

AnnalsOfThe
Enquiring
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Enquiring

The  
Strange

 The
Unbelievable
The 
Mysterious

 The
Impossible

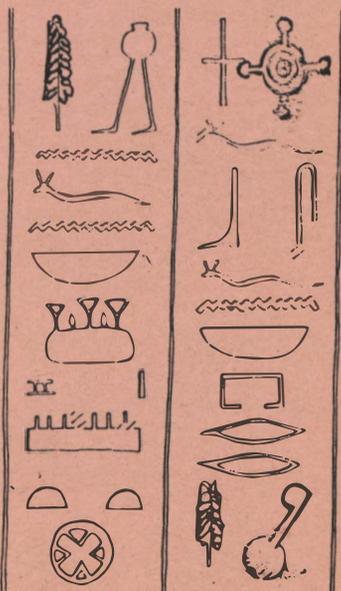
AnnalsOfThe
Enquiring
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JAN/MAR 1992



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IN THIS ISSUE

Circles Of Time
Flying Ship
Of 1709

ANNALS**Of The****ENQUIRING**

O B S C U R U M

P E R

O B S C U R I U S

C O N T E N T S

3 Listen Up!
[editorial]4 Circles of Time (Pt2)
by Ian Campbell5 Circles of Time
[continued]6 Circles of Time
[continued]7 Plaque/Telepresence
Jerusalem Factor8 Circle Humour
Uplifting Invention9 Ball
Lightning10 Lenin
Crocoman11 Personal
Experiences12 Warped Zone
Big Ears13 Mirror Mirror
File 1314 Electricity
& Magnetism15 E & M cont
by D Walmsley16 Under
Review17 Flying Ship
of 170918 Hold the Fort
Charles ...The opinions and ideas
expressed by contributors to
this magazine are not
necessarily shared by the Editor.SUBMISSIONS in the form of
articles, clippings, photos,
artwork etc. is welcomed and,
if used, will be acknowledged.19 Axum Marks Spot
Ghostly WarriorAnnals Of The Enquiring was
prepared for reading by a live
audience.

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Well, we are back to being a quarterly publication
as of this issue. Thank you all for your
understanding on this matter, as the alternative
would have meant my reluctantly ceasing production
of *Enquiring* due to other commitments.I have likewise appreciated the articles, features,
clippings, advice and even criticism etc., so please
keep it coming. Incidentally, you can also reach me
by fax (0749-670663) and any computer/modem
owners out there, contact me as I'm also available
via E-mail.Glancing at the completed pages, it seems the first
issue of 1992 has more of a historical slant than
those previous. We continue with Part 2 of Ian
Campbell's excellent analysis of David Wood's
Circle of Churches, which is a lesson to us all. No
more will I idly reach for a pen and rule, when
seeking to establish the alignments of prehistoric
sites, without considering the accuracy of the very
materials I am working with.Doug Walmsley transports us back to the days of
Noah with a fascinating account of our ancestors
attitude to electricity and magnetism. The joke
leading his article was not mine I hasten to confirm!I hope you continue to enjoy the variety of 'stuff'
in between. It is culled from anywhere and
everywhere, including yourselves.Like the first cuckoo, I am waiting for when and
where this year's first crop circle will appear. As in
centuries past, the circles surely will return - but
minus the efforts of Doug and Dave I predict that
events surrounding the 1992 crop shall take on an
even stranger twist. More than that I will not add but
I believe this year will see the climax to
contemporary incidents regarding this mystery.

GL

Before I could start analysing the Circle of Churches found at Rennes-le-Chateau, I needed to obtain maps of the region. France has the equivalent of our Ordnance Survey, which is called the 'Institut Geographique National', or IGN for short. I started with their sheets 2346 ouest and 2346 est. These two maps join together along the 0 meridian, not the Greenwich meridian - the French never went along with the idea but their own which runs through Paris. The important point for accurate work is that these maps must be obtained in their flat-sheet version because folded maps are never accurate.



Accuracy

A telephone call to the Ordnance Survey office in Southampton confirmed my worst fears that even with a perfectly flat map, the humidity in the atmosphere can cause expansion of several millimetres across the grain of the paper, ie, the map can distort across its weave from 3mm to 4mm. (The acetate sheet used for making overlays may likewise be unstable.) Although this may not seem very much, the following sum should make the point:

At a scale of 1:25000, 1mm = 25m of ground measure. So, 4mm = 100m of ground measure.

Obviously, a circle which connects various buildings which lay within 100m of its imaginary boundary is not as meaningful as if they lay with 25m, ie, the more accurate the work is, the more impressive the proof will be. But only up to a point! When we start to refine things to less than 25m, accuracy starts working against us.

For example, if we consider that an area 25m square (25mx25m) would cover the average floor area of a building like a small church, then to increase the degree of accuracy to 0.1% (5m) would mean identifying individual walls or stonework to check if they lay on a circle with a common radius.

In practical terms, accepting that on our standard map the OS uses small circular and square symbols to denote churches and that these have a dimension of approximately 1mm diameter/side, it would necessitate that the circle not only touch the symbol but cut precisely through its centre. As some churches are physically larger or smaller than this average size of building, whereas the map symbols remain the same size, then this would be a meaningless waste of time.

Let's consider the accuracy to which we are working - 0.5% of the length of the radius. If we imagine this accuracy on a smaller scale, it is the equivalent of measuring out 100m on the ground to within an accuracy of 50cm! Difficult to achieve on level ground without some means of accurate measurement, but scarcely feasible over undulating

or mountainous country without sophisticated equipment.

In practical terms, when we consider that the finest (0.20mm) line that we can draw will represent 10m on the ground, but that the map/acetate may have a compound error of 8mm, then for the research to have meaning, a far more accurate way of determining whether or not a set of historical markers fall geometrically on a circle

must be found.

Although it can't be left to acetate sheets, pen drawn circles and flat-sheet maps to provide the proof required, these materials are of vital importance to make a quick check of an area. However, in order to be able to work efficiently with these simple tools, they do need to be of quality. The acetate sheets should be from 0.15mm to 0.25mm thickness. This is fairly thick but will lay flat on maps without curling.

