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Fortean UFOs Paranormal
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VOL 4 -- NO 4

CONTENTS

THANKS
to the following
contributors this issue:
Hugh Oram
Andy Capel
Eric Glass
D Walmsley
Gene Duplantier
John Price

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First Word - Editorial	3
Sad Case of Warminster 'Thing'	4
Mutilations Bogus Says Vet	4
'Operation Magpie' Films ...	
Triangular UFO Near Circles	5
Pioneer Hoxer Calls For Halt	5
Aliens, Venus And It's Sunday ...	
So It Must Be Belgium!	6/9
Abduction To The ...	
Alien Baby Farm	10/11
It's A Strange World	12
Aliens, Venus ... concd.	13
Ireland's Stonehenge	14/16
Fossil Puzzle Cracked	16
Strange People	17
From My Contactee Files	18/21
Half Baked In Alaska	21
Moscow UFOs (photo's)	22
Tomb Of Mayan King Found	23
Ramses II Era Tomb Located	24
Apparition Hill	25
Check Out - Review	26
Bee-On The Grave of Chas D.Hitt	27
Stigmata filmed	28
Deadly Swarm	28
Ulster Crop Circle (photo's)	29
In The Air	30
Leftovers	31



FIRST WORD

EDITORIAL

EDITOR

Gerry Lovell
8 St John St
Wells
Somerset
BA5 1SW
England

Fax: (+44)
0749-670663

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If you are reading this issue of ANNALS in September it is simply because I will be too busy between now and the end of the year to devote the amount of time necessary to produce it any later. As a bit of a bonus the contents have been expanded, by the inclusion of eight extra pages, to that of 32.

The new DTP program, source of much frustration most of this year, has finally replaced the old and I am sure you will all appreciate the improved readability of type as a result.

Thanks to all those who have contributed in some way to ANNALS during 1993. From articles to clippings, tips, comments, constructive criticism and gems of information that have made my job that little bit easier. A special 'thank you' this issue to Gene Duplantier - editor of that excellent Canadian publication DELVE, and new subscriber John Price, of Downpatrick, Co. Down, Northern Ireland.

Gene was kind enough to send a package of recent interesting newsclippings from both the Canadian and U.S. press; some of which I have included here. Meanwhile John has kicked off with clippings featuring a crop circle 'first' for that province, and these also appear elsewhere in this issue.

Surprisingly, ANNALS now makes its way to most corners of the world. To individuals, groups and clubs, also as an exchange magazine and even the odd university library or two.

Another year passes while life's mysteries remain as intangible as ever, it seems. Sometimes I wonder if it isn't more fun that way! Let's remember one thing, however: Curiosity is an essential servant and a dangerous master. ☹

SAD CASE OF WARMINSTER 'THING'

Billed as "the much acclaimed Warminster UFO and Corn Circles Exhibition and Video Show", I duly stumped up the £1.50 admission fee in order that I might visit it in the town one afternoon in August.

Held in a low cramped annex of the Old Bell Hotel, it was a dismal showing at best and did little to enlighten, excite or inform, anyone other than the true nostalgia buff of those heady days in the 60's and 70's, when the Warminster "Thing" put this Wiltshire town squarely on the world UFO map.

Miscellaneous newspaper and magazine cuttings plus other photographs were arranged on the wall much like a kindergarten, with minimal attempts at explanation. The video was little more than an ad hoc collection of film spliced together in no particular order. Visitors were witness to the likes of Arthur Shuttlewood and Ken Rogers - both celebrities of the time - appearing to have aged and then find the fountain of youth as the tape rolled on from black and white footage, to colour and then back again. Confusion in the extreme and desperately disappointing at the very least.

Did I really hear the wail of an old ghost on learning that, not only are we being treated to a new book entitled *The Warminster Triangle* (Ken Rogers), but a new magazine from out of Warminster, called *The Ufologist*.

I wish them both well while, at the same time, cautioning that we should all ensure any resurrection of such a ghost that once was **The Thing** not be encouraged or exploited. It surely is quite dead.

Mutilations bogus vet expert says

IT WAS the mysterious death of a three-year-old Appaloosa saddle pony called Snippy, in Colorado during September, 1967, that first aroused interest in animal mutilations in the United States.

The horse was found, minus vital organs and blood, partially skinned with incisions so smooth as to have been cut by a surgeon's scalpel.

Since that time literally thousands of animals, mostly cattle, have suffered the same, often unexplained, fate across many states in America.

The events are sometimes seen to be

accompanied by inexplicable lights in the sky and strange markings on the ground, while having been exhaustively investigated for decades without conclusive results ever being reached.

Now a Colorado State University veterinarian says such allegations of animal mutilations are unfounded and end up costing tax dollars to prove it.

"This is just like the Pepsi scare," Dr. Patricia Schultheiss, of the CSU veterinary diagnostic lab, was quoted as saying in the *Rocky Mountain News* of July 14, 1993. "One person reports it, then there are all kinds of false reports," she added.

The newspaper noted that at least four unconfirmed mutilations had been logged in the past month in northern Colorado.

Two couples, one Dutch and the other American, both claimed to have independently filmed a UFO at Alton Priors, near Marlborough, early in August.

The incident happened during the night of Saturday, August 7, the same evening a spectacular crop pattern occurred at Cherhill near Calne.

Foeke Kootje and Connie DeBruyne from Holland and Americans Erik Beckjord and Joan DeNeve, were all in the area in order that they might further study the crop circle phenomenon.

All claim to have observed a triangular object hovering silently over Alton Priors and their videos are believed to show a single object with three lights, one slowly pulsating.

The American couple were conducting surveillance in the locality as part of their *Operation Magpie* and were actually hoping to film a crop circle being created.

Beckjord says they recorded the UFO when it appeared at 0404hrs on the Sunday and "gave off a red pulsating light at 1,000ft.," before it descended into Taws Mead Copse.

"The Marlborough UFO behaved like those I have seen in California near secret development plants," he added.

The Cherhill patterns, which consisted of circles, semi-circles and tramlines, are deemed to have been hoaxes. But it has not stopped the Americans from appealing to farmers to help them communicate with aliens.

They want to leave messages in cornfields or display strings of coloured lights among the crops.

'Operation Magpie' films triangular UFO near crop circles

Meanwhile, Marlborough police said they had no reports of UFOs, while Flying Officer Simon Cree, of RAF Lyneham, said there was an Hercules night-flying exercise over Salisbury Plain at the time which he thought could explain the flashing light.

[Sources: *Marlborough-Pewsey Gazette & Herald / Marlborough Times & Standard* - August 12, 1993]

PIONEER CROP CIRCLE HOAXER APPEALS TO COPYCATS

ONE OF Britain's most infamous crop circle hoaxers, Doug Bower, has appealed to copycats to quit causing havoc in the fields and stop immediately.

Some 200 people crowded into The Nafferton Hall, in Marlborough, on the evening of July 28, in order to listen to the man who claims to have pioneered it all with friend Dave Chorley, more than 20 years ago.

Bower said: "It started off as a big joke, but when we owned up we wanted everybody to stop. All I want is the Wiltshire hoaxers to stop it as well. If it wasn't for them there would not be any circles at all."

He says he had lost control of the phenomenon after it became an obsession and that "self-proclaimed experts" were carrying it on for their own profit.

Bower added: "Now copycats don't know whether they are copying UFOs or other hoaxers. I hope they do decide to stop and realise it's a joke. Let's all find something else to interest ourselves, shall we?"

Aliens, Venus And It's Sunday So It Must Be Belgium!

