have entered UFO literature in connection with the UFO phenomena. A more likely cause is association with a fungus ring.

In summary then, fungus rings may have the following characteristics:

1. A more or less continuous band of bare ground or stunted growth. Size varying from 2 to 250 metres.
2. Appear singly or in groups.
3. If checked over several years, they will be observed growing outwards on an average of 30 cm per year.
4. They can grow around rocks, anthills or

GUIDE TO SOME NATURAL GROUND MARKINGS

trees.

5. White mycelium will be present in the ring soil but not in the surrounding soil.
6. The ammonia and nitrate contents of the soil, in the bare region, will be higher than outside the ring.
7. The bare ground could be resistant to water.
8. Mushrooms, toadstools or puff balls may be found at the outer edge.

**SLIME MOULD:**

Mysterious circles, or arcs of strange black, "greasy", specks can appear on lawns overnight. People usually reach for the phone and call the nearest UFO group. This growth is most likely to occur following a night of rain. Close inspection reveals that these particles cover the blades of grass, clover etc., but there is no indentation, flattening of grass, or dead rings. The particles may be removed by mowing but, if left to themselves, they will gradually decay within a few days, often losing colour and becoming grey.

Slime moulds are a unique group of organisms whose origin and relationships have not yet been agreed upon. In schemes of plant classification, they are associated with fungi. Besides lawns they occur in most woods, sawdust and rotting logs.

**LEAF SMUTS:**

Our final group of ground markings also occur on lawns as black and dusty masses of spores. They are leaf smuts, a class

of fungi known as Basidiomycetes which lack a conspicuous fruiting body. Smuts are parasites.

Before concluding our analysis of natural ground markings we must discuss "barren rings" which have been observed in Canada growing 20 to 60 cm per year but, with no trace of fungi in the soil. Bacteria are possibly responsible, but this has not been conclusively proven.

If in doubt as to the identification of a physical trace, take pictures and soil samples to your local department of agriculture, or botanic gardens, and ask them to assist you.

As mentioned before, if more researchers eliminated the mundane instead of shouting "UFO" even when nothing was seen (which is the typical trace case), we would be left only with events worthy of our time and efforts.

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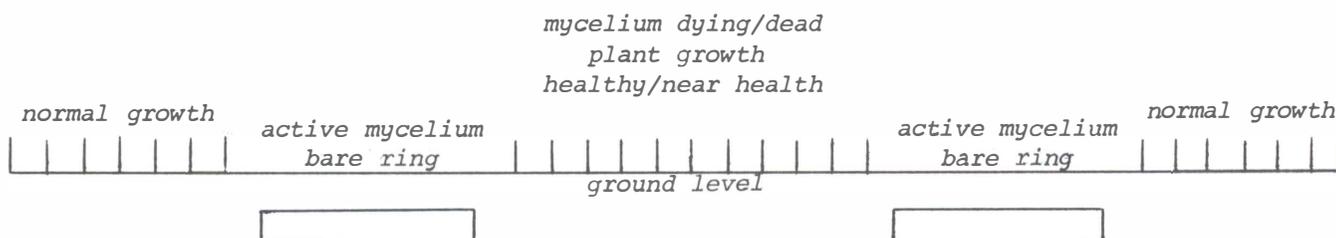
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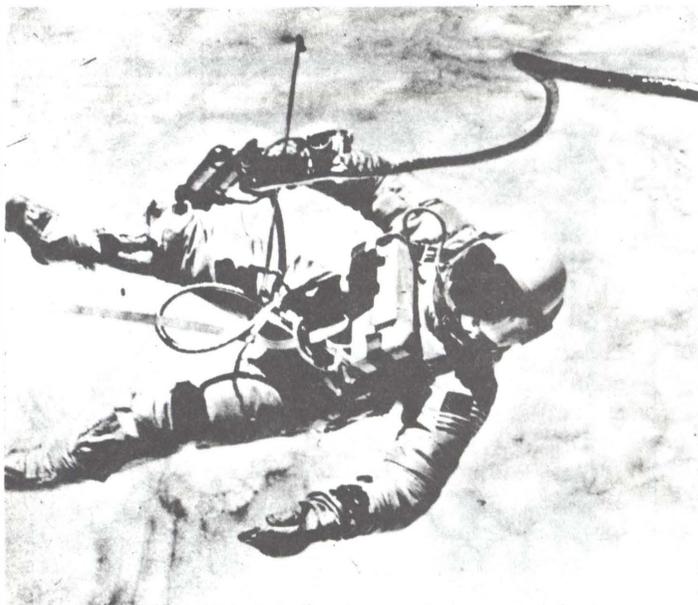
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SECTIONAL VIEW OF FUNGUS RING





# AUSTRALIA'S ROLE IN SPACE MEDICAL RESEARCH

BY JANE BROOKS

*(UFORAN Space Technology Correspondent)*

In 1982 the Federal Government provided funds for a radio astronomy project, "The Australia Telescope" and the joint Australia/U.S.A./Canada space astronomy project, "Starlab". Australians who are proud of our astronomers and their past achievements will have welcomed this action. It has long been recognized by people in this country and overseas that astronomy is a field of science in which Australia is a world leader.

What is less well known is that Australian is leading the world in some areas of space medical research. There are two doctors whose space medicine experiments have been selected from many applications for flight aboard the Space Shuttle. The doctors are Dr Leopold Dintenfass and Dr Joseph Hoh.

Dr Dintenfass, a blood specialist at Sydney Hospital, is a world authority on the study of blood. His experiments, which involve studies of the changes which occur in blood exposed to the weightless environment, were enthusiastically accepted by NASA six years ago. Not only will the experiments study the effects of weightlessness on the blood of astronauts, they will also determine whether or not weightlessness can be used to improve diagnosis of diseases such as cancer, hypertension, and diabetes while they are in the very early, hence more easily treatable, stages.

Dr Dintenfass' experiments will be the first Australian space medicine experiments

and were originally due to fly on STS-12. They have been rescheduled to STS-17 at the end of 1984 because STS-12 was cancelled due to problems getting the booster, which will launch the second TDRS (Tracking Data and Relay Satellite) into geosynchronous orbit, ready on time. Unfortunately, they may have to be abandoned altogether because the Federal Government has refused to supply any funds. The initial stages of the work have been done with money and manpower donated by the National Heart Foundation, several drug companies, and Hawker DeHavilland. Dr Dintenfass needs about \$700,000 to be able to complete his work, and he is now on study leave seeking assistance from overseas.

Dr Joseph Hoh is Reader in Physiology at the Sydney University, and his experiment to study the effects of weightlessness on the slow twitch, antigravity, muscles of rats is one of only three non-U.S. experiments out of twenty five to be selected for the first Spacelab flight dedicated entirely to space medicine. It is due to fly in 1985.

Dr Hoh predicts that the rats' antigravity muscles will be converted during the flight into the type used for performing fast movements. If this does occur it will have profound implications for future prolonged manned spaceflight. If an astronaut's antigravity muscles (the ones used for maintaining posture) are converted to the type which perform fast movements, they will be unable to perform their original function when the astronaut returns to Earth.

Dr Hoh also faces the likelihood of his experiments being abandoned due to lack of support from the Federal Government. He needs about \$250,000.

The true cost of Dr Dintenfass' and Dr Hoh's experiments would actually be millions of dollars due to the expense of a Shuttle launch. NASA regards both scientists work highly enough to pay these costs, but the Australian Federal Government was expected

to pay for the actual research, equipment, and analysis of the results.

If you are concerned by the lack of support for this important work, please write to:

The Federal Minister of Health  
The Hon. Dr Neil Blewett M.P.  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA.■

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## AN A TO Z OF UFO EXPLANATIONS

(BY PAUL & CASSANDRA SOWIAK-RUDEJ)

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS ISSUE:

*This article is not intended to represent an exhaustive list of all possible proposed explanations for UFO activity, but is designed to show something of the range and nature of the solutions that various researchers, authors etc. have considered. If it opens peoples' minds, or stimulates them to examine the evidence, it has fulfilled its purpose.*

**M**

**MISRAKI'S ANCIENT VISITORS** - Proposed by: Paul Misraki. Concept: man was originally created by successive waves of aliens. Their arrivals, creation methods, wars etc. are all recorded in old religious documents and artifacts and the surviving race are now revisiting Earth. Source: J. Vallee op. cit. 1966.

**MOON RELAY** - Proposed by: Carl Sagan and others. Concept: UFOs come from space and have a base on the hidden side of the moon from which they conduct journeys to Earth. Source: J. Vallee op. cit. 1966.

**MODERN MYTH** - Proposed by: Carl Jung. Concept: UFOs arise in three steps: 1. Objectively real events form the basis for a myth. 2. An archetype based on this creates a vision in the collective unconscious. 3. Synchronistic behaviour emerges, with UFOs projected by stress in the environment. The classic UFO shapes, disc and cigar, therefore, relate to the classic sexual symbols and they can exhibit paranormal qualities. Source: Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Sky, C. Jung, Routledge and Kegan, 1959.