In order to be able to draw easily on this surface, I suggest the use of an Indian ink drawing pen equipped with a 0.15mm or 0.20mm nib. Remember, a line drawn with a 0.20mm nib represents 5m of ground measure on a 1:25000 scale map and 10m on a 1:5000 scale map. Before purchasing the pen and acetate sheets there are other choices to make, which are as follows:

The acetate can be bought in a prepared or unprepared state. If it has been prepared or coated, it will 'take' ordinary Indian-type inks. If it has not been treated then ordinary Indian ink will tend to run off the surface and an 'etching' ink will be required. Etching inks will destroy ordinary technical drawing pens, so special pens are also needed if this type of ink is to be used.

Radius

The next question to answer is what radius to use? David Wood's Circle of Churches purports to have a radius of some 5,175yd, or 4,731.57m, and offers as a good starting value for the radius as any. Also, 0.5% of this equals 25.87yd, or 23.66m, which can be thought of as roughly the length of the side of an average church.

Later, it will be seen that the mathematics will enable a mean average radius to be extrapolated from the target coordinates.

It should now be clear that it just isn't possible to work to such fine tolerance using maps, pens and acetate overlays at a scale of 1:50000.

Although, theoretically satisfactory work can be produced using much larger scale maps, such as 1:25000 and even 1:1000 or 1:10560, the use of such larger scales produces even more problems. The number of separate maps which have to be joined together increases, therefore, the accuracy gained by decreasing the scale is immediately thrown away.

Work space also becomes a problem. A 1:50000 scale map needs 3ft x 2ft of work space. A 1:25000 map needs double that and a 1:10000 more than double again! A much more accurate method is needed and preferably one which doesn't need so much space.

Fortunately, such a method does exist: co-ordinate geometry. Before you turn to the next article in disgust at the horror of tackling geometry again, please bear with me.

In order to check geometrically whether certain points lay on a circle, we need to know only the following information: location of the markers, (coordinates read from the map) and the circle's centre (an estimate from the overlay).

The location of the markers: fortunately, the map-makers are fairly helpful here. Ordnance Survey maps are printed with a 1km grid - the vertical are known as 'eastings' and the lateral lines are 'northings'. This means that any location can be expressed as a notation (map reference) giving the easting number first, followed by the northing reference. If we further divide the square into tenths, we can extend the map reference by two further digits. Therefore, the location we wish to indicate can be given as an eight-figure map reference: the first four digits relating to the easting, the rest to the northings.

It should be mentioned that the French IGN maps are not marked with the lines of a grid, but where eastings cross northings, a tiny, fine cross may be detected. All this is great, except that we cannot use the map grid as it is to calculate the geometrical positions. To do that, we need to be able to split the area of the map in which we wish to work into quadrants, with the suspected centre of our circle always in the upper right-hand section. The easiest practical way of doing this is to start with a 1:50000 map of your choice and draw on to an acetate sheet a grid to match the grid of the map. This grid should be numbered and calibrated into + and - values, ie, +6 to -6.

To calculate whether markers are equidistant from a common centre, ie, fall on a circle, we need to proceed as follows:

1. Work out the six-figure reference for each marker, making sure by using the drawn grid that both the easting and northings are recorded as positive numbers or negative ones, depending in which quadrant the target falls.

2. Work out the six-figure grid reference for the supposed centre of the circle overlay on the map to intersect possible targets.

In Fig 1 the markers/targets have been placed on the perimeter of the circle at the map co-ordinate positions of the churches, chateau and rock formation in the Rennes valley.

The church at Rennes-le-Chateau is at -3.90, +2.80; Coustaussa church is at -1.81, +417; Serres Chateau is at -1.86, +499; Toustoues rock formation is at -3.91, +400; Bugarach church is at +4.30, -2.99; and Saint Just

church is at -2.72, -2.62.

(Note: at the centre of the circle, the 'guess' does not lay at the 0.0 position, but at +0.92, -0.325 in this example).

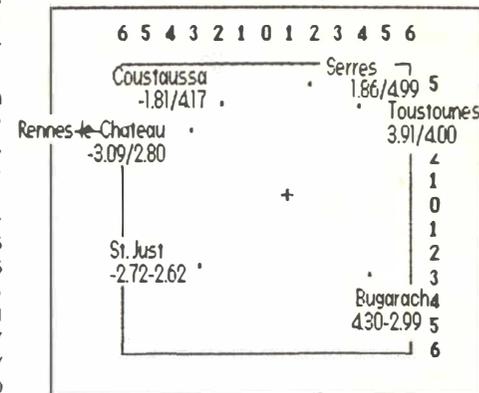


Fig 1 The six target positions in the Rennes valley, with all of their co-ordinate positions marked, as clearly shown in the diagram above. The centre of the circle is at 0.92, 0.325. Note that the circle drawn just misses several of the targets.

Remember: the 0, grid position should always be superimposed on the map grid at the easting/northing intersection, below and to the left of the supposed map centre. This may sound complex when read but is very easy to do with map and grid!

The objective is to find out if the several markers that are alleged to fall on the perimeter of a circle do, in fact, fall on the perimeter of a circle; this is a different way of asking if the targets are equidistant from the centre of the circle. If they do, then a circle exists. Fortunately, there is some simple Cartesian trigonometry which we can employ to find out - a glorified use of Pythagoras' famous theorem.

By using the grid we have constructed, we already have a framework consisting of vertical and horizontal lines which cross each other at right angles. Therefore, we can simply 'construct' a right-angled triangle between the perimeter target and the centre of the circle.

We can mark the targets T¹, T² etc, the centre 'C' and the perpendiculars P¹, P² etc.

We can use the grid values that we have already given to the targets to label the diagram so that in considering target T¹, the distance from T¹ to P¹ is the northing value of T¹ less the northing value of P¹, ie, T¹-P¹.

We can now calculate the length of the base from P¹ to C. P¹-C is the easting value of P¹, less the easting value of C. Remember: the centre C is not 0.0!

By applying Pythagoras' theorem we know that as the distance we are interested in is the length of the line T to C (the hootenuse), then:

$$\frac{(T^2 + C^2) - (T^2 + P^2) - (P^2 + C^2)}{2TC} = \frac{(T^2 + P^2) - (P^2 + C^2)}{2TC}$$

We then repeat these calculations for each of the other suspected target positions.

Next, we need to work out the average distance from the centre of the circle to the targets. This is simply the sum of all the distances from centre to target, divided by the number of targets.