Prior commitments kept me from attending what I am convinced must have been the better of the two days at BUFORA's *Seventh International UFO Congress*, held in Bristol on July 24 and 25. I missed out on skeptic Dr Susan Blackmore's paper entitled *Close Encounters with Death*, Jenny Randles on *The Great British Casebook* and American Walter Andrus, who discussed the much publicised Travis Walton abduction incident.

Instead my day, and that of about 70 other audience members, began with Clive Potter, a BUFORA council member who forewarned us that his talk entitled *The Reading Incidents* would stretch our credibility to the limits. He did not disappoint - most of us I suspect reached the Outer Limits a few minutes later.

Since 1985 Clive has, in his capacity as an investigator, been closely involved with a couple from the area whose alleged experiences have grown steadily more bizarre. The lady's professed psychic attributes bringing them into contact with North American Indian shamanism. Something coincidentally (?) that has attained a fashionable status in some quarters.

But the real story involves the man, one Robert Plant, who we learn from Clive has evolved, during various incidents not witnessed by him, into something which the investigator has termed a 'BIOMORPH'. In other words, psychically or otherwise, Plant has been observed by his partner on several occasions to transform facially, assuming for a few minutes an appearance described as alien-like.

This transformation, according to Clive Potter, included an incident that began by small silvery and glowing tadpole-like forms issuing from the subject's left eye. They continued across his entire face until eventually obscuring it. Additionally, Plant's nose grew and lengthened to the point where it actually covered part of his mouth and the eyes likewise became transformed growing larger.

In another reported incident, Plant's features briefly assumed a reptilian appearance as a scale-like effect materialized on his face. He has subsequently alluded to feelings of not belonging and seemingly being out of place on Earth.

There is obviously much about this ongoing case that Clive Potter did not have the opportunity to acquaint us with and perhaps it is unfair of me to draw conclusions. However, my own observations lead me to wonder about the dangers of any investigator becoming closely involved, especially in a series of events unfolding over so many years. Detachment and objectivity can become threatened and I see this in all likelihood as a situation where both parties are feeding

off each other. Certainly Plant is not averse to publicity, according to my sources. I further believe Clive Potter has allowed his independence as an investigator to be seriously compromised - my sources can also attest this fact. Perhaps he should step back and assure himself that his continued approach to this case is as unbiased as he thinks it is.

Clive then went on to present a further equally amazing account involving members of the Scottish UFO band, CEIV. The strange event that occurred to two members also loosely involved Plant and his partner.

At the request of the BUFORA investigator the band visited Plant's home to conduct some recordings. While there, Clive and two members of the group travelled to the downtown shopping area in order that they might purchase fresh batteries for their cameras and equipment.

The sequence of events purported to have taken place next were subsequently re-enacted on camera, and retouched still photographs then used to illustrate the speaker's presentation on Sunday.

What we were told and saw was Clive Potter exiting through the right-hand glass door of a Boot's department store, using his left hand to open it. It meant he was immediately facing right and looking across into the street, with his back to the following band members. It was as the second person was passing through the doorway that

the remaining man claims to have witnessed an astounding event. Ahead of him the other band member had assumed the appearance of an alien creature; grey/white in colour, small in stature, with long arms and a large head.

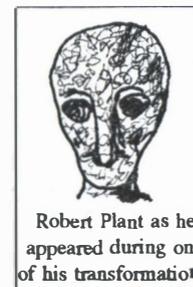
The transformation had been arrived at in a matter of seconds, after a shape had formed at the back of the second person. It rose up from its left side in a jerking movement and the

transparency it initially possessed swiftly became solid as the band member's body was replaced by this new form.

Poor Clive Potter - while such a momentous event was taking place he had his back to it and did not witness a thing. Neither did anyone else, it appears. No counter staff and no shoppers on that busy Saturday morning.

So, one member of CEIV was witness to a fellow member morphing into an alien, shortly after they had both met a 'biomorph' courtesy of Clive - the catalyst? Interestingly enough the band's mascot, which travels and appears with them at their various venues plus is often present in their publicity photo's, is an alien figure quite like the *Alien in Boots*.

It was the turn of Doug Cooper, investigator with the Devon UFO Research Association based in Honiton, to bring us an update on the wave of sightings that have taken place throughout the counties of



Robert Plant as he appeared during one of his transformations

[contd. from p7]

Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, that began in March of this year.

Readers will recall the much publicised incident on March 31, when the rocket fragments of Cosmos 2238 disintegrated on re-entry over the United Kingdom and Ireland, resulting in numerous reports of UFOs (see *Annals 4 #3*).

In liaising with various police forces and taking referrals from BUFORA, Doug soon discovered a number of inconsistencies involving several eye-witness reports. It seems that same night could well have included an independently observed object, quite separate from Cosmos.

He outlined an incident at Pawlett, near Bridgwater, in Somerset, where up to 16 fishermen had spotted something shaped like a catamaran with two lights on the side. This sighting took place at 0200hrs, sufficiently later than the debris' passing not to be confused with it.

On the Quantock Hills, again in Somerset, an off-duty policeman and Scout troop all saw something similar in appearance - "like two concordes joined together", approximately five hours earlier.

Military helicopters dropping flares off the coast of Bridgwater at about 0130hrs, plus two jet fighters travelling in a westerly direction over Devon, were all recorded at about this time.

The helicopters could well have been Search and Rescue, of course, and were simply responding to calls placed due to the re-entry incident.

As for the jets, well in this part of

south-west England there are many bases and night flying is a recognised thing. As, indeed, is low flying. No mystery there.

One interesting note was the distinct lack of response to Doug Cooper's sighting report forms. Out of 11 forwarded to policemen, only three were returned completed. Perhaps it says more about the amount of essential paperwork the 'thin blue line' has to attend to, rather than non-co-operation as our speaker seemed to think.

Doug interspersed his talk with several minutes of video footage and this included several lights filmed at Pensilver, Cornwall, on the night of November 24, 1992, plus a three-minute sequence of multiple lights seen low in the night sky over Chippenham, Wiltshire.

Both could have passed for flares, I must admit, while our investigator apparently had an ear-bashing from the recordist of the Chippenham event having broken the prized film.

The speaker then moved on to a very current event concerning the residents of Hartcliffe, Bristol. An area almost in the suburbs comprised mostly of fairly dense estate housing.

It seems many people in the community had been observing and recording, since the end of June, a very bright solitary light that remained stationary in the sky each night until well beyond the dawn.

So intrigued had witnesses become, that whole streets would spend their normal sleeping hours out skywatching. For the object was not

hard to identify, eclipsing all other light sources such as stars by its sheer brilliance.

A group of Hartcliffe enthusiasts were present and film of the object recorded by one member was shown.

The light was clearly distinguishable and we saw it both in the night sky and during the dawn hours. A curious phenomenon to some viewers, no doubt, was what looked like the edges of a dark elipsed mass seen on each side of the light.

Frankly, what the good neighbours of Hartcliffe were witness to was none other than our old friend the planet Venus, and it was disappointing to note that investigator Doug had distinct problems in reconciling this fact.

More to the point, there were at least two speakers at the conference that weekend who visited the Hartcliffe area during an evening and still failed to dissuade Doug from pursuing his tack of a UFO.

Plainly it was not, as those speakers - both with accumulated years of investigative experience behind them - surely would have adjudged. I wonder, then, did they even try?

As for the dark elipse shape: this is a common phenomenon, as a member of the audience pointed out, and is an aberration inherent both in the lense system of a camera when coupled with any bright light source, and its film.

In fact this was ably demonstrated when, in the same video, we observed the lights of a low flying aircraft possibly on approach to nearby Bristol Airport, exhibiting an identical

phenomenon.