**N**

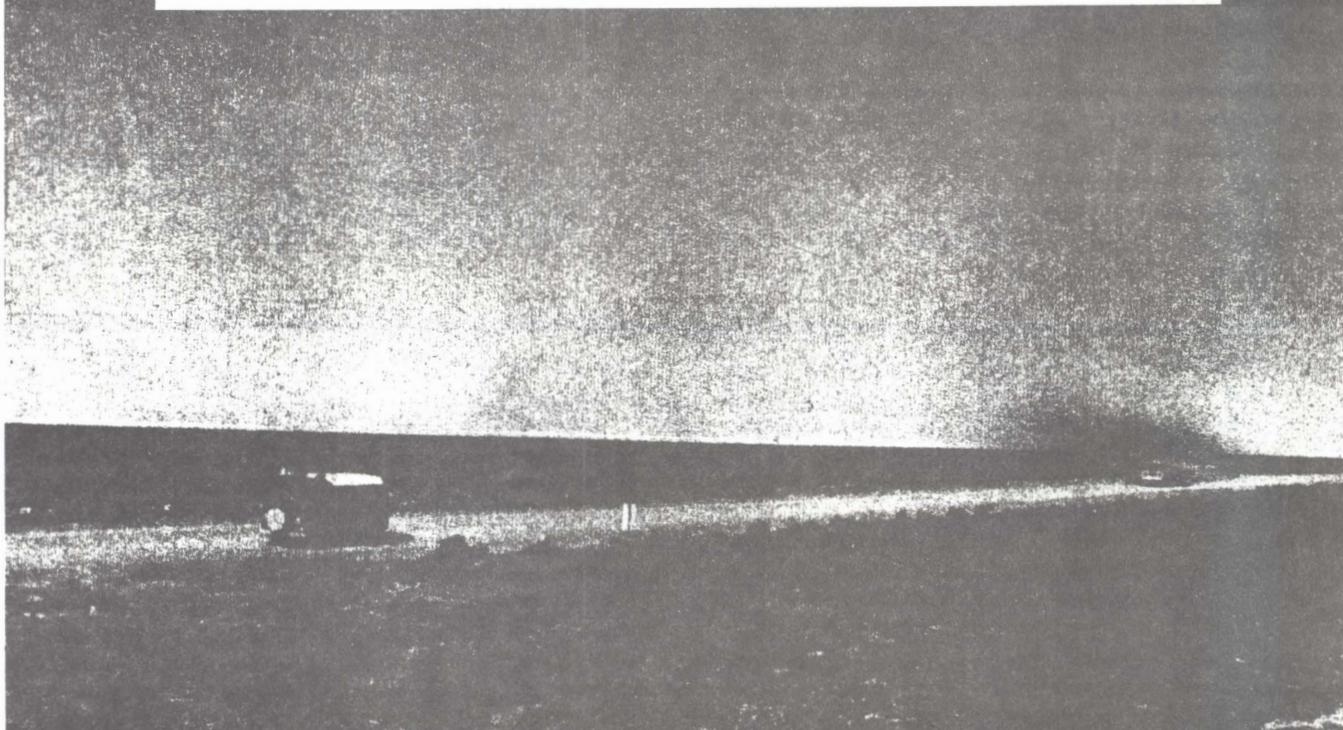
**NATURAL PHENOMENA** - Proposed by: U.S. Air Force. Concept: UFOs are caused by unknown or, poorly understood, natural events such as swamp gas, ball lightning or by known physical events such as weather balloons, lights reflecting off fog etc. Source: J. Keel op. cit.

**O**

**OBERTH'S INTERSTELLAR THEORY** - Proposed by: H. Oberth. Concept: UFOs are manned spacecraft from either Tau Ceti or Epsilon Eridani. It is possible that they utilize an interdimensional short-cut in their travel. Source: J. Vallee op. cit. 1966.

*To be continued...*

## AUSTRALIAN DESERT ENCOUNTER



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By Vladimir Godic

*It is my belief that the first interview with a UFO witness is the most important because the memory is fresh. The mind has not had a chance to rationalise the experience and possibly form specific opinions and embellish these. I also firmly believe that the first interview should be conducted as soon after the event as possible.*

*On the evening of August 28, 1972, former UFOR(SA) member, Crystal Walsh, and I had the unique opportunity of interviewing Helen Benger who had, in the early hours of that day and also the previous morning, observed a cone-shaped UFO whilst traveling through the desert from Darwin to Adelaide, South Australia. We first heard of this remarkable witness when a friend rang Crystal to say Helen had experienced a close encounter. Although this mutual friend had no personal interest in UFOs,*

*it was kind of him to refer Helen on to us as a consequence of a casual discussion in which the UFO sighting was mentioned. Neither Crystal nor I had ever met Helen before.*

*The Helen Benger case is the most interesting I have investigated. Helen's objective intelligence and rich narrative, coupled with the events themselves, make this report outstanding in many ways. Although this case is twelve years old, I think readers will agree that time has not diminished its impact.*

*Two days after our first interview, Keith Basterfield interviewed the other witness, Helen's cousin, Dorothy Simpson. During this interview the events reported in Helen's interview were corroborated.*

*Originally, since the Helen Benger case had*

*some spectacular dimensions, I decided to withhold it from the news media to avoid contamination through exaggeration. Twelve years later, I feel I made the right decision and, in the interests of concise reporting, Helen's original tape interview is transcribed below. I wish to especially thank my wife, Pony, for spending three solid days transcribing the tape to printed word. For the convenience of readers, unimportant repetitions and hesitations, occurring in every day speech, have been deleted.*

### THE INTERVIEW

CODE: HB = Helen Bengler  
VG = Vladimir Godic  
CW = Crystal Walsh

HB: On the 27th of August (1972), about 2 a.m. in the morning, I was travelling from Alice Springs to Adelaide with my cousin and three small children. My cousin was asleep in the car and I was driving on this very rough road through the desert and, as I was tired, I stopped the car to have a sleep. This was 70 miles exactly out from Alice Springs, south of Alice Springs.

I couldn't sleep because it was too uncomfortable in the car. I was staring into space, just looking around me, and looking at the desert and thinking how terrific it was in the desert, how quiet and mysterious it was. Then I noticed this strange light ahead of me in the sky. It's hard to judge how far away it was, but I'd say about 5 miles. Not very high in the sky, as compared to the brightness of a star. It would have been four or five times larger than the light of a star and bright, but a dull bright, more yellow, not white light like the stars are.

I was watching it and I thought it was strange. It couldn't have been an aeroplane. The first time I saw it, there was a green light flashing on the side of it, but that was the only time I ever saw the green light flash. As I was watching it I realized that it was moving. I thought to myself maybe it was a satellite, but it looked too big to be a satellite. Anyway, as I watched it, its movements were all irregular - it seemed to be hovering and circling around. Sometimes it would go up, down, across. It'd stay stationary, so I

knew that it wasn't a plane, it wasn't a star, it wasn't anything else unless it was some weather balloon or some experimental thing from Woomera, which seemed most unlikely. I noticed that sometimes it would come brighter and then it would fade out, then it would come brighter again. It didn't seem that it had been moving away quickly and coming back, it just seemed that it was still in the same spot, but it just went out and came on again.

Anyway, I got this stupid idea in my head that maybe this thing could see us because we were the only car - no other cars had passed us for miles. People just don't drive in the night-time along the desert normally, but my cousin was determined to push on, push on, all the way to Adelaide. All the lights were off in the car so I started flashing the lights on and off with this idea in my head that maybe if it could see us, and I could signal it, it would know that I was aware it was there. If it was a UFO, maybe it would notice, or it would signal or something. I wanted to find out if it was a UFO. I signalled it for quite some time and the thing started to move, coming towards our direction, on the right of us, in front to the right of us, definitely coming over slowly, sometimes fading out and coming in bright, but coming closer and closer.

I woke my cousin up and I said to her, "do you believe in UFOs"? She said a friend of hers used to talk about them a lot and she had had some sightings because she'd done this trip 12 times, from Darwin to Adelaide. I pointed to the sky and showed her this thing and we sat there watching it. From the time I first saw it, to the time she and I watched it before we moved on again, would have been a good hour, hour and a half I suppose - it's hard to say.

It came closer and closer towards the car, to the right of us. There was a ridge of hills about half a mile in front and the thing came down from the sky and hovered on top of this hill. It's hard to judge how far from the ground it would have been but, at one stage, we were getting all excited and saying, "oh, it's going to land, it's going to land", but it didn't land 'cos it didn't seem to stop on the shadow of the hill. It seemed to hover, hard to say, I wouldn't know 50 feet or 50 yards - you can't really



tell.

We were real excited about it so we said, "come on let's start the car and drive on

up towards the hills and see if we can see it better. We only had to drive on about, oh, a few hundred yards, maybe half a mile, and we came in level with the hills which were on the right of us and that's how close this thing was. I'll call it a UFO because I'm certain that it was. I can't see that it could be anything else. So, at that time, it would only have been about a half a mile from us because, if we had got out the car and walked, we could have walked to this hill where this UFO was sitting.

Then we kept on driving on. She started driving and I was looking in the sky, watching the light all the time. It went around the back of the car, over to the left of us and then it, more or less, accompanied us for about - by this time it would have been ten past three, I suppose, or more. It would have accompanied us till we got to a place called Meteorite Crater, because I remember that's when it disappeared. It went back over the car, to the right of us there was a sign, road sign, that said "Meteorite Crater" and the thing headed towards the direction of Meteorite Crater and disappeared. I was all excited because I thought, Meteorite Crater, maybe this had some connection that attracted this UFO to this place. I even had this idea that there might have been a mother craft there waiting for this. It could have been a look out craft or something. I wanted to go over there but my cousin didn't want to because she didn't want to go off the track for one thing. You never do that in the desert.

