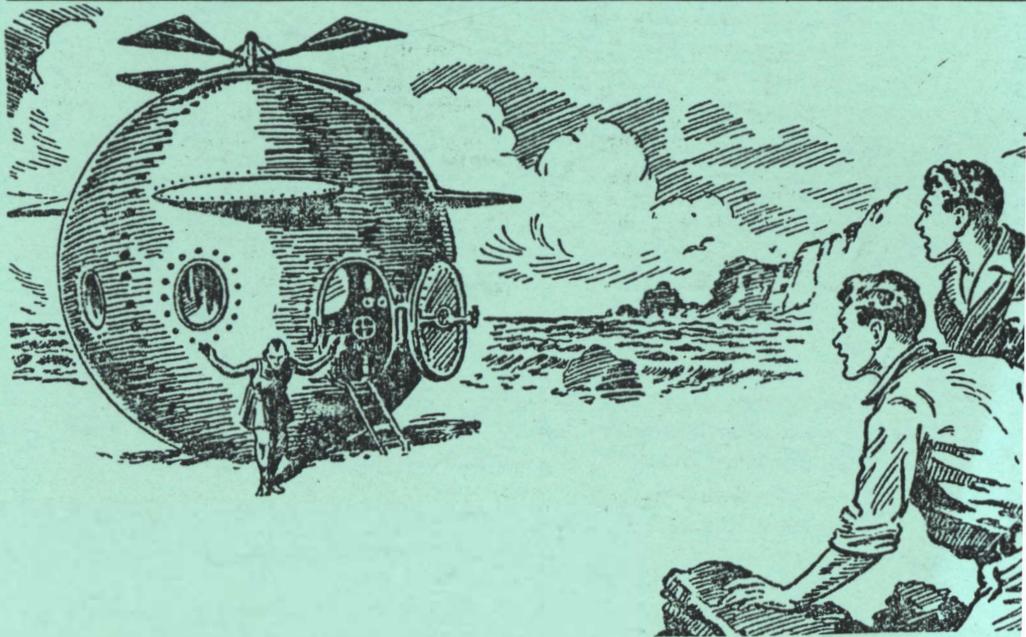
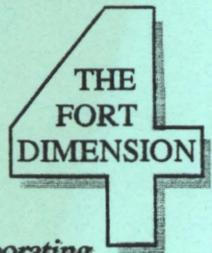


Annals

Issue 19 • Jan / Mar 1994 • £1.50



UFOs
Fortean
Bizzarrie
Paranormal
Cryptozoology



incorporating

ANNALS OF THE ENQUIRING

Fortean UFOs Paranormal
Cryptozoology Bizarrerie
Fortean UFOs Paranormal
Cryptozoology Bizarrerie

Issue #19

CONTENTS

SPECIAL THANKS

to the following contributors this issue:

Eamonn Ansbro
J Fairhurst
Stuart Benson
John Price
Marcus Matthews
Gene Duplantier

SUBMISSIONS

in the form of articles, clippings, photos, artwork etc., is always welcomed and, if used, will be acknowledged accordingly.

The opinions and views expressed by contributors to this magazine are not necessarily shared or endorsed by the Editor. Any material within these pages may be reproduced provided due credit is given the author and/or reference to ANNALS is included.

FIRST WORD - Editorial	3
UFO brief	4/5
Ulster Crop Circles	6
UFO Patterns & Predictions	7/10
Science Eye	10
The Fort Dimension	11
Animal Crackers	12/13
Strange Lands	13
Mermaid: Legend or Red Herring?	14
Nessie: Monster or Myth?	15/16
In Review	17
Cat Beast Identified	18/19
Out of Bounds	19
Amazonian Monster Hunt	20
Mighty Mollusc	20
A Devil of a Name	21
Spirit Shorts	21/22
Satanism Scares	23
Bishop Freezes "moving statues"	23

COVER PICTURE

Taken from an illustration accompanying The Sky Raiders!; a "stirring adventure yarn" that appeared in *The Gem* - a British comic published Feb 20, 1932.