Lunch followed and our afternoon began with Dr John Shaw, a psychologist whose paper dealt with *UFO Contactees - Victims or Equals?*

Far be it for me to be so dismissive, but Dr John could have served a better meal than what was on offer in the small canteen - he cornered the market in Waffles. But I guess it's 'horses for courses' and I am sure others listened intently above my snoring.

I applaud Ken Phillips' work in establishing Britain's only Witness Support Group and it surely fills a need. For there are, indeed, many people severely traumatized by events they are unable rationalize or come to terms with.

A case in point, we were advised, concerns a West Country man who several years ago had a UFO experience. Since that time he has lost his job, home, wife and family, while a unhelpful GP and local authority offered little or no support when the subject of UFOs was broached.

Through Ken's efforts the man will hopefully receive the correct medical care and attention he so obviously needs.

Concluding the final day's program, Paul Vanbrabant brought us the complete encyclopaedic review of *The Belgian UFO Wave*. Sorry, it just seemed like that, as I think I left that day never wanting to hear about another LITS report ever again!

[contd. p13]

ABDUCTION TO THE ALIEN BABY FARM

Edited from a feature written by MURRAY DAVIES for *The People*, August 15, 1993 - weekend of the Sheffield UFO Conference. Some cases appear to have been adapted, in part, from *Aliens: The Real Story* by Jenny Randles, £14.99 (published by Robert Hale in November).

ON A calm summer night Karen and her boyfriend were strolling along a country lane in Somerset. Suddenly they heard a humming noise and a strange object flashed overhead in a terrific blast of wind. Later there was a 30-minute gap in their evening that they couldn't explain. Weeks afterwards Karen, 19, found that she was pregnant - although she claimed it was impossible. She began to suffer nightmares about having an ugly baby equipped with incredible intelligence. It was almost a relief when, after three months, she was told she'd miscarried. Five years later, in 1984, she heard the same humming noise and woke to find a tall blond creature with large blue eyes at her side. She was floated out of her bedroom window into a UFO. She vaguely recalls being medically examined and

knowing that something "very important" had happened. In another incident three years later, she awoke to feel tiny fingers touching her own. She is convinced that a little child was holding her hand. As her husband switched on the light Karen saw a ball of light float from the room. *UFO researchers now believe that Karen is just one of a growing army of women being abducted by aliens.* Between 1965 and 1975 only 20 cases were reported worldwide. Now there are about **ONE HUNDRED** each year. UFO experts say it is part of a long-term program of genetic engineering using the Earth as a laboratory. The aliens have repeatedly told their victims they cannot breed among themselves so they need to mutate humans into their likeness for interbreeding. Human contacts with aliens are becoming more sinister. Earlier victims were invariably men who enjoyed the publicity. Women contacts now outnumber men by two to one and most are unwilling to talk about their experiences. Their very unwillingness to talk lends credibility to their experiences, say believers. Victims suffer trauma and repressed memories similar to rape victims. Only an estimated one in 10 report their stories. The first reported abduction took place in **BRAZIL**, in 1957 when a farm hand claimed to have been sexually examined by aliens (*the now famous Antonio Villas Boas case - ed*). No-

one took his story seriously. But a few years later, in **NEW HAMPSHIRE, USA**, a woman suffered the same experience (*see The Interrupted Journey, by John G Fuller, for a complete account of what allegedly happened to Betty and Barney Hill - ed*).

In January last year Maria was driving in the **HUNGARIAN** countryside when she saw a light coming towards her.

She woke in the middle of a snow-covered field. Her lights and engine had failed. Her body was covered in burn-like wounds with unusual puncture marks and a strange rash. The car door had been welded shut through extraordinary heat.

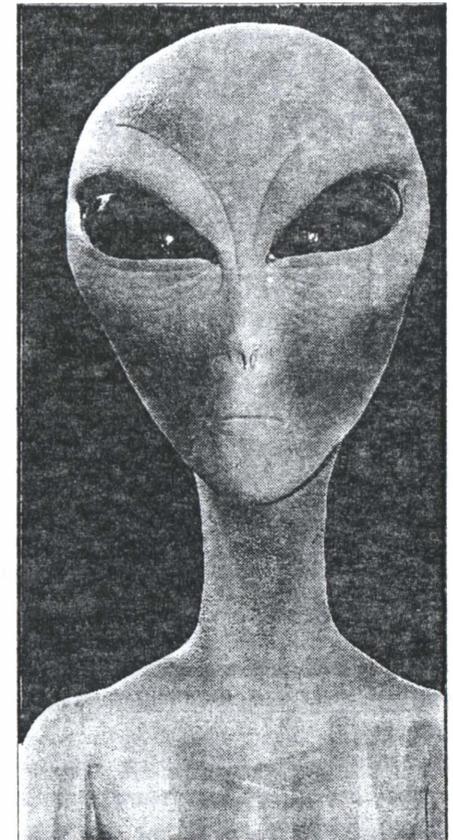
Maria became pregnant and ultrasound examination showed up the image of an abnormally developed foetus, which later simply disappeared. In the late Seventies Susan says she was kidnapped in the **NORTH OF ENGLAND** and placed on a table inside a UFO.

She was examined by creatures with large eyes, pale skins and very blond hair. Afterwards she began to have strange dreams and became unexpectedly pregnant.

A few weeks later she found blood on her bed clothes and discovered she was no longer pregnant.

Two types of aliens - the Greys and the Nordics - are said to have been visiting the Earth for centuries. Our forefathers, knowing nothing of other worlds, called one group evil goblins, the other wise magicians.

THE GREYS are dwarfs with white or



An impression of a Grey alien

grey skins and high, pear-shaped heads. They have slit mouths with extremely large, dark eyes.

These are the evil gnomes and goblins of legend.

THE NORDICS are friendly, almost human looking. Around six-feet tall, with beautiful cat-like eyes and long, very blond hair, they tend to be kindly observers.

They warn that the Greys are concerned only with their own survival

IT'S A STRANGE WORLD

nursing home owner was justified firing a nurse because she made him a mouse sandwich. It dismissed the allegations he got rid of her because she rejected his advances.

[Source: *Toronto Sun* - July 13, 1993]

A Japanese company is selling noodles that it claims have been improved by being allowed to listen to classical music. Takasago Shokuhin, the manufacturer, claims that experiments show that the "udon" noodle tastes better if it dries to the sounds of the classics. Vivaldi's "Four Seasons" is it's favourite track, although Shokuhin admits, "We have no scientific explanation for this."

[Source: *Ceefax* - July 27, 1993]

Chinese scientists are advertising a new scheme for people who want to do something different with their ashes when they die. They will launch them into space!

Two options are offered: the one-way or return flight. Ashes on the two-way journey are expected to return to Earth in the year 2005 and either trip will cost about £25,000.

[Source: *Ceefax*- Aug. 15, 1993]

No one noticed when Ric Adams carried little Alex, a sleeping bundle in a blanket, onto a Northwest Airlines flight. The tyke made no trouble when he woke up. Strapped into his own seat, paid for at the full fare of \$431 US, Alex was enjoying the salad and chicken served for lunch when the trouble began. A flight attendant realized the furry fellow travelling from Phoenix to the Twin Cities wasn't a stuffed animal. "My God, he's alive!" she shrieked, Adams recalled.

Alex is a 10-kg eight-year-old gibbon. He is tidy, quiet and pleasant, but he's an ape, and Northwest says he can't fly coach.

[Source: *Toronto Sunday Sun* - July 4, 1993]

A Ukrainian fisherman got the surprise of his life when he hooked a 107-kg fish in the Kakhov's man-made lake near Kherson. The giant fish contained several items it swallowed over the decades, including a silver spoon-bait dated 1907 and a tin button from a Russian Imperial Army soldier's uniform.