We kept on driving and about, I can't remember the time, half an hour or an hour later, we saw it again. All of a sudden, we just noticed it in the sky in front of us, just as bright and big as before. It went over to the left of us and it was accompanying us, but higher up and sometimes it would fade in and fade out. I got the torch, I knew that wasn't a very strong light, and I wound the window down. I kept on flashing the torch, just trying to let

it know that we knew it was there. Hoping that it would somehow understand that we were trying to be friendly with it.

Then we got a blow out and we had to stop in the middle of the road. When we stopped my cousin put the panic lights on in the car and that put all the four lights on and off, flashing all the time. This UFO came down from the sky, in a paddock, and it - stopped. It wasn't very high - it was really close. I can't judge distance very well - I would say it would have only been half a mile from us, to the left of us, and it stayed there and it never moved. Sometimes it faded in and out, but it never changed position all the time we fixed the car and we were stuck on the road. She had trouble getting the bolts off the wheel and changing it and one thing and another - a good thirty minutes. It was real eerie 'cos I kept on saying, "have a look it's just watching us". She said, "I wonder if we had have had an accident, and any of us were hurt, if it would have done anything". We were thinking in terms of this thing being friendly and it was a terrific feeling really. We weren't scared or anything. We were even hoping the thing would land. We were talking about what we would do if it did land and things like this.

We drove on, heading towards a place called Kulgera and this UFO accompanied us all the way to Kulgera. As it got daylight even, it was still there. But, as it was dark, it accompanied us all the way and it stayed. Sometimes it raced ahead of us and you could see the shape of this all the time. It was cone-shaped, I could draw it. Cone-shaped - just like an arrow is shaped, only it was thick. Big cone shape with a cylinder base sort of thing. When it hovered in the sky it would hover upright like a rocket going to take off. But, when it would move towards us, it would definitely tip on its side and come to us nose first. You could definitely see it turn, it was terrific. As it moved, the light would come brighter. It seemed that when it was stationary it would sometimes put its lights off or they would just fade out. They wouldn't go off straight away, they'd fade. Anyway, it accompanied us all the way. We just felt terrific that we weren't alone in the desert. We were so excited. We kept on saying, "gee, I wish someone would come past so we can stop and tell them, we've just got to tell somebody that we've seen

this thing in the sky". We wanted as many people as we could to know.

Then we came to this Pioneer bus and everyone was asleep and we said, "crikey, should we wake them up? We'll wake all the people in the bus and tell them, look what's in the sky". Then, knowing how some people react when you tell them that you've seen a UFO or a flying saucer, as some people call them, we said, "oh, maybe they'll think we're idiots or something. We'll wait till a car comes past and hail them down".

We went on a bit further and we came to a semi-trailer parked. We stopped the car and went up to the semi-trailer. The fella was asleep, he must've been on drugs or something because we couldn't wake him up. We were calling out to him because we wanted to wake him so he could see this thing, it was just so close, and so distinct. We wanted as many people to witness it as we could.

No cars passed us coming or going except a few cars where people were sleeping in cars on the road. So, unfortunately, we couldn't tell anybody about - only ones, therefore, were myself, my cousin and my small daughter, who's five, she was fascinated by it, talked about it all the time.

Then my cousin was driving. We drove on 'til about half past six and then it started slowly to get dawn. As it became light, I could see this UFO and it wasn't a light anymore, like a headlight shining. I could almost see the material that the UFO was made from, it looked a type of aluminium, you could see it. I could see it in the daylight, as it was starting to come day, but then it got higher and higher. As we got to Kulgera we were going to pull up for petrol. There were about seven cars there and then the UFO disappeared.

VG: Could you describe to me exactly the lights that you saw on that UFO - basically what colour was the...?

HB: Do you know the streetlights - the streetlights they have that aren't a real bright light. They're supposed to be better for driving because they're not so glarey.

VG: The yellow ones?

HB: More yellow, yes - not real yellow. It wasn't a light like a star, it was more yellow - yes, definitely yellow.

VG: That would be the light coming from the object itself?

HB: The whole object - yes.

VG: Was it illuminated?

HB: Yes. Well, my cousin and I were trying to describe it. If it was an illuminating type of light - it was hard to describe. Sometimes when I looked at it there seemed to be a dull green glow around it. Whether I'd been staring at it too long or not, but the first time I noticed it was the only time I noticed a bright green light on it. Maybe it just came straight out the sky when I first saw it - maybe it hadn't been sitting there all that time.

VG: Well, the light itself, as you described, on the object looked like an arrow. What did the light look like to you - was it an arrow type of outline or just round or something like that? You know what I'm aiming at. In other words, if the object was illuminated by itself.

HB: It would have been long.

VG: It would have been long and say near enough to the shape of an arrow, right?

HB: Yes.

VG: But was it actually that shape when you saw it at night-time? I understand you saw it in day-time - you saw the actual thing in the day time, but in the night-time what shape was it when you saw it?

HB: In the day-time?

VG: Night-time. What shape was that light?

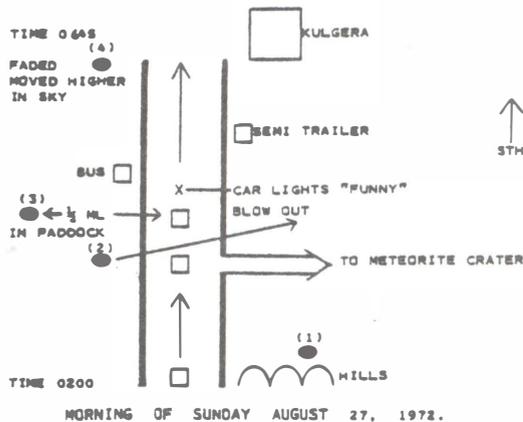
HB: It was long. The same...

VG: Longish - wasn't round or oblong or anything like that - sort of longish?

HB: Well it had, it was a cone shape.

VG: I see, that would account for the arrow. The light itself, as you saw it, was a cone-shaped light?

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HB: Yes.

VG: Is that what you're trying to tell me?

HB: Yes.

VG: Were there any other lights around it? Just that one colour light?

HB: Well, at one stage, I thought I saw a very small light hovering near the big light but it was too small to - it couldn't have been anything - it was too small. I thought maybe this was the main ship and that a little ship was coming off of it. But this little light was very tiny and I thought, *oh, maybe I'm imagining it*, so I disregarded that and just concentrated on this main thing.

VG: So, basically, you would say it was one light in a cone-shaped form?

HB: Yes.

VG: And the other lights you are not so sure about?

HB: No.

VG: And, was the cone pointing upwards?

HB: When it was stationary in the sky, to me it seemed like that was the way it was. Up, yes, but I definitely noticed at times when it was heading - sometimes it would come straight towards the car, at a distance, but you could see it was. If it got a bit behind then it would put on a bit of speed and catch up to us. It would definitely tip - it would change position and tip on its side like you were shooting

an arrow at someone. It would come cone-shape first towards you. You could definitely see that.

VG: That would almost remind me of a helicopter when it takes off. Have you seen a helicopter when it take off? It almost tilts...

HB: Yes, very similar to that.

VG: Quite often it tilts and, when it gains speed, eventually it gets in a straight line.

HB: Very similar to that.

VG: That reminds me very much of a helicopter. Now, in all this time that you saw it, that was for quite a few hours I presume?

HB: Well, we lost it for about an hour, but it would have been from about two o'clock to quarter to seven.

VG: Quarter to seven.

HB: With a break in between when it veered off to Meteorite Crater.

VG: You didn't see any other car passing?

HB: Well, we were saying, "surely someone else must have seen this". Further on, people were coming the opposite way, they must have noticed this bright light in the sky. But people travelling in the desert - normally everyone is asleep except the driver and you're not looking out in the sky for UFOs.

It was funny because, before we got to Alice Springs, I said to my cousin, "it's very eerie in the desert, it's strange and mysterious and rather beautiful".

We were talking about min-min lights, do you know what a min-min light is? Well min-min lights are lights seen in the desert. The Aborigines believe that they're an evil force - an evil spirit, but there's some scientific explanation for them. Slim Dusty's made a song about them, about the min-min lights, and what happens. The reports of min-min lights are - people see these lights in the desert. They hover above the ground, but not high, not like this thing that I saw. People are fascinated by them, they get out of their

car and they follow a min-min light and the legend is that (if) you follow a min-min light, it will lead you to your death. It will lead you into a hole or over a cliff or people just get lost. They follow it in the desert and they're lost. This has been accounted for why some people have been lost in the desert. I don't know, I've never seen a min-min light. This couldn't have been a min-min light, if there was such a thing, because it was up in the sky. ...I got away from what I was talking about.

CW: What do you think this could have been - what was this thing you saw? You said that this could have been a min-min light, but not what you saw. You're not describing what you saw as this phenomenon?

HB: No, I was just wondering how I got on to min-min lights in the beginning, what made me...

VG: No, you said that...