We now need to calculate the upper and lower limits of the accuracy parameters we set - 0.5% of the linear distance. To work this figure out, we simply divide the average target to centre distances by 100 and multiply by 100.5 to find the upper limit, and divide by 100 and multiply by 99.5 for the lower. If any of the centre to target distances fall within these two limits, then we can count them as 'hits' on the circle's circumference.

You may think that all this paperwork is a little extravagant and seems like using a sledgehammer to crack a nutshell. It is not. The problems are more subtle than at first they appear. By splitting the map into small squares, we are reducing the error caused by the map stretch and shrinkage to a minimum. If we accept that map-makers produce highly accurate maps, then the largest probable error will now be caused by the measurement/allocation of the grid reference given to the target. We can be helped in the accurate noting of target co-ordinates by Messrs Rallymaps of West Wellow, who make an excellent aid called Romer (see Fig 2).

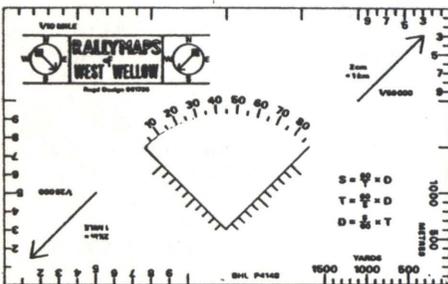


Fig 2: A basic Romer

So, having eliminated or at least reduced the possible errors to a minimum, we should now be in a position to say whether or not so many given targets lay on the circumference of a circle. Unfortunately, the circle will only be revealed if the guess as to its centre is a reasonably accurate one. If this guess was out, then the circle which might exist may remain hidden.

To resolve this chicken and egg dilemma we really need to be able to move the circle centre by very small increments in each direction and repeat all the

calculations until we find the location for the centre where it is equidistant with the greatest number of targets. This problem, where thousands of calculations are involved, is ideally suited to computer technology.

We can begin to see why this circular pattern has remained hidden for so long. If we consider that we have only become aware of its possible existence since detecting it on accurate maps - and that accurate maps have been made possible only with the advent of the OS and later, flight - then this century is practically the earliest age when the pattern could have been detected.

Ley lines

At this juncture, I will deal briefly with the subject of ley lines, because some people have compared the circles to leys - circular leys if you like. Ley lines were discovered/invented by Alfred Watkins, earlier this century. They connect various markers in straight lines across miles of countryside: churches, barrows, standing stones, ancient roads and certain ponds etc.

Watkins conjectured that these were the 'old green roads' of ancient Britain, pagan or Druid in origin, and had originated through the mists of time. They were originally thought to have been laid out by the Dodd Men, who have been depicted in various places as the first surveyors. The famous Long Man of Wilmington is thought to have been a Dodd Man and is carved in the chalk downs of Sussex, possibly carrying a staff in each hand.

It is thought that the Dodd Men navigated across the country, sighting their two staves on some distant landmark, retrieving the rear staff, then walking the line on the bearing of their first staff and the landmark, then repositioning the staff they carried. They are thought to have moved across the country in a curious 'three steps forward, two back' kind of gait reminiscent of the snail, whose movements the Dodd Men were thought to resemble.

Incidentally, the snail was known as a Dodd from the two horns on its head, hence the name. Whether the snail took its name from the Dodd man or the Dodd man from the snail is lost in the mists of time. Perhaps, though, it is not without foundation, since we still have in our language expressions such as 'snail's pace' and a 'dodderly old man'.

On a map, if you can place a ruler so that it touches four or more ancient markers, then you have a possible ley line. *But in order for this to be remarkable it would have to be an inordinate number of hits over a specified distance.* Five hits within a distance of between three and four miles would be impressive. Five hits over seventeen miles, perhaps not.

This highlights a problem which we will have to consider later on - the value of the research according to the laws of probability. Some people contend you can pick up a pattern anywhere, simply because of the density of civilisation in Britain. To be continued

TARTAR TO SCOTTISH PLAQUE

ON A BOULDER, in a Scottish wood, a plaque commemorates an encounter in 1979 between forestry worker Bob Taylor and a landed UFO.

The witness was to claim later that, during the course of events, two small spiked spherical objects approached and made contact with him, ripping the man's trousers at both hips.

Strange Phenomena Investigations, based in Scotland, conducted exhaustive investigations into the incident and the plaque, erected by owners of the land on which the occurrence took place, was as a direct result of SPI's efforts.

Sadly, the plaque itself was erected without due notice or ceremony in October last year. Neither SPI representatives, nor Bob Taylor, were invited or consulted on the suitability of wording. With no mention of Mr Taylor by name, no date of the event, text on the plaque has only served to obscure things further.

Strangely enough, reference is made instead to Arthur C. Clarke's 'Mysterious World' as the prime source for descriptions of the close encounter. So what has been described as "a world first", in recognition of this kind by SPI editor Malcolm Robinson, must surely also disappoint many of the UFO fraternity.

The Jerusalem Factor

It is on the increase. The Jerusalem Factor strikes increasing numbers of pilgrims to this holy city, now more than ever before.

What happens, according to experts, is that some people from all religions find the experience of actually visiting a holy site too much for them and this can lead to a temporary loss of self control.

Damage to relics, priceless treasures and the sites themselves is occurring more often and has subsequently been labelled after the city itself.

THEY COULDN'T GIVE A XXXX

NEW EVIDENCE SUPPORTS the contention that Planet X, that mysterious 10th planet of our solar system, does not after all exist. This argument has been strengthened following new analysis of data from the Infrared Astronomy Satellite (IRAS).

Following Tombaugh's discovery of Pluto in 1930, astronomers believed that a 10th unseen planet was the only way to explain peculiar disturbances observed in the orbits of Uranus and Neptune.

SIX WALLABIES WENT missing from Exmoor Bird Gardens, near Ilfracombe, Devon, in February and not one has been spotted since. They appear to have blended in to the moor's 365 square mile landscape. Another of Britain's national parks, the Peak District, already has a resident herd of wallabies, after a male and five females escaped there some time ago.