[Source: *Canadian unknown* - July, 1993]

A prime steak with a bullet in it was actually human flesh police told a Moscow housewife.

[Source: *Teletext3* - June 19, 1993]

Three men have been charged in connection with a satanic cult in Florida which kidnapped family cats and then drank their blood.

[Source: *Teletext3* - August 12, 1993]

A tribunal in London ruled a

[contd. from p9]

The Belgian UFO wave took off in about November/December, 1989, and at its peak was running at 100 plus sightings reported each day.

Many of these related to a triangular-shaped object or lights that assumed a triangle and on July 11, 1990, in an almost unprecedented move, Col. De Brouwer, Assistant to the General Chief of Staff Gen Terrasson, held a press conference.

This followed a UFO sighting recorded by a Belgian Air Force F-16 camera of the on-board radar display during an airborne encounter the night of March 30/31.

Paul came well prepared with copious slides to illustrate his talk and we next witnessed the screen showing the UFO.

The F-16 did 'lock-on' during the chase, as did several ground stations, but the target behaved in such a manner as to preclude it being a conventional aircraft. Even America's *Stealth* was dismissed, although its general shape and reports of it operating over Europe from an airbase in Scotland means that it may figure in the equation somewhere.

Our Belgian visitor seemed at times a little microphone-shy and this made it difficult for those listening. It was only the perseverance of Walt Andrus - who thrust the equipment across the table on three occasions - that saved the day.

There were reports, more reports and LITS pictures; lots of computer animation sequences as we wound our way, a little painfully I thought, through masses of sightings.

Certainly Belgian investigators can be congratulated on the accumulation of so much data.

Alas though, as in many other instances, without hard facts or conclusive proof, we are simply left shrugging our shoulders in puzzlement. Through the haze of LITS, however, I felt we were on the right track when shown a map of Belgium detailing many of the encounters.

As if bi-secting it, and in a line running from Germany to France, the audience could observe a pattern of increased activity running across the Belgian landscape. It mirrored a major flight path crossing the country at this point.

I would have thought it was obvious that such a situation would have had a direct influence on the mis-identification of aircraft during a UFO flap, when many more people than normal would be scanning the night sky.

But, no, we were informed by Paul that perhaps the UFOs were in fact using such a corridor for low approaches, with their very presence disguised on radar by normal air traffic.

However, the Belgian Wave in particular, with its sheer volume of sightings - many by trained and qualified personnel - should be a lesson to the LITS catalogers that it simply ain't enough in the final analysis.

Why so much space devoted to one Congress, you might ask? Well, like myself, many ANNALS readers do not belong to groups or organizations. Sometimes it is more interesting being on the outside looking in!

Hugh Oram

Ireland's Stonehenge

STONEHENGE IN SOUTHERN England and Newgrange in the Boyne Valley in Co.Meath, Ireland, are two of Europe's most magnificent sites. Even today, their design and construction evoke wonder, for the people who made them had none of the equipment available to modern builders.

Both Stonehenge and Newgrange were built as observatories. Stonehenge was constructed as a lunar observatory, and such was the precision with which it was built that some of the stones were placed to an accuracy of one inch. Many of the large stones, weighing many tonnes, were brought from places over 100 miles away. Building at Stonehenge started about 2,000 BC and took 1,000 years.

Unlike Newgrange, the huge slabs at Stonehenge were quarried and dressed to shape by pounding them with stone hammers about the size of footballs, whereas the stones at Newgrange were marked out because of their size and later collected from wherever they had lain since the end of the Ice Age. Even the lintels at Stonehenge observatory had toggles carved into them which is probably why so many of them are still upright, supported by their weights.

This improved application of structural knowledge would be a natural development over a 1,000 year time

span. One cannot ignore the fact that both observatories were honouring the same secrets, i.e. their incredibly advanced knowledge of how nature's annual heart-beat works; albeit in the mid-winter mode for Newgrange and the mid-summer one by Stonehenge which incidentally can deliver on the winter solstice also to anyone prepared to make 45° to the left at the right moment on December 21st to peer through a different set of openings, over a second set of markings.

We do not know what the circular drawings inscribed on many of the Newgrange boulders means, beyond confirming that the Irish builders could read and write and Stonehenge's couldn't! But what nobody knows is why Stonehenge was designed as a public circus whereas Newgrange was left as a sealed-up tomb, plain and simple. Building it would have taken a few hundred years (Stonehenge has been proved to have taken 1,000 years to build) so who were we honouring and why?

Even the tracks leading from Stonehenge had a special significance. One of these tracks was aligned with Alpha Centauri, one of the three brightest stars in the night sky.

Newgrange is much more complex than Stonehenge, because it was part of a huge site extending over a large area of the Boyne river valley, not far from Drogheda. Besides Newgrange, two other main monuments were built, Knowth and Dowth.

All were designed as tombs (again why?) and they too were observatories for prehistoric astrologers, built with

the same precision as Stonehenge. But the Boyne valley monuments are far older, constructed between 3,200 BC and 3,700 BC, making them the oldest buildings in the world, even older than the pyramids.

Newgrange remained buried for many centuries, until it was discovered by a local farmer in 1699. Gradually, its significance came to be realised and in recent years, it was reconstructed under a vast mound covering an acre of land, and open to the public all year.

Remarkably, it is only about 30 years ago since Irish members of the archaeological world were finally able to

confirm that Newgrange was and is indeed, an astronomical miracle of its time. Those, mostly amateurs, who had proposed years before, that there was an astronomical connection, were ridiculed. One prominent archaeologist wrote as recently as 1970 saying that the "sun-box" over the entrance to Newgrange was an opening left by the original builders to enable food and offerings to be shoved in for the dead occupants!

At the heart of Newgrange is a long passageway. On December 21st, the winter solstice, the rising sun at dawn throws its rays via the "sun-box" down the length of this passageway, to its very end.

Nowadays the effect is simulated by the use of electric lights for the benefit of visitors, but for enthusiasts who go to Newgrange on the shortest day of the year, and find the sun coming up, the experience is magical.

Another of three monuments in the same area (Dowth) which remains closed to the public, has an entrance passageway about half the size of that in Newgrange. But our ancestors, working 5,000



(contd. from p15)

years ago, with no known scientific measuring instruments, designed Dowth so that at the winter solstice, the sun shone in, but only on the evening of the shortest day.

The third monument, Knowth, which is an even more spectacular construction than Newgrange, has been opened to the public after 30 years' archaeological excavations. Knowth embraces the summer solstice.

Not far away from the Boyne Valley the Loughcrew Hills, situated in south Co. Cavan, also possess an immense prehistoric astronomical significance, but are much less visited.

As the real significance of Newgrange and the other Boyne Valley monuments became clear to the experts, so did the

mythology fall into place.

In ancient literature, Newgrange, which is Bru na Boinne in Irish, was said to have three fruit trees which were always in fruit, and an inexhaustible cauldron from which no company ever went away unsatisfied.

These Stone Age monuments in the Boyne Valley were the first fruits of civilisation in Ireland, when their builders created a wonder of the world without any present-day astronomic or building techniques, not a computer in sight. Yet their absolute precision, accurate to an inch or two, works well today as it did then, when the sun rises on December 21st above the low, wooded hills surrounding the Boyne Valley.

QUACKS ARE mystified by the effect of a car crash on a 46-year-old Massachusetts man. He's started speaking in a French accent.

[Source: *Sunday Mail (Scotland)* - July 18, 1993]

A DOCTOR in Jhenaidah, Bangladesh, said he removed a 47lb tumour from a farmer's wife who believed she was pregnant.

[Source: *Teletext3* - July 26, 1993]

TWO CHILDREN in China died from eating a water melon laced with rat poison to take "a tour of hell" after watching a TV soap opera about the supernatural.