HB: I was saying to my cousin, that's right, as we were coming through the desert I said, 'you know, it would be funny if we saw a min-min light'. I don't really believe in them, I just wondered if you could see these things.

VG: In other words, you thought it could have been a min-min light?

HB: No, No - never.

VG: Oh, you didn't? I see, well that's quite clear.

HB: No - I was talking to my cousin and I was saying to her about min-min lights. Later on we got to talking about UFOs. I said I'd read this article where a lot of UFOs have been sighted in places - I said it wouldn't be an unlikely place to see UFOs in the desert. I don't know why, I just imagine that's where they'd be flying around. It just seemed the right place to see a UFO. Then, about 3 or 400 miles on further, that's when I first saw it.

VG: When you went to change the tyre on the car, you actually went out of the car and you still saw it there?

HB: Yes, we felt so terrific that this thing was just sitting there and we said,

'oh well, it's not so creepy, afterall, being out in the desert, thousands of miles from anywhere, we've got friends in the sky'. We felt that they were friendly. I can't explain it, but you know how instinct - you feel frightened of something, afraid, or you don't feel afraid. Well never once, even when this thing was heading straight for us, towards the car, did we feel afraid - not once. In fact, we were so excited, we wanted it to land and we were saying things like what if there was someone in the UFO and they actually came out and invited us aboard, and things like this. We wanted more to happen, it was so exciting. It was just proof to us. We wanted - wished we could have been able to take photos of it. It was just so terrific.

VG: That is the main point I want to come to, that actually you saw it outside the car. You see what we like to know is...

HB: Oh yes, we got out of the car several times. We were both out the car and she was saying, 'shine the torch on the blinking tyres, stop looking at the thing, it will be there'. We'd turn around and she would say, 'have a look at it, it's just sitting there like it's watching us'. It was terrific.

VG: What I'm trying to establish is that you didn't watch it through the car windows all the time because...

HB: Oh no, no.

VG: That sort of thing can play tricks on you.

HB: I know that. If you see a star through the window it looks like a cross - I know that.

VG: Yeah, well if you went out, that's the main thing, you saw it with the naked eye.

HB: I kept on winding the window down 'cos, when it went over (the) car, I couldn't put my head out, I'd hit it against the window. I'd wind the window down and I'd put my head out. My cousin was saying, 'wind the damned thing up you'll see it on further'.

CW: Are you at all telepathic? You know, are you inclined this way?

HB: I think I am but people think you're

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silly if you talk about these things.

CW: No, this is a serious question.

HB: To tell you something funny, this probably sounds silly, but when it first disappeared to Meteorite Crater I said to my cousin, "gee, I wish we could have seen it longer". It was so interesting, I wanted to see it all the time. It was fabulous. I said to her, "do you believe in auto-suggestion"? At times I have used mental telepathy and it has worked. I said, "I'm going to concentrate because if these people, if they're in this UFO, can't speak our language maybe you can get to them through sound waves or whatever - thought traces". She said, "well, concentrate". I said, "I'm going to concentrate as hard as I can and I'm going to ask them to come back". It was amazing because it came back. I was almost convinced it came back because of me using this telepathy. And then, this was on the 27th, well then, do you want to hear about the next night?

VG: Is that still on the same way - on the way to Adelaide?

HB: But 24 hours later.

VG: 24 hours later, right. Now, shall we just finish that first one because we've got to establish all the facts. Do you want to ask any more questions Crystal?

CW: No, I think I want to listen to the next and then...

VG: No, well I just want to establish the facts about the first one so we get it clear. Otherwise, we might get carried away. When you saw it in the day-time, eventually, when the dawn came...

HB: It was much higher and it wasn't anywhere...

VG: It was much higher. Did it come at any time close to you then?

HB: No, it seemed to stay right away.

VG: How high you reckon in the sky - just a rough guide - at what angle? I mean, how many degrees - can you judge that roughly?

HB: No, I'm not...

CW: Well, say you've got a...

HB: High, high above us...

VG: Very high above you - above you more or less?

HB: I had this feeling that, as we got on further, there was more traffic and that because, as it becomes dawn, people start moving off in their cars again, it seemed to me that it didn't want to be seen by a lot of people or something. It just seemed to be wanting to go away.

VG: OK, then you saw it in the day-time, almost day-time, you saw this aluminium, metallic, object, right?

HB: It wasn't real bright metallic.

VG: It wasn't bright?

HB: No, I wouldn't say it was real bright.

VG: According to your description it looked like it was made out of aluminium? OK, the nearest you can think of?

HB: I think I'm thinking of aluminium, yes.

VG: A greyish sort of a substance?

HB: Yes.

VG: And was it only one cone?

HB: No, it was two parts.

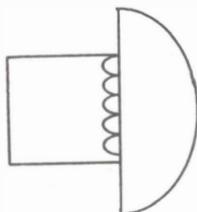
VG: Two parts - what did they look like? Actually, you'll make a drawing for us later on, but could you describe it?

HB: Well, when I say I saw it I mean I didn't see it so distinct that I could see if it had windows, or doors, or anywhere near that distinct. I could just see the outline of it, but I could definitely see the outline. It was cone-shaped. I couldn't see if it came pointy or dome but it was shaped like that, like a mushroom head, that's a good description. Cone-shaped there, then it seemed to have, it wasn't, it didn't seem to be so filled in there and then the other part seemed to be different like the tail part - a big cylinder part coming out from it.

VG: I think the drawing will...



STATIONARY



MOVING

CW: A straight cylinder?

VG: A straight cylinder down out of it?

HB: It was straight like that and then there seemed to be some interference in the middle and then the dome, cone-shape, at the end.

VG: When you say mushroom, well the shape could be near enough to a cone but it would be a blunt cone shall we say? First of all, you said that it looked like a cone and then you sort of, in a way, changed to mushroom, but that leads me to believe that you think it was a cone-shape with the top rather blunt - is that what you're trying to tell me?

HB: It didn't come to a point, no.

VG: And was anything underneath or was it just a straight cut underneath?

HB: I couldn't see - I could just see the outline.

VG: Anyway, I think a drawing will be the best. If you draw it for me, because it is very hard to describe.

CW: What about the size?

HB: Yes, well I've tried to judge the size of it as compared to an aeroplane, or a helicopter, or a car or something like that. In the night, when I saw the light, I would say it would be about the size of a helicopter - a big car, a big Ford car.

VG: How high up, you see this is the next question?

HB: It wasn't high up when it was close.

VG: Well, say if you compare it with the size of the moon, this is one known object, right?

HB: We also did that because...

VG: Well, it's very hard to judge because...

HB: That's right, we were saying this - my cousin and I were saying it.

VG: Things are very deceiving.

HB: We were saying, 'now have a look at the moon', because the next night there was a full moon. She said, 'well look how big that looks and that's millions of miles away'. Then we'd look at this UFO and that was a bright light but you could tell it was close (by) the speed it came in and where it was hovering. So, it could either be a large thing millions of miles away or it could be a reasonably small thing close. Well, it was a reasonably small thing close.

CW: When it was stationary, when you were changing your tyre, I think this would be about the best time to...

HB: Well, it would have been. I'll give you a distance, where your house is now, St Agnes shopping centre, how far would that be away - half a mile?

CW: Not even that, about a quarter.

HB: Well, maybe a bit further 'cos it was up higher. You know it was up high, well not far, I'd say half a mile. You could definitely see that. Because we were judging from the paddock, I know how close it came in because when it came right down to this hill we drove up to this hill, it wasn't far to drive, and that's how we knew that this UFO had come in so close. So, it wasn't a gigantic thing.

CW: Did you hear any noise?

VG: I was just going to ask that.

HB: Well, I tried to think about that too. I said to my cousin, when it was stationary in the sky, I kept on saying, 'cos she couldn't get the tyre off and she was getting a bit upset and bothered about it and cursing her husband because he'd tightened the bolts too tight, I kept on saying, 'a car's coming, a car's coming', because I could hear this noise. She said, 'it's not the car it's the wind in the desert'. So, I don't know if it was the wind or the sound coming from the UFO

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I wouldn't like to say. It could be just a noise in the desert, but there was a noise to me.

CW: Was it a wind sound?

HB: There was a noise to me like when you hear a car coming in the distance?

VG: Yeah.

HB: Well it was a noise like that. My explanation was that it was from the UFO because I never heard this wind sound all the time in the desert.

CW: When you noticed this wind sound over the period of time that you were stationary, changing the tyre, now if it were a car coming, the noise would increase wouldn't it?

HB: No, it didn't, it stayed the same all the time.

CW: So, you'd established that it was not a car then?

HB: It couldn't 've been a car because it would have caught up to us or come. There's only one road.

CW: So, it was not a car?

HB: No, it wasn't a car, it could have only been the wind or a UFO. But I don't think it was the wind. I think that it was coming from the UFO. I wouldn't have been surprised if it was, because that would be how close the UFO was and, if a car is half a mile away, you can hear it.

VG: Now the next...

HB: But then it may not have been from the UFO, but there was a sound. I'm not saying what it was, but there was definitely a steady drone.

VG: What about the weather conditions? Now this is very important.

HB: Beautiful night - beautiful.

VG: Clear sky?

HB: Fabulous.

VG: You could see a lot of stars?

HB: Lovely.

VG: What about the moon?

HB: By the 27th? I know the next night was a full moon, I can't remember the night before that to be honest.