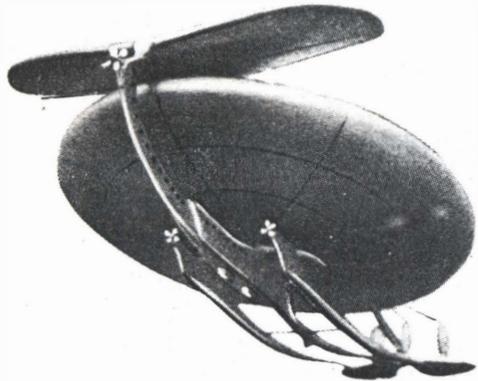
TELEPRESENCE - No, it's not the prizes you win as a lucky contestant on The Price Is Right. This is something that NASA is working on right now, in preparation for manned spacelights to Mars.

What it means is the ability to see, hear and feel through robots, while the astronauts themselves remain inside their spacecraft. Control systems are currently being developed and the whole concept has been labelled telepresence. Perhaps this may not even be a new idea?

CIRCLE HUMOUR

THERE WAS A lot of verbage among the silage last summer and some of it suitably corny. Here are a few of the comments made by visitors to those mysterious circles in the golden fields of Merrie England during 1991 :-

- Six peace campaigners marched south from Birmingham bearing a banner which proclaimed: "No more foreign airstrips on English soil."
 - A group of 'experts' arrived from Germany and admitted, "We are completely baffled - but the local beer is good."
 - Meanwhile, a French professor expressed the view that, "the circles are messages from space," and a writer from Denmark thought, "it would all make a good TV soap opera."
 - A group of Americans even wanted to buy a field containing a circle and ship it back to their home state of Texas.
 - Lastly, Doug and Dave - that self-confessed duo from Southampton who claimed responsibility for the circles- remarked on a dutch satellite TV chat show in September last year that it was simply, "a good laugh."
- On RTL V4, they further claimed the decision to go public was as a result of interest shown by both British politicians and The Royal Family. Now that's a laugh!



UPLIFTING INVENTION

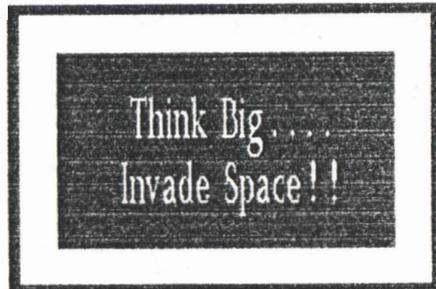
STRANGE AERIAL SHIPS observed in the skies above the United States and Europe during the late 1800's and early 1900's had nothing on this earthly craft.

Called the "dirigible disc," it was invented by an American during the 30's and was a vehicle designed to fly on a rotating disc filled with hydrogen. The disc worked as a wing surface, as well as providing lighter than air lift.

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IT HAS PUZZLED both scientists and meteorologists for more than a century, but no one has yet provided a satisfactory answer to explain the cause and nature of that spectacular natural phenomenon - ball lightning.



Often to be found during violent thunderstorms, it is usually described as a glowing ball of energy drifting through the air. The larger balls of lightning contain a vast amount of energy and there have been many reports of extensive damage caused when such balls make contact with solid objects. An account in the *Yorkshire Gazette* tells how, on the morning of March 24, 1849, "...a small vessel belonging to Boston, being off Robin Hood's Bay, near Scarborough, was struck by an electric fire-ball, or meteor, which descended not more than a yard from the place where the crew were standing. So sudden was the conflagration, that the poor men had only time to get into their boats and leave the unfortunate vessel."

In 1888, one red lightning ball, about two feet across, was seen to carve out a trench about 100 yards long near a stream before it finally tore away 25 yards of the stream bank.

An August 1947 issue of the *Meteorological Magazine* includes two accounts of ball lightning. One reporting that a Miss Heron, of Kirkcudbrightshire, told how on the morning of July 9, "...it was a close day but with no rain or thunder; about 11 a.m. a nurse... saw a fire ball apparently running along one of the electric wires outside the house. A moment after, it crashed with a terrific explosion into a very large oak tree in the garden which was shattered and blasted to pieces. Every fuse in the house was smashed, and all the electric communications - telephone, radio etc. - but no windows were broken."

In the second incident, a Miss Foster, of Penmilder, Cornwall, writes:- "On August 17, about 7 p.m. during a thunderstorm there was a terrifying and apparently simultaneous crash of thunder and a flash of vivid lightning. People in the neighbouring cottages thought their houses had been struck or their chimneys fallen and children were terrified. During the storm a smallholder and his wife were sheltering by Penmilder gates-they saw a ball, misty coloured, come through the trees and where it touched the trees zigzag lightning shot out. The ball floated on down the hill and hit a telegraph pole...the ball was then lost to sight. The trees crackled and the Coombes quite expected to see them on fire, but there was not even any sign of scorching."

It has been suggested that the phenomenon may either be hot gases or electric currents focused in to a small volume, but recent reports of ball lightning being seen drifting down the aisle in a passenger aircraft have upset these theories. For one thing, observers report that the ball does not radiate heat and, for another, the aircraft fuselage is electrically screened.

Again the *Nef Magazine*, this time dated April, 1952, contains details of another incident while a Hastings aircraft was on a research flight over southern England. Several runs were made through a cumulonimbus cloud while collecting water droplets with an instrument known as an impactor. This is manufactured of brass and was held manually outside through the second pilot's window.

During the run at 8,800 feet, the observer holding the impactor experienced an electric shock as it passed through the plane of the window. A subsequent run through the cloud produced the same result

and the observer again experienced another shock-this time in the back of the head and neck. While withdrawing the instrument into the cabin a loud bang was heard and the cockpit was illuminated by an intense light which seemed to last for about one second. Observers in different parts of the aircraft saw different effects as follows:-

(i) From the co-pilot's seat, the flash appeared to be between himself and the pilot, near the instrument panel and the aircraft controls, and appeared as a white floating ball of fire. Its disappearance and the bang were simultaneous.

(ii) A second observer immediately behind this position also saw the flash in the same place, and also reported that the observer holding the impactor was surrounded by a bluish glow.

(iii) A third observer in the rear portion of the aircraft, whose duty was to note such things as density of clouds, icing etc., saw streaks of lightning passing along the leading edge of the wing on the starboard side. This however may have been reflection of light inside the cockpit.

Ball lightning is, indeed, a complex phenomenon. Could it be that lightning balls are formed by a nuclear reaction which produces antimatter particles called positrons, as suggested some time ago by a team of meteorologists at Boulder, Colorado.