[Source: *Teletext3* - August 5, 1993]

SINGER ELVIS Presley could soon be worshipped as a messenger from God, says a new book by former BBC religious affairs correspondent Ted Harrison.

[Source: *Teletext3* - August 10, 1993]

A 58-year-old Cleveland, USA, man has been charged with failing to report a death, after officials found the mummified remains of his 83-year-old mother in her home. She apparently died two years ago.

[Source: *Ceefax* - August 21, 1993]

A PEASANT farmer who breeds cats for his cooking pot says his neighbors now shun him. Taura Hwirikwiri, of Rushwaya village in central Zimbabwe, converted a chicken run into a cage for cats when last year's drought forced a change in his eating

STRANGE PEOPLE



habits, the weekly *Masvingo Provincial Star* reported. "I decided to keep cats, which were easy to look after," he said. "I thought we were going to stop eating the meat when the drought was over, but we found out that cat meat tastes better than chicken." Neighbors, disgusted by Hwirikwiri's feline diet, shun him and his family, he said, and his children are mocked at school.

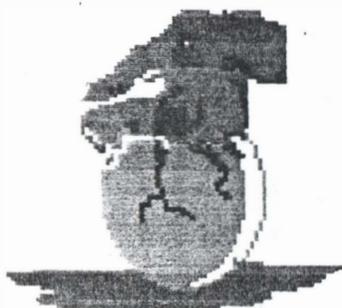
[Source: *Toronto Sun* - July 11, 1993]

BOOKMAKERS William Hill say they have had an enormous increase in people betting that there is alien life in space. The number of bets on other life forms making contact with Earth has rocketed, leaving the bookies worried.

If a UFO definitely does turn up they'll be paying out more than £1million, and a spokesman says that placing bets on aliens has become more popular than whether the Loch Ness Monster really exists.

Since the latest NASA project to search for intelligence began, odds have dropped from 500-1 to 100-1 and payout, say Hills, would only take place if either NASA or a British government minister confirmed the existence of extra-terrestrials.

FOSSIL PUZZLE IS FINALLY CRACKED



Experts say a giant egg, found by three children in Australia, was laid by a *Madagascar Elephant Bird*. The 2,000 year old fossil has a circumference of 80cm and could hold as much liquid as 150 chickens' eggs. It might have floated to Australia from Madagascar - an island 8,000km away, near Africa.

Elephant birds, which looked like huge ostriches, were more than two metres tall and could not fly. They became extinct 800 years ago.

From My CONTACTEE Files

In January, 1969, I was one of a small team to visit a Dorset farmer and investigate his claims of having built a 'Flying Saucer', with the help of Space Aliens and their "energy line" contact.

They say 'a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing', and Dudley Tolley turned out to be a man who reflected that. As a bachelor in his 40's, he lived with his mother and other relatives at a farm near Stoke Abbott - an isolated hillside location that lies within the outer precincts of a ancient earthenwork hill fort situated atop Wadden Hill.

On the team's arrival, we were soon discussing his opinions, findings, beliefs, and of course the flying machine, with him. It was then he very quickly displayed his considerable knowledge of mythology, history, archaeology and Biblical text.

Tolley reported that a "energy line" was indeed being beamed onto him by an alien intelligence who were supplying him with a knowledge that he never sought. This subsequently resulted in his being given the ability to design an advanced form of propulsion unit. This unit, the same as that used by the UFO's, could even be adopted by either the American or Russian space authorities, in order that they could place a craft into outer space using this system of power within the year.

The remarkable farmer had fostered an interest in astronomy from an early

age when, as a boy of ten, he was given a gyroscope by an uncle. He says it was to provide him with an insight into the laws of physics, as it revolved, just like Earth, about its axis. "Later, I thought that because of the size of our universe there must be someone, somewhere, more advanced than us," he said. "They must have visited us in the past, when people on Earth were at an early stage of development."

Roman occupation of Wadden Hill has led to an annual 'dig' in the area and during these occasions, archaeologists have successfully uncovered a wealth of artefacts from the site.

"They found coins, bits of pottery, weapons and other items of historical interest - in fact a great deal considering the size of the fort," Tolley informed us. "I was hoping that I could find astrophysical evidence of some kind."

It was at this point that the farmer then produced a band of gold, set with a small, translucent red stone. He pointed out the two tiny figures cut delicately into the stone's surface. The ring was almost certainly Roman in origin and, perhaps, almost 2000 years old.

He had found it five years earlier on

the north side of the hill and it depicted the twins Castor and Pollux - one of whom was shown carrying his brother to safety. It prompted Tolley into reading all the tales that he could uncover that related too them.

"I found one story that interested me particularly," he said. "It concerned a battle between the Romans and the Etruscans. The Romans were losing the struggle when two men appeared beside a Roman general. They looked neither to the right nor to the left. The enemy was liquidated in front of them. I am not saying this is true, but I would think it had an astrophysical connection.

"Where the two horsemen turned, the hoof marks were imprinted in the rock so deeply that the area became a sacred spot for generations. This was around 390BC and the story was mentioned in a song about 100 years later".

Dudley Tolley told us that he had also uncovered many other, similar, stories from many different parts of the world. These, too, also mentioned the two mysterious horsemen and he thinks that the horses could have been disguised mechanical devices of an advanced alien civilisation.

The idea of extraterrestrials visiting Earth sometime in its antiquity, and then 'cross-breeding' with selected inhabitants, was another theory he put forward.

"I think that the spreading of the twelve tribes of Israel was carried out by these 'people' from another world, in order to cross-breed and spread intelligence. In the Bible, in Genesis,

it talks of the Sons of God taking the daughters of men of their choice."

According to Tolley he has stumbled on a sort of genetic 'birth mark' resulting from this early union with these gods from the skies. It has survived the generations and is still carried by some members of the human race to this day - including, of course, himself.

More in an effort to humour him than anything else, we each allowed the farmer an opportunity to examine our foreheads at the close of the interview. Only one of us has an ancient astronaut for an ancestor, and I was glad when it turned out not to be me!

Having convinced himself that other life-forms had visited this world approximately 11000BC, Tolley became determined to discover their means of travel, and eventually concluded that an anti-gravity machine of some description was the only possible solution.

"I wanted something I could see to show me their means of transport," he said. "A cave drawing discovered at Inaquanrhat Tassili, in Algeria, depicts a figure with a four-spoked hub and horned spheres on the ends of these spokes. This painting dates from 1750 to 2000BC. I then considered the spoken hub to be some means of propulsion."

Further research led him eventually to determine just what that method of propulsion could have been.

"It was electro-magnetic," he revealed. "I now know that every form of propulsion used by visitors from other worlds is of this same type. I have

[contd. p20]

[contd. from p19]

designed and tested a means of power that is so efficient, it gives one ton of thrust from the equivalent of four horse power."

Encouraging remarks, aimed at coaxing him into allowing us a sneak preview of the alleged prototype, met with no success. The 'machine', we were informed, was far too valuable to be left lying around and was conveniently stowed away under lock and key some distance from the farm. Tolley had spotted a number of "well-known Russians" nosing around Wadden Hill just the summer before, on the pretext of visiting the 'dig'.

Our inventive farmer informed us that he had taken out a provisional specification with the Patent Office on April 2, 1968, and even provided us with the reference numbers. However, his written approaches to aircraft manufacturing companies, the Air Ministry and even NASA failed to elicit any kind of response.

A faded 'Xerox' copy of a widely published sketch of an engraving from an ancient Mexican civilisation was duly waved in secretive gestures under our noses. It is in reality a computer circuit, we were advised, which formed the basis for his flying machine.