VG: Now the full moon, exactly full moon, was on the 25th of August, that was Friday night. Yeah, that was the full moon.

HB: Well, we left Darwin Friday night. Sunday night the moon was very full.

VG: Well, put it this way, theoretically, it's full moon on the 25th. For the next few days, before and after, you don't notice it but it's spot on full moon. So, in other words, as you're concerned, it would have been still full moon.

HB: Beautiful clear night. It was lovely. There's something else I was going to say too. I tried to think of all the facts that would make this, to try and just count that this was a UFO. I was thinking of everything. When it was fading in and out we said, 'well maybe there's clouds passing'. You know when a cloud passes over a star or something, but there was just no comparison to a star, but we were just trying to tell ourselves, 'well it's not a UFO'. We were trying to rule it out, but we just couldn't, because there weren't any clouds in the sky. It was a clear night, there were clouds in the area, but it was beautiful.

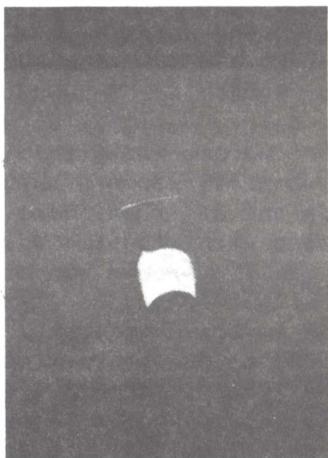
VG: Generally a clear night?

HB: It was beautiful, so it couldn't have been clouds passing over.

VG: Apart from that, this thing was moving in all sorts of directions wasn't it?

HB: That's right, it couldn't have been any - I mean if you're driving along and you think, *oh jinges, there's a UFO* because it could be a star, they look like they're following you because as you move they move. But I mean it wasn't, because when we stopped it stopped. When I first saw it we were stationary and it moved from 5 or 10 miles away and came over towards us.

VG: What was the closest it was to you?



HB: Half a mile I would say.

VG: Half a mile. That's the time when you were changing the tyre?

HB: Twice, no twice. The first time before it disappeared to Meteorite Crater, when I signalled it and it came over slowly, unsteady at times. It would move away, then it

came as if it was coming cautiously. Then it came right over us, to the right of us, and, not settled - didn't land, it hovered over this hill. And then, the second time when it came in quite close at times, the second time it was equally as close, only on the left of us when we changed the car. That was fabulous the way it just sat in the sky there, it was terrific.

VG: Now with you you had your little girl.

HB: Yes, Merissa's five. She was sitting in the back of the car and I pointed out this light in the sky to her and she was fascinated. She kept on saying, "oh, look mummy, it's coming closer and look, it's going behind us". Then she'd fall off to sleep a little bit and wake up. And then, when we were changing the tyre on the car, she was fascinated because it was hovering over in this paddock, not far from us, to the left of us. She's been talking about it and saying - she calls it a UFO now because I have, but she doesn't know what a UFO is, she's got no idea. She just knows that this big, bright, light was following us in the sky. A child couldn't make something up like that.

VG: In other words, all three of you have seen it quite clearly?

HB: Yes, my cousin, she's 25...

VG: Well, we'll talk to your cousin later on, just to compare notes.

HB: I don't know if she'd have time to come out because she's going to the country for a few days, but you could ring her up anyway.

VG: Plenty of time.

HB: And confirm it. She's not as interested as I am in UFOs but she's said, "well, you can't discount the fact that we've seen something and it's been a wonderful experience". You know, we just wish that we could scream out to everybody in the world, "come and have a look, there it is, proof in the sky".

VG: Was there any effect on the electrical system of your car or anything at any time? Anything, say, when it was pretty close to you?

HB: Funny thing, I never thought about that. When we were driving along, though I can't think what day it was or when, I'd have to really think about this, I'd have to get in touch with my cousin, but at one stage. It's funny that you said that because she said - I said, "what's wrong with the car lights"? as they were going real dull and she said, "oh, I don't know". It was on the rough road, on the stretch from Alice Springs to, um, oh the road's so rough it jolts, jolts. You know, it really jolts the car - it really jolts the car around and the lights were definitely dull and I said, "oh crikey, that's all we need", this was after the blow out. Funny, because after the blow out I said, "this is all we need now, the lights to go out", and she said, "oh, it must be the flat battery". I said, "the battery wouldn't be flat when we've done 2,000 miles, it's gonna charge all the time". And then, I said to her, "oh, maybe one of the little globes has worked loose from all the jolting around". But then later on the lights righted themselves. Funny that you mentioned that.

VG: What, they just went dull?

HB: Mm, dull.

VG: You still had all the lights on and ignition and all that?

HB: Yes, yes.

VG: You were actually moving? You were actually moving when the lights went dull?

HB: Mm, that's funny...

CW: Did you have any trouble with the mechanical system of the car?

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HB: No, no.

CW: You were driving quite normally?

HB: Yes, there may have been a few things that I haven't noticed, like now you just mentioned the lights. I wouldn't have thought about that but, when you mentioned it, I remember that we commented on this and Dot, my cousin, will say also about that.

VG: And how long did that...?

HB: Not for long. I didn't pay a lot of attention to it you know 'cos I had trouble trying to keep awake. She was saying, "you'll have to go to sleep". I kept on wanting to go to sleep - I couldn't, my eyes were glued to the sky all night, and all the next night, it was so fantastic.

VG: When you saw this, when your lights were dull, was the object still around?

HB: I can't remember. It was after we had the puncture.

VG: I see. You said at one time it did disappear, didn't you?

HB: Oh, it disappeared before we had the puncture. We were talking about using mental telepathy to call it back and she said, "oh well, if you're so eager, call it back, use mental telepathy". I thought, *well, that's not such a silly idea 'cos I believe if they can't speak your language, maybe you can get to them through thought waves. And I did, you know. I said, "I wish that I could prove that my thought waves worked, it would happen again" - well this is another night if you want to record that later on.*

VG: Yeah, we'll record the other night in a minute. Now could you tell us of your next day experience please Helen?

HB: The next day we kept on travelling and then, coming towards night, about, I'm not sure of the time. All day I talked, and talked, and talked about this UFO and my cousin talked about it, but not quite as much as me 'cos, as I say, she was more interested in getting to Adelaide. I used to say to her, "do you think I'm mad raving on about it all the time"? She says, "no".

She just doesn't rave on about it like I do, she wasn't as enthused. She doesn't get wrapped up in things like I do. Probably she's more sensible or something. Anyway, we were talking and I said, "well, it's funny that this sighting that we saw was within a few hundred miles of Woomera, Woomera being a rocket testing range and all that. It could be circling around within a few hundred miles observing what goes on around Woomera", which isn't unlikely either. And she said, "I wonder if we'll see it again tonight". She said, "well, why don't you use your mental telepathy and just see if it will come". Anyway, we were driving along, I kept on looking in the sky all night and I couldn't see it. I said, "no, I can't see any". There was a bright star and that was all. There was one star in the sky particularly bright, you may know, it is a yellow light, not like the other stars.

VG: What time did you see the star?

HB: Mm, ten or eleven o'clock, I think, about that.

VG: Evening?

HB: Mm.

VG: Ah, that would be Jupiter.

HB: Yes. She said, "is that it? It's pretty bright". I said, "no", and she said, "no, it's miles away and it's not as big anyway". She said, "well, use your mental telepathy and see if it'll come back". So, I was trying to concentrate on it. As we were coming into Pimba, as you come towards Woomera you don't go through Woomera, but Woomera's off the track, you can see it, you bypass it, but you actually pass through a little place called Pimba. As we were coming towards Woomera, say when you start to see the lights of the city, I suppose 10 miles, would you see them? 10 miles?

VG: City lights? Oh yeah.

HB: 10 miles, because it's flat country you know.

I noticed this light to the right of - on the opposite side of Woomera, to the right. I noticed this bright light, exactly the same as I saw in the sky, but it was landed. Quite some distance away - say a couple of miles

away. And I said, "oh my God, there it is again, it's landed". She said, "ah, don't be silly". I said, "have a look over there". She saw it and said, "ah, it's probably someone out spotlighting" (hunting animals lured into spotlight - Ed). It was like a car headlight because it was on the ground, so I watched it.

It faded out and then we bypassed Pimba and kept on going and, all of a sudden, I was looking for this light and I saw this thing over on the other side landed, the same light. I said, "Dot, look, it's there again" and, I don't know why, I was frightened. It was following us, but it looked like it was landing. I said, "well, it couldn't be a UFO - it just wouldn't be hopping from place to place and landing. Surely its a lot of trouble to land". I imagined it would be, unless it was an easy craft, like a helicopter. A helicopter can just come out the sky and land and take straight off again, whereas a plane couldn't. There it was again.

Anyway, she says, "alright, get out your torch and do a little bit of signalling". Now, this sounds silly, but we went on further and this light was still in this paddock. I wound the window down and I got the torch because it wasn't far away. It would have only been a mile away and there were some low hills behind it. I got out the torch and I flicked it on and off about six times and this thing signalled on and off, on and off - it definitely answered my signal. I said, "well, it's only one of two things, it's a UFO landed, watching us". I can't see how it would have been watching us all that day because there were so many cars on the road, surely it wouldn't have just kept in touch with us. I said, "or else someone's parked over there in the scrub and, just for a giggle, they're blinking their headlights on and off", that's what it looked like.