FIRST WORD

EDITORIAL

EDITOR

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

Fax: (+44)
0749-670663

Issue 19
Jan/Mar
1994
Issued
Quarterly

RATES

UK:
£6 / 4 issues
International:
(Air Mail)
£9 / \$12 US
(bills)

If you are willing to consider the possibility of extra-terrestrial life; the existence of unknown creatures such as Bigfoot co-habiting with ourselves on this planet, and an alternate dimension populated by phantom beings - then where does that leave Santa?

As adults we share a common belief that the red-suited character, who can seemingly defy space and time, is no more than a childhood dream or fallacy. But what about some people who continue to have a strange encounter with the benevolent being?

A mystery man dressed in a Santa suit had been seen criss-crossing the city of Boston, in the two weeks prior to Christmas, handing out \$50 bills. The unsuspecting recipients say he stepped from a limo bearing his gift and disappeared just as quickly. A card attached to the wrapped bills read: "Yes Massachussets - there is a Santa!"

Meanwhile, Alan and Mary Barret, of Bath, Somerset, are still trying to solve the puzzle of a secret Santa Claus who brings them Christmas gifts each year. The invisible caller has left presents outside their home for the last 14 years. Alan, 62, said: "It's all good quality stuff and whoever it is seems to know our tastes".

NEXT ISSUE

Two remarkable stories:

The first concerns a retired West Country trucker who has recalled an abduction by aliens some 25 years after the event.

The second involves new evidence, which is still coming to light at this moment, that threatens to blow the 'alien' theory of the Bentwaters Case right out of the air.



The United Nations has been accused of being involved in a plot to cover-up the existence of UFOs. Demonstrators from the group *Right to Know* protested outside the UN headquarters in New York last November.

They say that governments all over the world are too scared to admit that creatures from other planets have visited Earth. The group wants the UN to confirm that extra-terrestrial life exists.

NASA's successful shuttle mission in December, involving repairs to the Hubble space telescope, carried at least one astronaut who is convinced that other life-forms exist in our Universe. Story Musgrave, 58, a veteran of spaceflights, is quoted as saying: "I try to communicate with the life that's out there. I'm serious. It is not that far out."

Musgrave, who has six college degrees and first flew in 1983 told the *Houston Post*: "When I'm circling around out there, I try in whatever ways I can to get them to come down here and get me."

Only the briefest of details, but Ceefax carried a story on November 25 relating to four people who were abducted by aliens while walking one night in Nottinghamshire. The two couples say two UFOs swooped out of the sky and none could remember what happened during the next hour.

Following hypnosis the four are reported to have told investigators they had been kidnapped in order that the curious aliens could discover more about humans.

South Yorkshire police were patting themselves on the back at Christmas after rounding up a number of radio eavesdroppers who were hoaxed by a transmission reporting the landing of a UFO near Doncaster. *Operation Marconi* was aimed at "criminals who use them to try and find out what we are doing," claimed spokeswoman Gillian Radcliffe. Up to six UFO hunters now face charges under the

Wireless Telegraphy Act.

The clampdown was the latest attempt by officers to stop the monitoring of police radio transmissions. In March of last year the authorities tried a similar scam. This time it was a flying saucer crash in a field at Appleton, Cheshire.

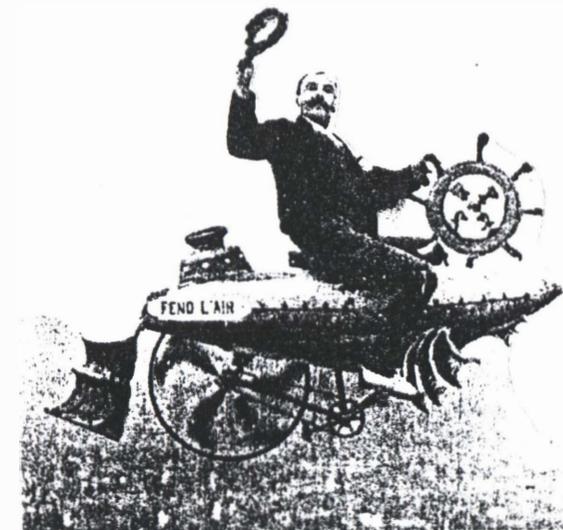
Too bad those in charge of thinking up such operations, that undoubtedly divert essential manpower from much more important matters, do not try a little harder to get the real crooks off the streets.