One implication contained in this theory is that an observer standing within about two yards of a high-energy ball of lightning would receive a dose of radiation large enough to cause sickness, or even death. The correlation between this supposition and the effects resulting from some reported instances of close encounters is interesting.

w r i t t e n b y G e r r y L o v e l l

VLADIMIR LENIN IS on the comeback trail. Budding Moscow entrepreneurs are all set to put a shine on the waxy features of communism's one-time favourite mummy and take him on the road to further fame and fortune. The embodiment of communism is set to be whisked from his Red Square abode and set off on a grand tour of Europe and America. The man behind this believes an 18-month tour could net \$2 billion.

THE STRANGE TAIL OF CROCOMAN!

ARCHAEOLOGISTS IN ISTANBUL are puzzling over a bizarre Egyptian mummy that contains the partly preserved remains of the upper parts of a young boy fused to a crocodile's tail. The mummy, popularly dubbed "Crocoman", was discovered in a wooden sarcophagus in the Topkapi palace vaults. Scientists have already established that the technique used in mummification indicates Egyptian origin, but that is all they are certain about.

One theory is that the boy might have been killed by a crocodile after falling in or while bathing in the Nile. The parents may have ordered the reptile killed and arranged for the parts to be mummified together so that their child could begin his celestial journeyings intact. Alternatively, the curious packaging might have been a weird pharaonic joke.

Is this xenotransplantation again? (see *Enquiring* Vol 2 #5 regarding the transplantation of organs and tissues between animals). (Source: Sunday Times 8 Mar 1992)

EVENTS THAT STARTED out as a pleasant stroll one evening in late 1970 took me by surprise. Simply because what I saw on that occasion has never been satisfactorily explained. It was an event that first prompted my interest in the unexplained. Maybe there is a mundane explanation for what I saw and I would welcome fellow readers thoughts on the matter.

Anyway, the night was dark and clear in the sky above my home at Chesterton, in Gloucestershire. A windless evening and I was wandering along enjoying the tranquility of it all when, suddenly, I spotted what looked to me like a bubble-car flying slowly and silently in the air some 200 feet from where I stood.

It was quite low to the ground - no more than 50 feet in height. Saucer-shaped, there appeared to be a dome on the top of the thing, with two large rotating red lights on either side of it and in the middle a brilliant yellow light.

Somehow I continued walking and all the while the object paced me on a seemingly parallel course. I could not understand the absence of noise especially since its proximity to me, coupled with the fact that it was not only airborne but in motion, should have meant that had it been a helicopter or even an aircraft I would have heard something.

Well, on the two of us went, for some seven

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

BY DAVID COOMBS

or eight minutes. During this time I was able to observe it pass both behind and in front of numerous trees along the way. On one occasion it was even obscured by a house.

I suppose the object was not very large, although this is something difficult to judge

under the circumstances and I would describe its outline as more of a dark, metallic colour, with no wings or other projections visible to myself.

Without warning, my fellow traveller suddenly increased speed and I was able to follow its flight in the direction of the Love Lane Industrial Estate at Watermoor. I lost sight of it in the sky shortly after this.

I chatted with my wife about it later and we were sufficiently intrigued to contact our nearest RAF Station at Fairford. A spokesman there told me that only one of its aircraft was in the air on that particular night and that was a Hercules freighter. He did suggest that light can play tricks at night and perspective is often greatly distorted.

Myself, I have difficulty in resolving the event quite so simply. For perspective was achieved by way of known fixed points, such as trees and the house. The night was dark BUT clear and even the distant horizon could be distinguished from the sky. Anyone own a flying bubble-car about 30 years ago?

SUMMIT TALKS

ABOUT 6,000 PEOPLE have flocked to a mountain shrine at Golden, Colorado, where a local woman said the Virgin Mary told her blessings would be bestowed. (Source: ITN Oracle 9 Dec.1991)

NO FILM - NO PROOF

STEPHEN SPIELBERG, director of *ET, the Extra-Terrestrial*, once coughed up \$100,000 to finance investigation into the search for alien life-forms.

THE Warped ZONE

A 20-year-old man threw himself out of his 11th floor bedroom window in Paris after a row with his parents, then took the elevator back up and rang the door to go in to wait for paramedics. [Source: AFP Jan.1992]

French boy scouts found what they thought was graffiti on the walls of a cave and worked dilligently to scrub it clean. It was only later horrified archaeologists discovered that the good deed for the day had obliterated all trace of what once were prehistoric cave paintings. [Source: ? Mar.1992]

Up to one million people are thought to have vanished in the United Kingdom since 1989. This conclusion follows finalization of the 1991 census. It's thought most are trying to "disappear" in order to avoid paying the poll tax.

The submarine Osiris, which defies superstition by diving at the 13th hour every Friday the 13th, had to stay on the surface yesterday because of a technical problem. [Source: Daily Telegraph 14 Dec.1991]

The deepest hole in the world is on the Kola Peninsula in arctic Russia. Begun in the 1970's, it has now reached a depth of 12,261 metres. Our memory fading, we believe the Soviets back then named this project "Anti-Cosmos."



Annals Of The ...

Twin Peaks Promotions of Sutton, Surrey, produce this umbrella built for two at a price of £29.95.

BIG EARS BIG BUCKS

IN JANUARY THE American space agency NASA began setting up a \$100 million intensive search program for intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. The project will last ten years and is the most ambitious yet of the more than 50 similar investigations carried out since 1960.

Radio and computer equipment based at NASA's Deep Space Network in the Mojave Desert will ultimately link up with radio telescopes located in Puerto Rico, Australia and Greenbank, West Virginia. The equipment is so powerful - 10 million times more effective than anything tried before - that within a few minutes of operation it will have matched all the searches that have already taken place.

Michael Klein, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said the evidence was that countless Earth-like planets exist in our galaxy. "I *strangly believe that some day we will make contact with other civilisations,*" he said.

The survey will be formally launched on October 15, Columbus day: 500th anniversary of the discovery of New World. Computers will search across a range of wavelengths and pick variations that may represent an attempt by other civilisations to get in touch.

HOLLYWOOD ACTOR Patrick Swayze was saved from drowning when a film stunt went wrong. Shooting a scene from the movie Point Break, he was washed off his surfboard by a 25ft wave.