(We) went on a little bit further and the thing, the light, went straight out. It disappeared and we drove on for about 2 miles. I saw it again about a mile on further over and, I don't know why, but I was frightened, I just was frightened. It appeared from place to place following us, but it was landing. I was frightened then - I don't know why I was scared. I said to her, "maybe it doesn't pay to fiddle

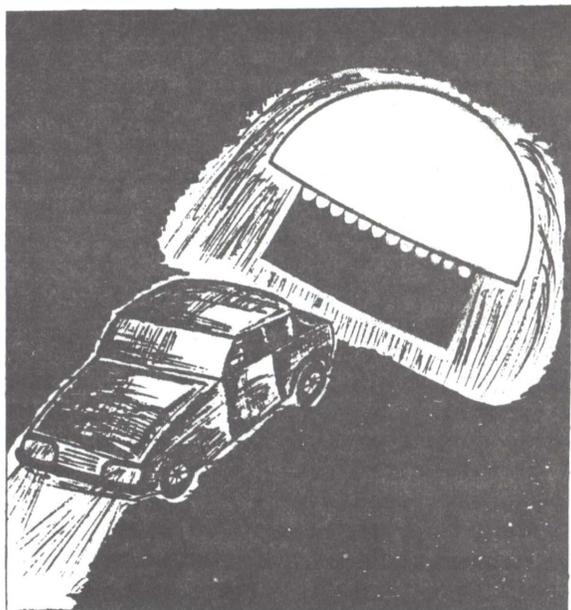
around with these things and think about them too much". I said, "maybe we shouldn't encourage it too much" and she said, "well, it's your fault, you've been using your mental telepathy and signalling it". I said, "crikey, now I really feel that we are definitely in contact with this thing".

Then we drove on further and I'd like to relate something that happened, but it only happened very briefly, and I can't be dead certain of this. It's going to sound very weird, but I'll just make a note of it anyway. They, whoever's listening to this, can either think I'm a nut or they can believe me. We were driving along the road and it was a bitumen road because we were saying, funny, we thought it was going to be dirt track until we got to Pt Augusta. It was a bitumen road and this light, we'd left it behind about half a mile, stationary in the paddock. Then, all of a sudden, it lifted up a little way, it wouldn't have risen far, the height of a house I suppose. It skimmed across the ground and then there were a lot of trees, we passed a lot of scrub at the time and I lost sight of it. I was really frightened because we came to, we were going along the road and there was a big road to the left of us. I was watching for this light and it got ahead of us. It was ahead of us and it disappeared. We kept on driving and then we came to this road to the left of us. I don't know why, but I looked down this road and I saw something, I'll never forget it, I was terrified. I saw something parked in the middle of the road. It was too quick for me to get a quick look at it but it was something from outer space. You'll think I'm mad because I saw this thing, it was parked in the road.

VG: In front of you on the road?

HB: No, we were on the main road and there was a road to the left of us, quite a wide road, I can't be certain how many miles out of Woomera - 10, 15 maybe only 12. I was so wrapped up in watching this, I wouldn't know exactly how many miles we'd driven in bypassing Woomera.

I said, "oh, my God". She said, "what's wrong, what's wrong"? I said, "oh, nothing, nothing". I wanted her to go back, but I was so frightened because this thing was only about a hundred yards off the road. It was about as high as a house and I just had



a quick vision of it and it was - I could vaguely draw it, the quick flash I had of it. I was terrified because it wasn't - there were no cars in front of us, no cars had turned. No cars had turned down this road that had been in front of us. It was a high thing, but it wasn't a big thing. I just had a quick flash of it and I don't know why I was scared because it was so close to us.

Then we kept on driving and I was frightened and I said, "oh, for God's sake, let's go back to Woomera, I'm just scared". She said, "what are you scared about"? I said, "I saw something". I didn't tell her that I saw this 'cos she didn't see it and she was driving. I thought, *oh no Helen, just pretend you didn't see that because you've been watching for UFOs so much you're just getting carried away.* I was shaking, I was really shaking. I was so scared, I put my head down on the seat. I didn't want to sit up and look out the window anymore - I was terrified.

Anyway, I got down in the car, I said, "I'm going to sleep" and I couldn't sleep. I got up and I was looking behind, out the back window, to the side, I wound the window down.

We'd driven on a couple of miles and then I saw this light come again and parked, it parked again. This happened a couple of

times. In the end, I said, "I'm going to sleep, I don't want to watch anymore. I just forced myself to close my eyes because I was frightened. I was frightened that something was following us and that it was going to land. I don't know why I was scared. Maybe when it had actually - this thing had, was definitely. I knew the second night, whatever it was, was following us, that it knew us. It was responding to my signals and that it was going to get in touch with us and then, I don't know why, I was frightened - I really was scared, terrified.

VG: Now, when you saw this thing on the road, in other words, that was a side road shall we say?

HB: But it was a fairly big road.

VG: A fairly big road, right. The thing was dark?

HB: Well it was a very moonlight night - no the thing wasn't dark.

VG: And you just saw this silhou...object?

HB: No, not just a silhouette. I saw it - it wasn't just a silhouette.

VG: Can you describe it? I mean - did you see it for long? A few seconds or...

HB: Yes, just as you were driving past a flash - if I saw a flash there I'd know that I saw a fish pond but I couldn't say if it was. I couldn't describe it exactly, but I know that I saw something.

VG: You didn't want to stop the car and have a good look at it? You were frightened?

HB: I was honestly frightened. I was terrified. I was shaking.

VG: This was quite contrary to your previous night, was it?

HB: That's right. That's why I said to my cousin, "I can't" - she said, "why are you so scared tonight"? I said, "I just feel that I've meddled too much into this business". I said to her, now this sounds silly, I said, "I don't feel this is the same UFO from the night before". She said, "why"? I said, "I don't know why, because I'm

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scared and I wasn't scared the previous night". I said, "because it was acting different, it was behaving differently". It was on the ground, the light, all the time, jumping from space to space. One moment here, ten minutes later somewhere else, ten minutes later somewhere else. Another thing I noticed too, this light, one time when it was over to the right of us parked - I say it's parked because I swear that it was sitting in the scrub. When it took off, I saw this as clear as anything, I saw a big, flat, circle of light reflecting on the ground. As clear as anything - a dull light, very clear, underneath this object, as it took off. The light was very clear because it lit up the area. Only once I saw that, because that's the only time I actually saw it move, other times I would just look around and it would be sitting there. A few miles on further it would be sitting there. I had the feeling that it wasn't the same UFO because I thought surely it wouldn't have been following us all day. Just - I don't know, 'cos I hadn't seen it in the day I didn't feel that it was...

VG: Well now, let's establish one thing Helen, what did you do between the first night you saw it and the next night, did you travel all the time?

HB: Mm, all day we travelled, we never stopped travelling.

VG: You never stopped travelling? So, in other words, one person was driving and the other one was resting, etc?

HB: Yes, because my cousin was mad to get down here. She'll tell you that when you telephone her. We were probably the only people that did this on this trip. I was cross because she wouldn't stop. We might've half an hour sometimes and tried to sleep, but we never stayed in any hotels. In the day we stopped at Coober Pedy, we had a cup of coffee, but we never stayed more than half an hour anywhere.

VG: I know you've described everything quite clearly to me. Are you sure you were not too tired and you were just seeing things. I must ask you this question because you must be certain of it.

HB: Well, I've questioned myself about this. I've gone over everything in my mind and no,

because in the day-time I had a big sleep in the back of the car. We put one of the children in the front and we made a bed in the back and I had a good sleep and I wasn't tired the second night, I wasn't tired at all. I was very alert because I said to myself, *well Helen, you wanted something to happen, you've let your imagination run away and you've convinced yourself you saw something* when I saw this thing on the road. But, why was I so frightened? I was terrified. I was shaking, and, I tell you, I was so scared that I pushed all the buttons down on the car, that sounds silly but I was frightened. But the second night's accounts were so different to the first night.

CW: Also you did make a statement, you said the second night, when you saw this craft, on this road, you said, "oh my God, it's from outer space".

HB: Because I've never ever seen anything like it in my life.

CW: No, but the day, or the night, before that, you had already established that it could not have been something from this Earth. So, the same thing, it was from outer space.

HB: Yeah.

CW: So why did you make this point, to say this at that stage?

HB: Well, to me, that was the proof. I saw the thing and that was the proof. That was the definite proof the thing was there.

CW: But why?

HB: Why did I say that?

CW: Mm, because you made a special point of saying this when the day, or the night before, you already thought this. I mean, it could only be this, right?

HB: True.

CW: Well, did something, that you still can't think of, frighten you?

HB: Because it was so close I had the feeling that it had parked on the side of the road because it was going to attract our attention. I felt that it was hoping that we

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would stop and there'd be a rendezvous or something, I don't know. I was terrified, it was so close. I got such a fright, I was terrified.

CW: Could it be that you got to the stage where, the night before, you saw this and you felt as though it was with you as you said, that you had a friend there? And, you were carrying things, because you are ultra-sensitive, you were carrying things so far - you were leading things.

HB: I was deliberately trying to lead this thing to...