Did you know that in 1992 there were an estimated 500 UFO sightings and incidents in Puerto Rico alone? This small island of some three million people is currently being visited by three types of alien, according to Jorge Martin, editor of a Puerto Rican UFO magazine titled *Enigma*.

Jorge believes there is an alien base or similar facility in the area which is a major reason for the intensity of reports. The first type of alien is human-like, blonde, with blue eyes and wears tight-fitting one-piece coverall suits - sometimes of a silver or blue colour. Another visitor is human-like also, but possesses black eyes, brown skin and fair shoulder-length hair. A third form resembles the so-called 'grey' and is three or four feet tall and has a large head set with huge black eyes.

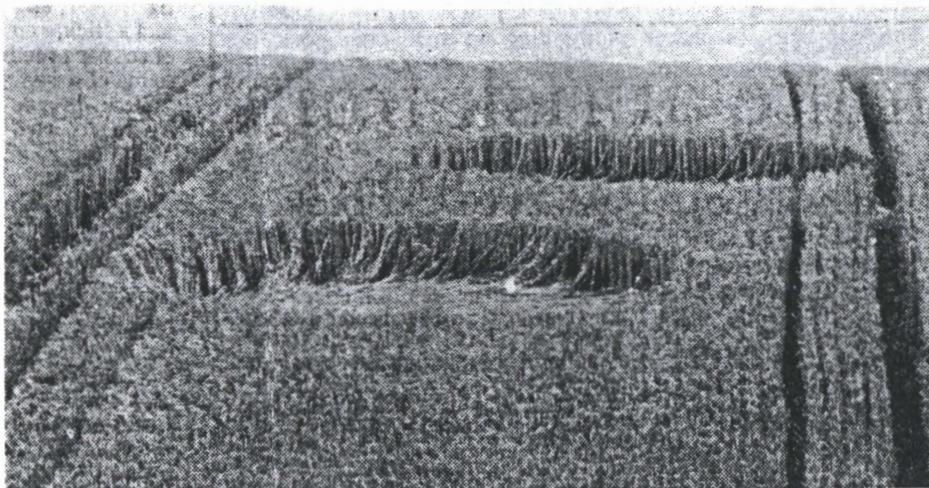
The search for alien intelligence via radio astronomy continues in the United States. At the end of 1993 scientists had logged 160 unexplained radio emissions and these will be checked later at Areceibo to determine if any can be attributed to an intelligent source.

What began as a French cult several years ago now has some 30,000 members worldwide. The Raelians are a group of people who mix Old Testament doctrine with theories regarding alien life forms. Founder Rael says his father was an extra-terrestrial and claims also to have met with other aliens himself. Rael leads the transmission of brainwaves to the aliens four times a year from his home in Canada. The province of Quebec has some 5,000 Raelians.



"Any sufficiently advanced technology is totally indistinguishable from magic."
ARTHUR C. CLARKE

Ulster's Vintage Crop Circles



These two crop circles predate the ones found last August in an Ulster farmer's field at Drumuck, Co. Antrim; which at the time were thought to have been a 'first' for the province (see *Annals Vol 4 No 4*). However, the *Mourne Observer* carried the above photograph in its August 5, 1992 edition while keeping the exact location of the circles a secret. *The Belfast Telegraph* of August 31, 1993, revealed all when it disclosed that they were located adjacent to a main road in a field at Seaforde.

EUROPE TACKLES UFOs

An EC plan to establish a European Observation Centre for UFOs is consistently running into objections - mostly from British MPs. First it was Labour Euro-leader Glyn Ford, a former senior research fellow at Manchester University, who tried and failed to get the plan thrown out. Now that the project, proposed originally by Italian Socialist MEP Tullio Regge, has been approved by a sub-committee a storm of opposition has been provoked. MP Sir Teddy Taylor says the British Government should not pay a penny towards the monitoring and investigation.