Swallowing water and on the point of blacking out, Swayze says he suddenly saw an ancient warrior rise up out of the water in front of him.

"He had a sword in his hand and was covered in body paint," the actor recalled. "He grabbed hold of me, told me not to panic. He said we would make it together, and we did."

FANTASY OR PHANTASM

Aircraft observations over Tsukuba, Japan, in April 1991, collected soot particles believed to have come from the oil-well fires in Kuwait, which began in February, 1991.

THE WIDOW OF test pilot Hugh Statham, who flew a ill-fated Britannia airliner that crashed on a test flight in Bristol during 1957, says she knew her husband was going to die.

In her newly released book, Angels in Dark Places, Beryl Statham explains how she had a promonition of his untimely death. The 90-ton plane plunged into a wood killing its 15-man crew.

Mrs Statham, aged 76, said, "About a year before he was killed I knew we were coming to the end of our life together. He asked me if I could cope on my own and organised his affairs with a solicitor. He also made it clear what sort of education he wanted for our children."

The night before the fatelul crash Mrs Statham says she knew her husband had no time left to live. She said: "When he left for work the next morning he gave us all an extra-special farewell, as if he knew."



MIRROR MIRROR

LEONARDO DA VINCI'S famous sketches are often accompanied by illegible notes which, when viewed in a mirror, turn out to be neatly written Roman script.

Another famous person who fluently wrote mirror script was C L Dodgson, better known as Lewis Carroll - the author of Alice in Wonderland and, more significantly, Through the Looking Glass.



This burial bowl, made between AD1000-1070, could be the finest example yet found outside China of the Crab Supernova. The rabbit represents the crescent Moon and the star is the supernova of AD 1054.

The 18-cm bowl was unearthed in New Mexico during the 1930's and is similar to examples found in the region but painted on rocks.

Oriental manuscripts report that astrologers could see the new star for 23 days, although there are no European records of the Crab explosion.

ELECTRICITY & MAGNETISM

AMONG THE ANCIENTS

WHO INVENTED ELECTRICITY? "Noah-because he made the Ark light on Mount Ararat."

Facetious, perhaps, but really to this far too common question there is no answer. One might as well ask who invented steam, or gravity, or heat, as to make inquiries concerning the supposed invention of electricity.

Almost certainly, the first electrical manifestation which was known to primitive mankind was the lightning flash. The soul of man then saw in the flashes a veritable force of the gods which was apparently meant to destroy or, at least, to threaten, humanity and to visit human habitations with the searing devastation of flame and fire. A lightning storm constituted the world's first experience of an aerial raid.

At the other end of the scale one can well imagine some early primitive maiden combing out her tresses with a roughly-fashioned comb made from animal bone. In a dry climate, and as the daylight waned, the girl or woman might possibly have been astonished to have heard crackling noises and even to have witnessed the transient flickerings of pinpoint of vivid light as she vigorously and industriously applied her evening beauty treatment.

And when, in a later age, someone first strung together an ornamental necklace of that yellow fossil resin known as amber and noticed that after a few minutes' rubbing contact with the dry skin the resin acquired the curious power of being able to attract bits of dust and fluff to it, the association of this mild attractive force with the lightning's terrible fire-raising power was surely never conceived.

The ancients Greeks had the rather pleasant knack of inventing plausible stories about things which they didn't understand. When they picked up bits of glistening yellow amber on the sea shore, they concocted the idea that these small yellow sea-washed nodules were really congealed tears of the Meliades, daughters of the sun. The Greeks named the Sun-god "the Shining One," and, therefore, what was more natural than that they should call this yellow amber (as we now know it) "Electron," which means "the shining thing," since they were the products of the Sun-god's daughters?

Thus from amber or "electron" we derive our present word *electricity*, the word which now dominates our present civilisation and is associated

with power, convenience and comfort.

Amber was known and prized for ornamentation nearly thirty centuries ago. Even in prehistoric times it seems to have been traded in by the Phoenician merchants, sailing in primitive vessels up the shores of Spain and France, touching the Cornish coasts.

There seems to be quite a number of old historical records relating to the strange attractive power of amber. It appears that Thales of Miletus (640-548 B.C.) mentions in his writings. Now Thales was a big philosophic noise in his day. He was a mathematician, an astronomer, a predictor of eclipses and, to some extent, a chemist. Honored by his people and officially designated "Sophos," or wise man, he came to be known as one of the "Seven Wise Men of Greece."

Thales sought for an explanation of amber's attractive power. It seems, however, that Thales of Miletus made the first *written* record of this. As for Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), who is easily the most famous representative of the science of the ancient world, merely recorded the observations of Thales. But one of his pupils, a philosopher named Theophrastus made, about the year 321 B.C., the observations that jet, a coal-like mineral, would behave like amber when rubbed.

Another Greek named Eustathius seems to have been the first to draw attention to the electrical properties of the human body, for in his *Commentary on the Iliad of Homer* (written about A.D. 415) he mentions the fact that, in some instances, sparks can be drawn from the warmed surface of the dry skin after it has been rubbed with a heated cloth. Here, of course, we come a little nearer to the first useful beginnings of electrical experiment and observation.

In various Mediterranean regions a flat fish known as the *torpedo*, or "electric ray," is to be found. On the authority of Dioscorides, a Greek physician of the 1st or 2nd century A.D., the torpedo could be used for curing headaches! Apparently, according to old Dioscorides, all you had to do to cure a headache was to touch an electric ray, and your bad head disappeared as if by magic!

Perhaps the most famous example of the ancients' familiarity with electricity is the 2,000-year-old Baghdad battery. A number of clay pots were re-discovered by a German archaeologist rummaging in the basement of the State Museum in Baghdad during 1938. Each one was six inches high and housed a cylinder of sheet copper five inches high and 1 inches in diameter.

Later experiments carried out on pots based on the specifications of the unearthed battery, produced

between one and a half and two volts of electricity. It would not be until 1800 that generation of electricity by the same means would be possible.

If we are to include a knowledge of magnetic attraction among our survey of ancient electrical philosophy, we have a little more material to go on.

There is evidence that the magnetic power of the *lodestone* was applied at a very early date in the history of mankind. Very possibly, it was known to the ultra-ancient Hindu civilisation. Almost certainly the ancient Chinese were in possession of the directive property of the lodestone, and they made actual use of such property. But it was not until the time of the Greeks that the lodestone was taken seriously.