Originally estimating the production costs for his power unit at some £20,000, Tulley was subsequently able to modify it sufficiently in order that it might be produced for just £10 - which is quite some modifying, even by alien standards.

When asked by our team to explain his "energy line" communications with

the space people, Tolley told us: "Everybody must be like a little broadcasting station and 'they' are recording the thoughts of everyone on giant computers. An energy line is being beamed on me and I have a lot of knowledge that I never sought. It's almost an 'Alice-in-Wonderland' thing. The moment you ask a question you get an answer. But there is always a little doubt. I could have absolute power but they would not agree to it." Contact first took place at 4.50pm on September 24, 1968, he informed us, and lasted some ten minutes. Just as 'communication' ceased, Tolley thought he saw a bird turn in the sky and appear for a moment as a metallic flying object.

"I have not met them face to face," he reported, but went on to describe the aliens as "looking like us, but having bigger noses and eyes that slant down towards the nose, giving slight vision to the sides.

"People who say that Mars and Jupiter and other planets in our solar system have life on them are talking piffle. The temperature and conditions are all wrong."

On September 8, 1968, three cars travelling along a narrow country road a few miles from the Tolley farm were involved in an unusual incident, whereby the engines of all three simultaneously cut out as their entire electrical systems failed. As suddenly as the fault had occurred it disappeared and the cars and their occupants were able to continue their respective journeys.

During our interview with Tolley, he

claimed that the cars had been stopped as a direct result of an action taken on the part of his space communicants and said: "'They' knew of my researches and triggered off an incident that would help me. The trouble was caused by a machine hovering above the cars. If I knew the ambient temperature before the incident, during which the car thermometer dropped to zero, I could calculate how high up the machine was," he added.

This initially puzzling event was investigated shortly after it occurred by Frank Marshall, and his account is to be found in *Spacelink Vol.5 No.4*.

Further research was later conducted by members of S.I.U.F.O.P., who obtained information which, as they recorded at the time, shows "how the

omission in the publicised reports of certain suspicious facts has resulted in a *UFO classic* with unjustified degrees of authenticity."

S.I.U.F.O.P. had, in fact, presented overwhelming evidence in support of the contention that a hoax had been perpetrated by the occupants of at least one car allegedly involved in the incident.

In conclusion, Tolley informed us that the elusive 'They' apparently planned to place a force-field about the Earth which will have the effect of disabling all the machinery present on this planet that relies on electrical circuitry. All weapons of mass destruction will be removed, as well as political power.

Not surprisingly, 25 years on and we are still waiting! GL



He's as big as Bigfoot, not so abominable as the Snowman and as elusive as Sasquatch. He's Alaska's Hairy Man.

"People here really do believe it and I respect that," says James MacPherson, editor of *Tundra Drums*, a weekly newspaper in the town of Bethel.

Recently, three schoolteachers raised havoc in remote Quinhagak by tramping around in the snow with foot-shaped pieces of plywood to make fake Hairy Man tracks.

Worried calls poured in to police. One officer called it "a bad joke." The teachers apologized, but days later, some parents were still asking for a police escort when their children went from house to house.

Bethel storyteller John Active, a Yupik Eskimo, says he knows all about Hairy Man. "He's very tall, taller than a nine or 10-foot tall spruce tree. When he was standing, his hands could touch the ground next to his feet. He grew long hair to keep warm."

He says Hairy Man's Inuit name, "arultaq," means a creature who makes a bellowing cry. [Source: *The Toronto Star - Mar 27 1993*]

An Anchorage, an armed man who insisted the little boy he was threatening to kill was not his brother but an alien from another planet was shot dead by police after negotiations failed.

Terrance Cloyd, 20, had told police where they could find the bodies of two people he had already killed - his mother and sister. [Source: *The Toronto Star May 20, 1993*]

HALF BAKED IN ALASKA

Moscow UFOs Or Dirty Negatives?

Two photographs of a Russian aircraft taken at an airfield near Moscow during test flights in spring 1990. The "unknown objects" were only revealed during processing and printing of the photographs.



[Source: *Aura-Z No. 1* - March, 1993]

BY BURROWING through a network of tunnels, a team of scientists has discovered what may be the 1,500-year-old tomb of a Mayan king who founded the ancient city of Copan in Central America.

"This discovery is extraordinarily important," said University of Pennsylvania anthropologist Robert Sharer about the burial vault he found in western Honduras. "It's like finding the tomb of the very first pharaoh of Egypt."

Until now, no researchers have ever found the burial site of a Mayan king of such stature.

The Mayan civilization, which flourished in Central America between 250 and 800AD., developed a sophisticated culture that made key advances in astronomy, mathematics, art and agriculture.

Sharer said the discovery was made April 20 when Penn excavators were digging 65 feet beneath the Acropolis, a ritual and residential centre that housed 16 Mayan kings between 400 and 800AD. The scientists poked a small opening in a masonry wall and found a 5-foot by 13-foot chamber that contained brightly painted pottery vessels and offerings.

On the southern wall of the vault, they found a hieroglyphic inscription that bore the date of Nov. 29, 437AD., and the name of the founder of Copan's ruling dynasty, Yax K'uk Mo'.

"The location of the tomb beneath the Acropolis indicates this is probably a royal tomb," said Sharer. "The inscription indicates that one king, who we know as Pat Head, was doing



something - possibly dedicating a stone or tomb - involving the founding ruler, Yax K'uk Mo'.

Sharer said fallen debris inside the chamber, probably caused by earthquakes, had made it impossible to see if there were skeletons inside.

If it is a royal tomb, it probably also contains food, clothing, tools, jade artwork and other items that would be useful to the tomb's inhabitants in the next world.

The tomb is about 150 years older than another royal tomb that was discovered by Penn researchers beneath the Acropolis on March 3, 1992.

Sharer said Copan, located in a lush tropical valley along the border between Honduras and Guatemala, was one of a number of Mayan cities, including Tikal, Palenque and Uaxactum, that flourished in what is now Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and El Salvador.

[Source: *The Denver Post* June 13, 1993]

RAMSES II ERA TOMB DISCOVERED

EXCAVATORS AT Abu Sir, Egypt, have found a tomb cut into a cliff that contained a boomerang, among other items. The tomb was the final resting place of the chief of Pharaoh Ramses II's charioteers.

The discovery of the tomb of Min-Nakht and his wife was disclosed by Ibrahim Bakr, chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organization. Antiquities officials uncovered the burial chamber three weeks ago after villagers began finding relics, revealed by erosion, in the area and told police. Bakr showed the tomb, which lies 16km (10 miles) south of the Giza pyramids, to reporters yesterday. Bakr called the find - at the edge of an enormous pharaonic cemetery - "extremely important" because it is the first time a tomb belonging to the time of Ramses II has been found in the area, and it might be part of an entire previously unknown necropolis. The tomb's size and decorations tell of Min-Nakht's importance. Inscriptions reveal that in addition to being chief of charioteers, Min-Nakht was also the overseer of Ramses' bowmen and an envoy. Ramses ruled

for 67 years until 1224BC. A painted wall panel depicts Min-Nakht's wife Hathor as a fine-boned woman with sweeping, long black hair. By examining the rubble, archaeologists have determined that a paved courtyard with nine columns led to the entrance. Only the bases of the columns remain. Four chambers embedded in the cliff lead toward the burial chamber.

Reminders of Min-Nakht's martial past fill the tomb. Black-and-white figures of gods and goddesses, many equipped with daggers and bows, covered the sides of the chamber. Wall paintings portray the Book of Gates, a hieroglyphic guidebook to the netherworld.

[Sources: *The Sunday Sun / The Toronto Star* - May 23, 1993]

THE MUMMIFIED remains of a Bronze Age hunter preserved by an alpine glacier contain 5,000-year-old air in the lungs, which will allow scientists to compare the atmosphere then with the present day, an expert said.