CYLINDRICAL OBJECT

A Yeovil man, Grant Turner, reported seeing a glowing cylindrical object at around 6pm in the sky above the town. He says the object travelled slowly from east to west, at an altitude of approximately 2000 feet, on the evening of December 13. It did not resemble an aircraft or a helicopter and glowed a dull red in colour. The Ufo was visible for nearly ten minutes and the incident was corroborated by a neighbour of the witness.

Researchers have tried to establish one aspect of the UFO phenomenon not at the locations where sightings have taken place, but as regards the time of their periodicity in the appearances of the UFO phenomenon. The reports of sightings are based on the time factor with possible correlation of their periodicity to types of physical interpretation that shows a similar periodicity.

It is important to differentiate between UFO "waves" and UFO "flaps", as these terms are often used by researchers. UFO "flaps" are flurries of UFO activity which can be quite intense, concentrated to localised areas of a country. However, if the whole of a country including Europe were similarly effected simultaneously, then this would be a UFO "wave". UFO "waves" tend to occur on a cyclic basis, whereas "flaps" appear to be decidedly irregular in occurrence and are probably not predictable.

It is possible to attain a distribution in the frequency of UFO observations to establish four aspects:

1. Long-term movement or tendency
2. Cyclic variations
3. Seasonal variations
4. Irregular variations (rumour)

The first study that appeared to yield some results was that of Aime Michel in his theory of Orthoteny, first published in 1958, based on the French UFO wave of October 1954. Taking the sighting accounts individually, he discovered that UFOs seemed to be employing preferential flight corridors. Michel's approach deduced that the probability that a psychological phenomenon would occur along a random alignment is zero. The existence of witnesses and the order of their succession in time and their geographical distribution in space are irrefutable objective facts. If the places where sightings have occurred are entered on a map and straight lines are found, there is no

UFO PATTERNS & PREDICTIONS

subjective stage in the reasoning and therefore the process is unassailable. It seems that 'cigars' are often seen at the points where the orthotenic lines intersect, as if these 'cigars' are collecting the 'flying saucers' that have gone off along the straight lines to explore the territory.

However, there are areas in this theory which are a matter for debate. In 1966, Dr. Jacques Vallee produced a system for giving UFO sighting places at random, based on a classic program for the production of random numbers on a computer. He showed that after 25 sighting points the probability that any isolated points remain becomes practically nil, and that the number of four-point alignments, to within 2.5 kilometres, on a map of France is already five or thirty sightings.

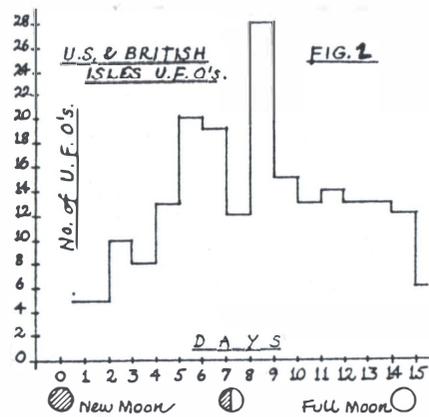
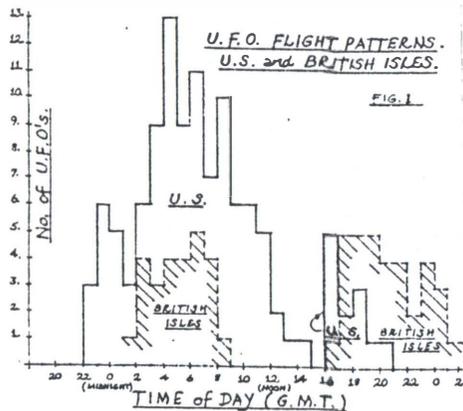
The number of alignments created by chance is consequently far from negligible, and it seems that the alignments of three or four points could all be explained in this way, if the number of sightings is big enough. Vallee emphasised moreover the effect that the accuracy of coordinates can have on the number of alignments that can be determined. But straight lines with five or six points or more have a chance probability that is virtually zero.