"Lode" means *way*; the word is connected with our verb "to lead." Consequently, the lodestone is the stone which leads the way. Actually, lodestone is a natural black oxide of iron, Fe O. We now call it "magnetic iron ore."

Quite a lot of ancient people had observations to make on the lodestone. Aristotle regarded it with some awe. He calls it "The Stone," and said that it would attract iron, and point the way.

But the individual to whom we are most indebted for our knowledge of ancient opinion on the subject of the lodestone and the magnet is Lucretius (96-55 B.C.), a Roman philosopher and poet, and an honest individual with whose views most accurately give us a summary of contemporary pseudo-scientific philosophy on a number of subjects.

Lucretius tells us that the origin of the name

"Magnet" is from Magnesia, a country in Lydia, whose capital city was Heraclea. Lodestone, or magnetic iron oxide, abounded in that country. He mentions an experiment in which a magnet is made to hold up a chain of iron rings, a highly important observation since it provides the first indication of the transmission of magnetic power through contacting metals.

The same philosopher also records his observation of iron being attracted to a magnet-stone and then jumping away from it - again an important observation, since it obviously implies magnetic repulsion. Lucretius disappoints us sadly when he comes to theorising about the magnet, for, ultimately, he dismisses the whole subject with the words, "There is nothing, however, in all this worth discussing!"

Yet the ancient philosophers must have had some inventive ideas on the subject of the lodestone. There is, for example, a curious and rather humorous story concerning one Ptolemy Philadelphus (309-247 B.C.), King of the Egyptians, who, in his way, had a scientific bent and encouraged mechanical and inventive habits among his subjects. King Ptolemy's idea was to build a bridge or an arch of lodestone, and to suspend below it in air an iron statue (probably of himself). Apparently the worthy King's idea was that the semi-circular field of the lodestone arch's attraction could result in the statue's remaining immovable within its radius. Needless to say, the lodestone bridge never materialized.

Written by D. Walsley

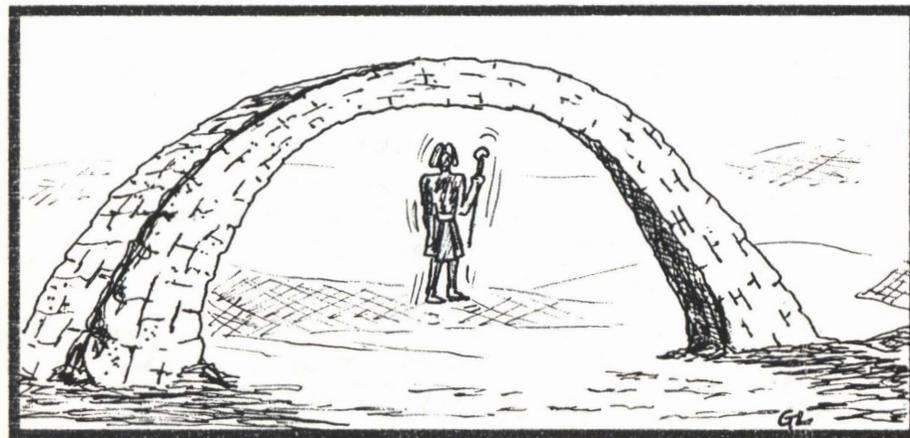


Illustration of the magnetic arch proposed by Ptolemy Philadelphus, more than 2,000 years ago. A scientist and inventor, he envisaged that the magnetic properties of the material used would suspend an iron statue in mid-air.

UNDER Review

An occasional look at some of the publications received in exchange and available to the reader.

- ◆ **ENIGMAS** - This Scottish based magazine (or should it be Scots ?) is just one of the many UK publications to have improved not only its look but its content in the last 12 months.

The journal, produced by *Strange Phenomena Investigations*, never fails to be an enjoyable read. It covers the spectrum of the unexplained - from UFO's to the paranormal - and the Feb/Mar issue reviewed includes articles by Nigel Watson and Jenny Randles.

The Scots viewpoint (or should it be Scottish ?) is always a worthy addition.

36pp - 5 issues pa - £7.50 - Consultant Editor: Ronald Halliday
35 Fountain Road, Bridge Of Allen, Stirlingshire, FK9 4AJ.

- ◆ **THE GATE** - I always look forward to opening The Gate. Another A5 format - which really is an ideal size for publications such as ours - the pages are lively and well-illustrated. Much of the content has been sourced from worldwide news clippings, but there are some well-written articles too.

The January issue includes an account of a crop circle plus attendant lights in the sky and even a Bigfoot - all observed in the same general area near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

18pp - 4 issues pa - \$2 ea / \$8 4 issues - O'seas \$10 - Editor :
Beth Robbins, P O Box 43516, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143, U.S.A.

- ◆ **THE UFO DEBATE** - David Barday, the former editor of this excellent mag, has eased himself into the executive seat while Robert Moore, one of the two admin editors, is busy re-shaping it cosmetically, at least.

The Feb issue is dominated, somewhat, by a summation and appraisal of the '91 Crop Circle debacle involving D & D. Robert Moore has also been busy on a new UFO classification system using an improved 'staggered' matrix. It certainly appears to be more comprehensive and flexible than that currently in use by BUFORA.

28pp - 6 issues pa - £1.40 ea/£8 yr - Subs: D.Barcley
46 Prospect Walk, Shipley, W Yorks BD18 2LR

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the Arthurian legend, UFOs,
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subjects.

The Flying Ship Of 1709

In #56 of the *Evening Post*, a newspaper published in the reign of Queen Anne, and dated 20-22 December 1709, we find a curious description of a *Flying Ship*, stated to have lately been invented by a Brazilian priest.

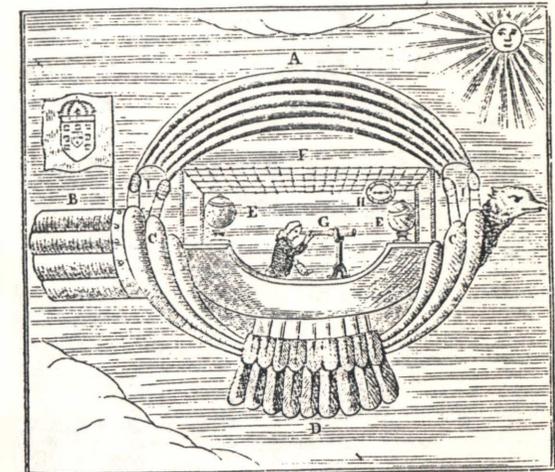
It was brought to the notice of the King of Portugal, in a lengthy address which was translated from the Portuguese into English and published in its entirety in the *Evening Post*.