CW: Right, so that, virtually, what you could have done was, in fact, succeeded?

HB: That's how I felt, that's what I thought, because that's...

CW: And this is what terrified you?

HB: That's right. It terrified me because that's exactly how I felt when I saw this. I said to her, "my God", and she didn't really take - I didn't say to her, "my God, it's from outer space". We went past and I said, "oh my God", and she said, "what's wrong with you"? I said, "oh, I just saw the queerest thing". She said, "oh, what's wrong with you"? I said, "oh, nothing". I didn't want to say it to her, I don't know why, I was frightened.

CW: But could we establish, could this be the reason why you were frightened?

HB: No, I was frightened because I felt I actually had the power to keep in contact with this thing and make it land. I felt that, had it gone any further, I could have stopped the car, got out, and met the people in this craft. I felt that, but then I was frightened when I actually saw this thing there. I was scared, I thought...

CW: Were you afraid of yourself or this craft, that's what I'm getting at?

HB: It frightened me just seeing it there off the road. It frightened me. It was so close and it frightened me because I thought...

CW: That didn't bother you the day before.

HB: Oh, but it was much closer - it was so close and I saw the thing.

CW: The night before you were trying to get it to come closer.

HB: It frightened me because I was using mental telepathy. I wanted to see this thing again and bring it back. When I actually saw it I was frightened because I felt that there was something in me - that I did have this power. I was frightened of myself.

CW: Now, yourself?

HB: Myself, I was frightened of myself.

CW: So, it was not really that you were terrified the second night. It was more that you were terrified of what you were capable of doing?

HB: That's right. I was really scared - I was shaking.

CW: So then, not necessarily was this, the second night, a different craft that you were terrified of?

HB: I felt that I was able to tell - how can I explain it? I felt that I had the power to make this craft do anything I wanted it to do.

CW: This craft? We're clarifying your own thoughts now, OK? Now, before you said that the first night the craft was friendly. It was the most beautiful experience.

HB: Yeah, it was terrific.

CW: Right.

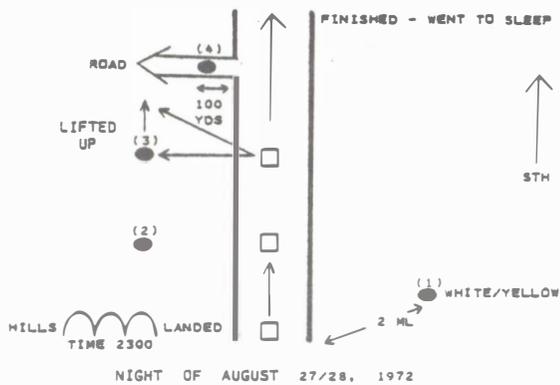
VG: You had a feeling it was friendly, right?

HB: I felt that they were accompanying us and were, you know...

CW: OK, so could it be possible that the second night it was the same craft and that you were terrified of your own powers?

HB: That's probably it. I felt all along that it was the same craft but I was frightened because this time it was landing and it was so close. It just added further to the previous night's experience that this thing was interested in us, I feel, because

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I had proven to it that I was interested in it. I had signalled it and given out thought waves to it. I felt that I had really established contact with it and it frightened me that I had this power to do so.

CW: You were terrified of yourself then, when you think of it now?

HB: Yes, that's when I think about it, that's what it was. I was scared.

CW: Not of the craft?

HB: No, I wasn't scared of the craft, it wasn't a hideous thing or anything. I was just scared. I felt that I had brought this thing out of the sky and landed it.

CW: In other words, you were so successful in doing something that was almost impossible that you thought, *a bit further and what the hell is going to happen, can I handle it, right?*

HB: That's right. She said, "look, you started it, you signalled it again". Dot said to me, "get out your torch and signal it", in fact, she did at one stage too. As I said, she was more keen on driving than me but she'd keep on saying to me, "can you see it, have you seen your friends"? We'd say, "are our friends with us tonight"? and things like this. But, I was scared because we'd been talking about what would happen if they landed and invited us aboard. I was thinking, *now this can actually happen, I may not get to Adelaide, I may, it's no joke, now this is serious, I may really finish up on another planet before the night is through, that's how I was thinking.*

CW: So, in fact, it could have been the

same craft?

HB: Yes, I couldn't think how it would've, unless it had been following us in the day, unobserved, or somewhere from a higher distance.

VG: Could I just butt in for a minute Helen? We haven't finished the actual description of the craft when you saw it on the ground - when you were so terrified of it. I started to ask you this question - what did it look like?

HB: I can roughly draw my vision of it.

VG: What did it look like, now was it a silhouette, or could you see a clear line - the shape of it? This is most important.

HB: Yes, I could see the shape of it.

VG: What shape?

HB: I'd have to really draw it - I mean in a drawing.

VG: I'd like you to describe it so we can hear it on tape.

HB: I can describe how high it was. I would say it would have been, off the road, it would have been, let's see, the distance from here to the hardware store would that be a hundred yards?

VG: Yeah.

HB: A hundred yards? Well, yes a hundred yards. I would say it was only a hundred yards to the left of me on this road. It would have been the height of a house, an average house. It was wide enough to take up the full space of the road with maybe 2 feet either side of the road.

VG: How wide is that road, have you got any ideas?

HB: To me it looked a good road. In fact, I think it was a bitumen road, not a real wide road.

CW: A normal street road is 50 feet.

HB: No, no it wouldn't have been that wide.

VG: Less than that?

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HB: Yeah, much less, 'cos you're out in the desert now. I don't even know where this road lead to. It was a bitumen road, I'm sure. Why it made me think it was a bitumen road, it was a very clear night.

VG: OK, you saw it in the dark, right?

HB: It was a moonlight night - very clear.

VG: Moonlight, fair enough. What I'm trying to say Helen (is, if) you'd been watching the dash board in the car and you suddenly turned to your right or left, wherever it was, and you still had, in your eyes, the impression say of a dash light...

HB: No, no.

VG: ...or any other light you may have seen. You know how you get instantaneous impression of a light and you might have just seen it for a flash?

HB: If I had a doubt, for one moment in my mind, that it could have been just an hallucination like as you said, when you're driving in the...When we were driving from Pt Augusta in the fog, all we could follow was the white line on the road. You turn your face you could see the white line in the sky.

VG: Fair enough.

HB: I realized that it wasn't anything like this. No, I had a really clear...

VG: In other words, it was a solid object?

HB: Very solid.

VG: Would you say it was illuminated by the moonlight?

HB: Yes, definitely, I was going to say that.

VG: Well, you said before it was a metallic object...

HB: Dark and silver this was.

VG: Dark and silver as much as you can see? Now what shape, was it a similar shape to the one you saw previous night?

HB: Yes, definitely, yes.

VG: Shall we say cone - near enough to a cone or something?

HB: Well...

VG: Describe the nearest you can think of.

HB: You know how I said, on the night before, there was interference from the cylinder to the dome. Do you remember what I said previously when I was describing it?

VG: Yeah.

HB: There was the base of it and the cone. In the middle there seemed to be interference, it didn't all join in. Well this was standing upright, coming like that, but it seemed to have sections around it. I can't explain it very good.

VG: But you can draw it for me, more or less. Could you make a drawing for me later on?

HB: Yes.

VG: So, you're pretty sure it was a solid object?

HB: But there's only me to say this...

VG: Well, fair enough.

HB: I feel that if we had've turned the car around and gone back it would have been there. I felt that it was waiting for us to come past because I saw it go on ahead and then I didn't see it. I felt that it landed, but what got me was how could it travel - they must be able to travel at terrific speeds.

VG: When you actually saw it, it was already standing there and you passed. Now what attracted your attention to it?

HB: Because I'd been watching it and it went past us, over further, and then it disappeared in front and I...

VG: You might have been expecting it to wait for you?

HB: No, no, definitely was not. No, because it had been hopping from left to right, right to left. If I had one doubt, for one moment, I wouldn't be sitting here telling you things because I'm not that sort of person. I just wouldn't waste my time, or your time, or



make a fool of myself.

VG: Now, that's OK. could I just go back to another...

HB: You said, "were you expecting it"? No, I wasn't, because it had been hopping from left to right, to the side of us, or to the back of us. Then I'd lose track of it and then, later on, I would see it up further, over further.

VG: You said you saw it from one side, the other side. Did

you see it actually taking off and going on another side?

HB: No.

VG: It just appeared here and then disappeared. The next time you see it on the other side?

HB: Only once I saw it, I think it must have been hovering. I told you once I saw this round flat light - only once.

VG: Did you say it was on the left-hand side of the road, as well as on the right-hand side of the road, at any time?

HB: It would be in front of us on the right. We'd drive on a few miles. It just disappeared. The light just went and then further on a few miles, I was looking for it. I said, "it's the most weird, it's uncanny, it's following us".

VG: Just like a seek and hide game?

HB: Well, I thought that, but I couldn't see how it could take off and land so quickly.

VG: But you did not see it actually taking off? Now, in other words, you saw this light and then suddenly it vanished. Next thing you see it somewhere else. Is that right?

HB: That's right - ten or fifteen minutes

later, yes.

VG: Right.

HB: But always within a distance of us, where I could see it.

VG: And then, finally, you saw it on the road. But when you saw it on the road, at that time when you were so frightened, did it have any lights on it?