Both Bernard Delair in the UK in 1976 and Dr. David Saunders in the USA in 1977 have shown a ten year cycle in reports of UFOs. Delair has discovered a connection between all UFO phenomena and the sunspot cycle,

and has identified a more complex subcycle within this major phase. These peaks in the cycle relate to UFO waves, although activities do occur at all times including minimum cycle. There also appears to be a geographical link in the cycles, however this is proving to be difficult to resolve. Other researchers, Derr and Persinger in 1990 make the case for some categories of UFO reports being the result of tectonic strain.

Dr. Jacques Vallee found that, after elimination of a general tendency to long-period variations, possibly attributable to the generation of false sightings by the public, there remains a distribution of sighting which in essence pertains to the cyclic component, which is the principal unknown factor. Vallee found, after calculation and rechecking to eliminate errors, that there were two cycles, of fifteen months and twenty-six months respectively. This second figure is precisely the same as the cycle of the close approach of Mars to the Earth.

It may be coincidence that the twenty-six month period relates to the opposition of Mars - it's always possible to find some astronomical phenomena whose frequency corresponds approximately with the UFO periodicity. If there is no doubt of the fact that the UFO phenomenon makes its appearance in waves, it is certain that it also exists outside of the waves. Even with the correlation with Mars, that still would not in



U.F.O. WAVE CALCULATION.

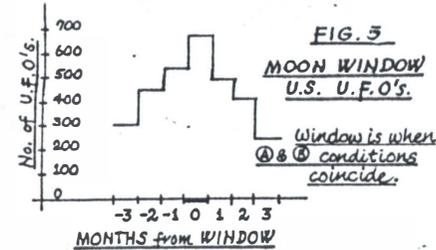
any way prove that UFOs were coming from Mars; the planet may be serving as a relay station or base for travellers who have come from another stellar system.

Assuming that UFOs are of the extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH), one would have to reason the aliens intelligence in the light of their endeavours in monitoring or investigating life on Earth. It's probable that any ET culture whom has a vested interest here, would probably travel at favourable times and use optimum flight corridors to attain the shortest economic distance in its incoming flights from space into our atmosphere.

Patterns may be extrapolated from statistics over a long period of time which may indicate reasons of intent from the alien intelligence. Even if there are patterns for one factor, that does not necessarily mean that is a possible answer to those patterns. If there were other factors that have a meaning in direct relationship with the first factor, the probability of that happening all the time must make that scenario important to further research.

Researching statistics of UFO reports of the US and United Kingdom for each year from 1947 to 1991 appears to show a correlation to important positions of the Moon and Mars. These positions appear to have a relationship to each other that is relevant to incoming

flight patterns.



The explanation of Fig. 1 is as follows: The U.S. a.m. wave (GMT) is much larger than the p.m. This is so small as to be almost negligible; however, the United Kingdom waves are nearly equal. The U.S. a.m. wave takes place when the U.S. is nearly all in total darkness, so the UFO's must be coming from the dark side of the Earth furthest from the sun. At 1700 GMT the U.S. has turned through 180 degrees, so it receives very few UFO's. The United Kingdom is equally disposed to the UFO's both a.m. and p.m., hence its waves are nearly equal.

These findings are in agreement with Mars pattern of UFO flights, when the planet is on the far side of the Earth relative to the sun (when the planet is nearest to us). We can also see from the figures the best times for seeing UFO's, i.e. 0400 and 1700 GMT (correction of 1 hour must be made for BST in the U.K.).

It is evident that the UFO's do not travel long distances in the Earth's atmosphere. However, the U.S. gets rather more UFO's in summer than in winter (average taken over 38 years) showing that the quantity of UFO's observed is not merely a matter of the thickness of the Earth's atmosphere presented to the UFO "beam", as during the summer the U.S. is tilted away from the "beam".

Information that has come from NASA Apollo space-flights has enabled us to calculate the apparent Moon UFO flights. Astronomers have for some time been observing flashes of light, obscurations and clouds of dust on the Moon's surface. These

incidents are connected with the "Moonquakes" observed by the Apollo seismometers. These effects take place when the Moon is within 3 days of the time (perigee) when it is closest to the Earth, every 27.5 days. It can be shown in Figs 2 and 3 that UFO's from the U.S. and U.K. reach a peak when the Moon is in its quarters (see Fig. 4 the shaded area). When both these two effects coincide (A and B) then the result is often a UFO wave. Let us call this coincidence of A and B a *Moon Space Window (MSW)*. This takes place every 6.5 months approximately or precisely every 0.5637 years.