Here are the opening remarks :-

'Father Bartholomew Laurent says that he has found out an Invention, by the Help of which one may more speedily travel through the Air than any other Way either by Sea or Land, so that one may go 200 Miles in 24 hours....'

In an explanation of the drawing, which includes references to the sails and wings, the body of the craft is actually constructed of thin iron plates covered with straw mats. The latter being for the convenience of the captain and 10 or 11 men besides!

The two globes visible, one of Heaven and the other Earth, are also of metal and serve as a cover to two Loadstones placed in them upon the pedestals to draw the Ship after them.



THE FLYING SHIP.

On the strange arrangement of mesh, or netting, are fixed a great many large amber beads which, according to the account, "by a Secret Operation will help to keep the Ship aloft. And by the Sun's heat the aforesaid Mats that line the Ship will be drawn towards the Amber Beads."

Other items visible in the drawing are both a compass and a telescope. At a distance of 200 miles in 24 hours, this would amount to little more than 8 miles per hour and certainly no match for any sailing ship, nor any healthy jogger.

The writer babbles on about the glory awaiting 'Authors of so Admirable a Machine, which so many nations have in vain attempted,' and he seeks to establish his position by adding, "May it please your Majesty to grant your humble Petitioner the Privilege that no Person shall presume to Use, or make the Ship, without the Express Licence of the Petitioner."

F O J R I T E A N A
Hold The FORT.... Charles
 F O J R I T E A N A

Snip & Suck

A vampire in human form, but wearing the mask of a cat, with the aid of chloroform stupifies ladies at dusk in the streets of Augsburg and cuts off their hair, without doing any further mischief.

[Source: Augsburg Gazette 1857]

PAIR OF TWEETS

The two sons of Mr Balchin, a shopkeeper in a village near Godalming, took a pair of young birds from a goldfinch nest.

Sadly, son Henry died about 18 months ago and his bird died on the same day. Charles, the remaining son, died November 26. His bird also died that same day. [Source: Morning Advertiser Dec 11 1858]

Annals Of The ...

FILTHY RICH LOUSY SHOT

Whilst shooting at Penn, a man saw a hare in a field, levelled his gun and killed it. On picking up the dead animal, he felt something hard under its skin and discovered it was a 1/2 sovereign. He supposed it had been shot earlier by someone using 1/2 sovereigns.

[Source: Wolverhampton Chronicle 31 Oct 1853]

HOLY MACKEREL

On June 23 1626, a cod-fish was brought to Cambridge market and on being opened was found to contain a book in its stomach.

The book was soiled and covered with slime, though it had been wrapped in a piece of sail-cloth. It was a duodecimo work, written by one John Frith, comprising several treatises on religious subjects. [Source: The Book Of Days - Vol 1]

A QUACKED RECORD

On Sunday last, a goose belonging to farmer William Tunhill of Braceborough died after residing on the farm for 60 years. Prior to that, the same bird had been in the possession of one John Smith, of Deeping, for 40 years. [Source: W-S-M Gazette & Gen. Advertiser 14 July 1849]

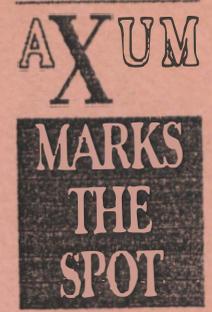
THE MYSTERY AS to what became of the *Ark of the Covenant* has continued since its disappearance from Jerusalem in 650 BC. Now, author Graham Hancock believes he has traced the biblical relic to a small town called Axum, in Northern Ethiopia.

In a recent CNN International TV report, Hancock said that the Ark vanished from Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem and next appeared on an island in Lake Tana, Western Ethiopia, about 450 BC. During the intervening 200 years, he says evidence points to it having rested in a duplicate of the temple, built on Elephantine Island in Egypt.

At the time of the crusades, a group of knights came to Ethiopia with the express intention of searching for and retrieving the ark. They were aware, among other things, that Solomon's wife, the Queen of Sheba, was Ethiopian. Also, that many jews had settled in the land which converted to Christianity in the 4th century.

Now, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church has stated that the gold covered ark does indeed lie in a sanctuary chapel at Axum. Only one guardian monk is permitted to view the Ark, reputed to hold the tablets of stone containing the ten commandments.

It is considered unlikely that Ethiopian Church representatives will ever allow the Ark to be examined, or removed, from the dark room of the sanctuary.



GHOSTLY WARRIOR

CRANBOURNE CHASE IS an area of open downland to the east of Blandford. It is a beautiful place, very similar in character to Salisbury Plain and equally well endowed with archaeological remains. Besides the profusion of Bronze Age round barrows which stud its fields there are a number of other interesting earthworks, one of which is Ackling Dyke.

Ackling Dyke is the Roman road that once ran between Old Sarum and Badbury Rings. It is one of the best examples of an embanked Roman road in the country. In places the bank is over 6 ft high and a few of the old Roman milestones are still to be seen on the top of it.

Nearby is the haunted barrow which stands on the ridge of Bottlebush Down. One winter evening in the late 1920s an archaeologist named Dr Clay was driving home this way from Bournemouth when he noticed a horseman coming towards him across the fields. On reaching the verge the rider turned his mount and galloped along parallel to the car waving something threateningly in his right hand.

To his astonishment Dr Clay suddenly realized from the way the man was dressed that what he was seeing was not a modern horse rider but an ancient Briton carrying a weapon. His professional interest aroused he studied the figure intently but, to his disappointment, as the car drew level to the barrow, the apparition vanished.

Since that time several people have seen the ghostly warrior. On one occasion two young girls returning from a dance in Cranbourne even reported him to the police. They thought he was a man intent on molesting them.

NEXT ISSUE

The Strange Hum ... Gulf Breeze: photographic evidence of UFO activity ... Corn Circles - A Centrifugal Pump? ... And More ...

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