HB: No lights.

VG: It was just sitting there in the dark?

HB: It wasn't dark it was moonlight.

VG: Yeah, I mean moonlight - but the object itself didn't have any lights?

HB: No.

VG: Any flashing lights?

HB: No, nothing.

VG: You said it was light coloured, orange light or something.

HB: I particularly noticed that there were no lights, it was just a craft standing in the middle of the road.

VG: Completely stationary?

HB: Completely.

VG: Mm, and you saw it only for a flash?

HB: That's right. It was enough for me to see it. I saw it. It wasn't a truck, it wasn't a tree. I mean when you are driving through the desert, sometimes trees take on weird shapes, especially if you are tired. You see a tree and you think, *oh my God, it's a monster*. You can imagine all sorts of things in the desert. I've taken all this into account, me imagining things and that. No, I won't tackle that I imagined it. I saw it.

VG: Well, I have to ask you this question because you have reassured me of all these things. You've checked and over checked again that you didn't see just...

HB: All the time, I was going over it in my

mind. All the time.

VG: Now, after that, when you saw it on the road, did you see it again as little dots of light?

HB: Yes.

VG: And what went on - what happened after?

HB: The same thing, I was scared. I said to Dot, my cousin, "maybe it doesn't pay to meddle into these things". She was saying, "you've been using your mental telepathy". I said to her, "I really believe that me thinking about it and sending out thought waves has brought this thing back". I was saying in my thought waves, *I wish you would land and make yourself known to us.* I guess, really deep down inside, I didn't want it to. I probably would have been scared. I wanted it to but maybe I would've been scared because I had the children with me. I was thinking, *my husband's in Darwin with two,* this is what I was thinking. If I was on my own it wouldn't have bothered me. I would have stopped. I would have backed up and gone down this road and done anything. I was thinking, *I've got two children here, my parents are waiting for me, my husband's in Darwin.* I was thinking, *if you go any further Helen something's going to happen. It's going to land, or your going to meet this thing, and what's going to happen to the children. Your mother's going to worry and your dad's had three heart attacks this year.* All this was going on in the back of my mind, so I thought, *leave well alone.* But I didn't want to - I wanted to but I didn't want to if you understand me.

VG: Now, these thoughts that you have about landing and taking you away, are they purely your own thoughts?

HB: Yeah, just me.

VG: Have you ever read anything about it? We have to establish this fact you know.

HB: Oh, if I see an article in the Pix or Reader's Digest about UFOs I read it.

VG: Have you ever read about people being taken away on UFOs and things like that?

HB: I read about that ship, some ship at sea

- the crew were missing and all the table was set for a meal. I read once about a couple in America, in the desert somewhere, Arizona desert, who actually had a rendezvous with - they were taken on board the craft. That's all I've ever read.

VG: Barney and Betty Hill?

HB: I think, there was a book there. Oh, that's right, yes.

VG: Yes, we've got it.

HB: I read that in the Reader's Digest. I never go and buy a book on UFOs, or look for any articles on UFOs, but if I see an article, I read it, it interest me, of course. I want you to try and question me all the time and catch me on anything you think you can catch. I know this has all happened and I've questioned myself about all sorts of things, like you said about the dash board light and things like that. I want you to question me as closely as you can. I want you to try and trick me in as many ways as you can. Ask me everything back to front so that I can look back on it and see it. Crystal asked me was I frightened of the craft, or frightened of my power. I want you to question these things because it gives me food for thought.

VG: What I am mainly concerned about, because you have mentioned this particular incident in the states...

HB: Oh well, I read that about three years ago.

VG: But, nevertheless, it can stay in your mind. You see what I'm trying to establish...

HB: No, no, I know what you are trying to say.

VG: It was a partly similar experience. They'd been driving along the road. We will leave out whether their story's true or not. But, nevertheless, you can influence somebody's thinking, right?

HB: But I can honestly say not once...

VG: And they've seen this craft hovering around. Then, suddenly, they've found it in the middle of the road and it picked them up and so on. So, as long as you didn't make

## AUSTRALIAN DESERT ENCOUNTER

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any connection?

HB: Until you've mentioned it now - you said, what have I ever read about UFOs? I remember that article and the one about the ship. Also, some chap in America, I read this article, he said that he saw this, I think he saw a mother-craft and ships leaving it and go back to the mother-craft. Later on, he found something on the desert, or on the ground. I don't know what it was - ashes or something on the ground, burning marks as if something had landed and burnt the ground when it took off. Not once, in all my trip, did it ever enter my head about anything I'd read. Until you mentioned those people, I didn't even remember their name.

VG: In other words, you'll be a, shall we say, casual reader of UFO stories. You don't look for them really or dwell on that sort of thing?

HB: No, never. But I will from now on. I wish I could scream out to everybody about it.

VG: Now what happened after? How did this last, second sighting, finish?

HB: I was frightened. I felt that I had meddled too much and that I had contacted a craft from outer space. I was frightened, as Crystal was questioning before. When I think about it, I was frightened of my power. I felt that if I had've gone any further, I wouldn't have arrived in Adelaide Monday morning. I would have had some other experience.

VG: Now, you saw it on the road then you saw it again as little lights?

HB: Oh, not small - large.

VG: Shall we say lights, OK? Then how did it finish eventually? How long did the whole thing last?

HB: I saw it about four times after that. Then, I said to my cousin, "this can just go on all night". I didn't want to go any further. I just felt, *you've seen a UFO, you've seen it land, you've actually seen it, don't meddle any further, that's enough. Wait till you get to Pt Augusta and report it. Wait till you get to Adelaide and ring*

*up the UFO society and report it and see what they suggest and what they think.*

VG: Then, eventually, you just saw it a few more times?

HB: I put my head down.

VG: You put your head down and you went to sleep?

HB: I tried to.

VG: You tried to.

HB: I didn't look anymore.

VG: Then you didn't see it anymore? That second night, you saw it on the road or you saw it as lights here and there?

HB: From about 11 to 2.30 I saw it.

VG: 2.30, and after that you didn't see anything because you didn't even look out through the windows?

HB: I didn't look, I put it out of my mind.

CW: What about your cousin?

HB: The second time Dot wasn't really interested because I was keeping it to myself mostly. I said, "oh my God, there it is behind us" and she said, "what"? I said, "I'm frightened, I really am scared" and she said, "well, put your head down and go to sleep". I'd go to sleep and I'd think, *no, I've just got to prove that I'm not going mad. I'd sit up and I'd think about it and, sure enough, I'd see it a few miles to the left or right.*

VG: During your trip did you sit in the front or rear seat?

HB: In the front seat - sometimes I slept in the back of the car.

VG: You have been actually driving as well have you?

HB: Yes, we took it in turns driving.

VG: But all this happened actually while your cousin was driving. Did anything happen while you were driving?

HB: Yes, well I was driving also. When I was driving, she would say, "look, if you're going to drive you can't be looking out for your friends", or "our friends". She likes driving in the night and I like driving in the day. We made the arrangement when we left Darwin that she would do night driving mostly, because she likes it. My eyes play up - if I see the white line on the road I sort of tend to the middle of the road. If a car's coming, I always get drawn over towards the car. I don't like driving in the night, I like driving in the day.

VG: In the beginning of the tape, I forgot to ask you to state your name and occupation etc., could you say it now so we can finish it off? Thanks Helen.

HB: I'm Helen Benger, I'm a school teacher at Darwin Allawah Primary School. I've been a teacher for about seven years. I travelled to Europe for about two years. My husband has a business in Darwin. There's not a lot to say really, it's just that everything recorded here is as true as I can say it is, as it actually happened. To me, it was the most wonderful experience and I wish I could scream out to the whole world that I saw this thing. I wish that everybody could have seen it.

VG: Good, thanks Helen.

#### INVESTIGATION

Both witnesses were independently interviewed and their stories cross checked. Helen and Dorothy corroborated each other's statements and both women appeared to be rational observers.

Neither Jupiter or Venus appear to be responsible for the main light seen. However, secondary lights in the distance may have been due to atmospheric scintillation effects on stars. Venus rose at 0409 and set at 1415 on August 15, 1972, and Jupiter rose at 1324 and set at 0344 on August 15, 1972.

During several interviews, conducted with the witnesses, it was apparent that the stimulus for the sightings could not have been natural in every instance. The fact that the object was repeatedly the same shape and yet seen at different locations in the sky, and also on the ground at varying distances, suggests one object was involved.

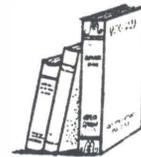
#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

When I became involved in the Helen Benger case I was Liaison Officer for UFO Research, South Australia. In addition to Crystal Walsh, who co-investigated the original report with me, I wish to also thank Keith Basterfield and Frank Gillespie, also of UFOR(SA), for their follow-up investigation work. ■



I TELL YOU, GUYS, I WAS JUST FLYING MY VAGUE, UNIDENTIFIED GLOW ALONG A QUIET COUNTRY ROAD... SUDDENLY THIS CAR STARTS PACING ME, AND WHAM!! NO POWER!!

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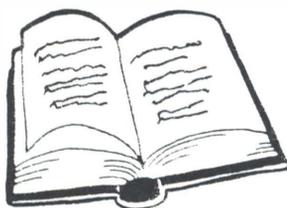
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