*Konrad Spindler, of the Institute for Pre-and Early History at Innsbruck University in Austria, added that research shows that the Bronze Age man was 35 to 40 years old when he froze to death after exhaustion. The man's strongly ground teeth pointed to this relatively long life span. The frozen corpse was discovered in September 1991 in the Austrian Alps near the Italian border. [Source: *Rocky Mountain News* - May 12, 1993]*

AMONGST THE hell of war-torn Bosnia a coachload of British women brave the bombs and visit the village of Medugorje. They are just some of the many thousands of pilgrims who flock there each year from all over the world.

All are drawn to the hillside known as *Apparition Hill* where six local children claim they saw the Virgin on June 24, 1981.

The Vatican has refused to recognise their vision and a commission set up by the local Roman Catholic church is still investigating 12 years on.

Even the local priest, Father Joso Zovko, refused to believe the children at first.

But the six - and two other youngsters who claimed to see the vision later - stuck to the story.

One of the Virgin's first reported messages in 1981 was: "Peace, peace, peace. Only prayer, fasting and a return to God will prevent war."

Overnight the tiny village of just a few hundred peasants became a magnet for pilgrims. It grew into a town, sprouting hotels, restaurants and shops selling tacky religious relics.

But the flood of pilgrims dwindled to a trickle when Yugoslavia erupted in war as, ten years to the day of the Virgin's message, the first gunfire was heard in the country.

Serb forces, determined to grab a part of Bosnia that was 90 per cent Croat, got to within half a mile of Apparition Hill.

Serb jets unleashed their bombs, artillery and mortar fire rained down. But amazingly, Medugorje was saved.

Apparition Hill

Edited from 'I Saw Virgin Mary In Bosnia', and written by **STUART WHITE** for *News of the World*, July 4, 1993.

Locals claim that as the pilots swooped into the valley a mysterious mist suddenly fell, wrecking their aim. After that the pilgrims returned. Each night before 6.40pm - the time of the original vision - they follow the goat track leading up the hill.

Four of the visionaries claim to still see the Virgin Mary, and along with Father Joso, they are in great demand.

One of them, Ivan Dragicovic, who is 26, confirmed that he is among the original four, saying: "The whole thing is an ecstasy. I have seen the blessed Virgin and have spoken with her."

During the Gulf War, Ivan was reportedly in regular phone contact with George Bush - giving the then US President spiritual guidance.

In spite of the present hostilities in Yugoslavia, Medugorje is booming. Twenty portable confessionals await the sinners seeking absolution in English, French, Italian, Spanish or Croatian.

There's a tourist office, a Hertz rentacar bureau, dozens of pizza joints and *I Love Medugorje* bumper stickers.

CHECK OUT

A Review of Exchange Magazines

GEM - Highly readable, polished production. A must for those who have even the slightest interest in Earth Mysteries - in all its diverse forms. Issue 16 includes 'Haunted Highways', 'Highland Lines' and much more.
••38pp A4 - 3 issues pa - £2.25 sample/£5.75 yr - Gloucestershire Earth Mysteries, PO Box 258, Cheltenham GL53 0HR.

THE WILD PLACES - It's subtitled *The Journal of Strange and Dangerous Beliefs* and it exposes its readership to fresh areas for consideration. An intriguing new column 'Conspiracies' by Robin Ramsey and the enlightening 'False Memory Syndrome' by David Gotlib M.D. (Issue 7), are just two highlights. Recommended.
••38pp A5 - 4 issues pa - £1.65 ea/£6 yr - Editor Kevin McClure, The Wild Places, 42 Victoria Road, Mount Charles, St.Austell, Cornwall PL25 4QD.

THE CROP WATCHER - Issue 17 opens with 'Squashed Animals, Crop Circles and UFOs'. Possibly yet another new twist to this ongoing saga - as case histories involving the strange demise of a worldwide assortment of animals are listed as far back as 1966. TCW remains an essential independent alternative to the 'groupies'.
••36pp A4 - 4 issues pa - £1.50 ea/£9.00 yr - Editor: Paul Fuller, The Crop Watcher, 3 Selbourne Court, Tavistock Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7TY.

ENIGMAS - Value for money here. Packed with reports on Abductions, Poltergeists, Nessie, Scottish UFO Flaps, Animal Mutilations and so on, in Issue 32. Especially enjoyed the 'Sunday Sport' type headline: *Bob's Trousers In Museum*. If you want to find out what it's all about - then subscribe!

••40pp A5 - £2.00 ea/£10 yr (5 issues)
Editor: Malcolm Robinson, 41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, FK10 2TT, Scotland.

DELVE - Canadian publication consisting of news clippings of articles and press releases covering topics such as Fortean, UFOs, Water Monsters etc. Includes both current and historical gleanings, such as the 'Lizard People' beneath Los Angeles (1934) and 'Cleopatra Now Living On Mars' (1933) in No.8. Presented in a very readable style and worth obtaining.

••20pp - A4 - C\$3.00 ea/O'seas US\$3.50 (bills) - non-scheduled.

Editor: Gene Duplantier, 17 Shetland Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2M 1X5.

THE GATE - Always a neat production this, with the July issue including articles on 'A UFOport in Puerto Rico' and 'UFOs: Brothers From Space or Saucers From Hell?'. plus the usual interesting input from Stan Gordon, of PASU.

••20pp - A5 - \$2.00 ea/\$8.00 yr O'seas \$10.00 (bills)

Editor: Beth Robbins, The Gate, PO Box 43516, Richmond Hts, Ohio 44143, USA.

WONDERLAND - A new magazine from a former subscriber. Deals with the paranormal. Good luck Craig!

••12pp - A5 - 60p ea/£2.00 4 issues

Editor: Craig Harris, 5 Willow Court, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 9HL.

CHARLES D. Hitt was a farmer on a small scale who lived in the gently rolling hills near Moreley, Scott County, Missouri, U.S.A. He specialised in cantaloupes and water-melons. He also kept bees, having been told during his agricultural training that there was an affinity between bees and melons.

The farmer seemed to establish some kind of friendship with his bees and they in turn apparently sensed his affection. Charles Hitt could handle the bees, work with them, walk about the rows of hives with impunity. Not once was he stung.

The other members of the family were not accepted so readily. They agreed, in fact, that wisdom lay in keeping their distance. Let one of them venture too close, and a painful penalty was paid!

Dad's bees provided honey (added to butter) for those delicious hot pancakes at breakfast time - and there the relationship ended.

Then came a chilly, blustery day in February, 1959. It was the bleak day of the farmer's funeral. Charles D. Hitt had died from a heart attack.

The body had been removed to a funeral parlour twelve miles distant. At noon the mourners were assembled at the farm house. Suddenly above the desultory small talk, the buzzing of bees was heard. Bees active in mid-winter? Unheard of, surely!

The time came to leave for the church, where the body of Charles Hitt would be conveyed from the funeral parlour. As the mourners got into their cars in the driveway the bees were flying around in the strangest manner. Could they possibly know that their friend and master was dead?

Dozens of them buzzed over the heads of the mourners. Some settled gently and harmlessly on their hands and faces.

Steve Gorman

Bee-On The Grave of Charles D. Hitt

The funeral service took place in the church, and it was followed by a short graveside ceremony in Forest Hill Cemetery. As the family assembled there they noticed several bees among the profusion of flowers.

An hour or so later, after the flowers had been tastefully arranged, family and friends returned to the cemetery. As they neared the grave, one of them said:

"The bees are coming!"

The funeral director, the sexton and others watched as the bees swarmed. A great black cloud of them flew from the farm across the valley, covering every blossom on the flower-bedecked grave. They settled harmlessly on the faces, arms and hands of those around.

When the mourners returned to the farm, they were met by a younger member of the Hitt household. He too was in a state of excitement.

"Dad's bees," he told them, "are leaving the hives by their hundreds. I don't think they will come back."

The bees never returned.

"*Telling the bees*" is a saying based on a very old tradition which says that when a member of the family dies the bees must be told and their hives draped in black - otherwise the bees would fly away, never to return.

In view of the real life experience of the Hitt family, there would appear to be some truth in it.

Woman filmed as stigmata appeared during Easter week

A CAMERAMAN has captured on film the moment a stigmata, the marks of Christ's wounds, appeared on the body of a British woman, said television producer Colin Bell.

Bell claimed the film showed Heather Woods, 43, deacon of a mystic church in Lincoln, as the shape of a cross formed on her forehead and other marks appeared on her body, hands and feet.

He said Woods had a vision foreseeing the stigmata appearing during Easter week and a TV cameraman was on hand to film her when it happened.

"The cross on her forehead came up like a welt, white and then red. The stigmata started with round marks which became moist and began bleeding as the day went on. It caused some pain but was mainly an emotional experience for her," Bell said.

The film was shown during a Sunday religious television program (*I missed it by minutes* - ed).

Bell added the woman had a similar experience a year ago when doctors believed she was in the final stages of cancer. Stigmata appeared on her body but she made a full recovery.

The marks represent the spear wound and nail holes suffered by Christ during crucifixion.

[Source: *Rocky Mountain News* - April 17, 1993]

Deadly Swarm

KILLER BEES may have claimed their first victim in the USA.

Elderly Texas rancher Lino Lopez died after being attacked by an angry swarm. And experts fear Lopez, 82, could have been the first fatality caused by killer bees, also known as African bees, since they migrated into Texas in 1990.

Government insect expert Stormy Sparks said: "Preliminary results indicate a high probability of Africanized bees."

Waylon Chandler, who killed the bees and took samples to the Government Honeybee Lab, added: "They were very aggressive.

"If you make a wrong move they will cover you in a matter of seconds."

Lopez was attacked as he tried to burn the bees out of his ranch.

[Source: *Sunday Mail* - July 18, 1993]

IRISH BVMs CONTINUE

An 18-year-old girl claims the Madonna appeared to her for 30 minutes at a grotto near Inchigeela, west Cork, last Sunday - the feast of the Assumption - telling people to bring their Child of Mary Medals to the next vigil there.

Catholic bishops spokesman Dr Michael Smith reacted cautiously saying: "The natural way for the Lord to speak is not through apparitions but through the gospel and the word of Christ."

[Source: *The Irish News* - August 18, 1993]



CROP CIRCLES A 'FIRST' FOR ULSTER ?

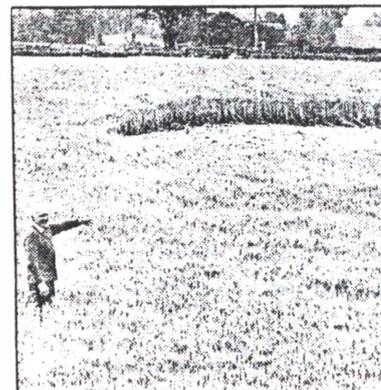
BELIEVED TO be a crop circles 'first' for Northern Ireland, Broughshane farmer Alex Patterson seemed bemused following their appearance overnight in his barley field at Drumuck, Co. Antrim.

More than 500 people descended on the field Tuesday, August 17, when two circles - one 30ft in diameter the other 15ft across and connected by a path 3ft wide - were first found.

Stalks had remained unbroken, despite being completely flattened in an anti-clockwise direction, and Mr Patterson says there were no tracks leading to them.

He added: "One man even flew over from England and took a taxi here to carry out his own investigations. He thinks the circles were caused by some supernatural force." [Sources: *Belfast Telegraph* - Aug. 18 & 20 /

Irish News - Aug. 19 1993]



IN THE AIR ON THE AIR

*What the media of television
and radio has to say about
anomalous phenomena*

Came up with the answer to a mini UFO flap in that country. It seems an illuminated airship advertising *Marktauf* was the culprit. When viewed end-on its decorative pattern displayed a star-like object in the sky and was the source of some initial excitement.

UFO FILM

GMTV aired film on August 13 of the purported grounded UFO seen surrounded by military vehicles. The incident is alleged to have taken place two years ago and was forwarded only recently to investigators by an unknown Canadian source. The footage screened showed a light, either on or just above the ground, during the night-time encounter. Jenny Randles was the breakfast guest and viewers also saw a Mexican video of an object which Jenny concluded looks like a meteorological balloon.

TALKBACK

Also during August Sky News dealt with UFOs in its nightly 'talkback' phone-in show, while Tim Good was on hand to discuss callers comments and experiences. However, with the likes of JR, Tony Dodds and Omar Fowler, it wasn't exactly 'Joe Public' on the line for much of the time.

LOCH NESS RESEARCH

Throughout the latter part of the summer, the 'Discovery' channel has supported further scientific evaluations of the loch while, at the same time, making no secret of the fact that if a monster is there it won't be overlooked. Weekly updates have kept us abreast of developments while a promised major program should be aired in late '93. Interestingly enough scientists findings conclude already that there is an insufficient marine environment to sustain a water monster of any comparable size.

ADVANCE OF THE LANDING

'Discovery' transmitted this film in early September. Canadian made, it was based on suggestion raised by a book of the same title written by Douglas Curran in 1985. The film contained many historical clips from the 1950's through to the present day (1990), and was a fascinating glimpse at the excesses of that whole era in Ufology. Ruth E. Norman, Bud Hopkin, Gabriel Green and Betty Hill featured among the guest appearances. A little older and a little sadder, Betty continued to have regular sightings of UFOs and was shown driving out at night in order to make contact with aliens by flashing her vehicle lights at them.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

This LWT show, hosted by Michael Aspel and aired the evening of September 4, dealt with Todmorden - the epicentre of UFO activity in the UK in case you haven't guessed, and an Irish family separated in childhood and now reunited by an English woman who says she's a reincarnation of their mother. Jenny Randles turned up again (10-out-of-10 for stamina), as did ex-policeman Alan Godfrey.

ON RADIO TOO!

Guests on 'The Jameson's' late night talk show (BBC Radio 2) in recent months have included Susan Blackmore (near death experiences); Jenny Randles (UFOs), and most recently Fortean Times co-editor Bob Rickard.

GERMAN IFO

On July 29, German satellite channel N3

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LEFTOVERS

THOUSANDS of mice have drowned themselves in lakes and rivers in northwest China. This may have been due to overpopulation as no diseases were found in the mice.

[Source: Ceefax - August 11, 1993]

WILLIAM Foggit the amateur meteorologist has had to seek police protection because people are blaming him for the wet summer.

[Source: Ceefax - August 11, 1993]

THE Indonesian government is considering outlawing the practise of black magic, the official Antara news agency has reported.

[Source: Teletext3 - July 27, 1993]

NANCY Fowler, a housewife from Conyers, Georgia and a self-styled "once-a-week Catholic", says her rosary beads have turned to solid gold and cloud crosses have appeared in the sky above her home.

[Source: CBS Evening News - Aug. 13, 1993]

A medium has launched a spirited attack on antenna's forming part of a cellular phone network, claiming they disrupt his calls to the other side. The New Zealand spiritualist made contact with the telephone company while they were carrying out a survey and the U.S. firm dispatched a staff member to reassure him he would still be able to reach the nether world.

[Source: Teletext3 - Aug. 23, 1993]



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