We must also consider the position of Mars, which also produces UFO peaks, usually 6 to 8 weeks after an opposition (Mars Window). The coincidence of a Mars window with a Moon Space Window (MSW) in 1952 seems to have given rise to the very large number of U.S. UFO's in July and August of that year. Sometimes the Moon Space Window (MSW) is not used by the UFO's, but other dates 27.5 days (+3 days), as the Moon will still be reasonably well within the shaded area of Fig. 4. In fact for U.S. UFO's the Moon is usually rather to the right of the shaded area, about 4 days away from full Moon. Calling 27.5 days away from the Moon Space Window (MSW), a second MSW (2MSW), this took place in 1952 on July 20, where in fact there were a very large number of UFO's reported (Washington National sightings), actually on the 2MSW. However, this cannot be counted as an exact time, as the second instalment of Washington UFO's took place on July 26. The UFO's should have left the Moon on the 23rd July at the latest, giving a 3-day flight time (minimum). The optimum window for U.S. UFO's is the second, 27.5 days from the first, bearing in mind that they seem to travel an oblique path, asymmetry of U.S. UFO's, rather than a right-angled one in the case of United Kingdom UFO's.

In the Daily Flight Patterns (DFP), it is shown the UFO's travelling directly from,

Mars, as the Moon information was not then available. As the DFP shows a 12 hour interval, this provides clear evidence of the Moon connection; but one may well ask, why 12 and not 24 hours? The solution seems to be that the oblique travelling UFO's are the most numerous (the U.S. and South American in particular) and if flights were only every 24 hours, then some parts of the world would receive no UFO's. This would happen in the case of countries 180 degrees longitude from the U.S., for the UFO's would then have to travel right round the Earth.

The possibility of prediction must naturally be the most interesting feature of the situation, though of course there is no certain guarantee that UFO's will adhere to the same pattern. Predictions for future waves using the Moon Space Window (MSW) are shown below. The 2 MSW's (less likely for the United Kingdom) appear at 27.5 days (+3 days) on either side of this date. Account has to be taken for flight times, this means adding 3 days. One would have to check dates of perigee of Moon in order to make the necessary calculation.

MOON SPACE WINDOW (MSW)	MSW and MARS WINDOW
21 Sep. 1993	
14 Apr. 1994	Nov/Dec 1994
7 Nov. 1994	
1 Jun. 1995	
21 Dec. 1995	
15 Jul. 1996	
7 Feb. 1997	Jan/Feb. 1997

References:

1. Aime Michel: *Mysterieux Objects Celestes* (Ed. Arthaud, Paris, 1968).
2. Jacques and Janine Vallee: *Les Phenomenes Insolites de l'Espace*: Editions La Table Ronde, Paris, 1966.
3. Dr D.Saunders: *Spatio-Temporal Invariant for Major UFO Waves*: BUDC Bulletin, March 1977.
4. J.B.Delair: *On UFO Waves and Their Possible Future Prediction*: UFO Register, Contact UK, 1976.
5. J.S. Derr, M.A. Persinger: *Luminous Phenomena and Seismic Energy in the Central United States*: *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, 1990, 4 (1), pp. 55-69.
6. UFOCAT counts of Unexplained Primary Entries by month, 1947 to 1991 for British Isles and United States. 1993.



Scientists in America have made a breakthrough in producing what could be the power of the future. It's the same system that powers the Sun - and unlike nuclear fusion - which is used in power stations - it produces almost no radioactive waste.

Using nuclear fusion, the scientists at Princeton University, New Jersey, produced 5.6 million watts of electricity - a new world record. It is regarded as a potentially limitless source of power. However, they had to use four times as much electricity to produce the 300 million degrees Celsius needed for the experiment.

.....
 Meanwhile, British scientists believe they may have solved one of the greatest mysteries in the universe ... What it is made of. Astronomers in Edinburgh say they can now explain the vast area simply known as dark matter.

After studying thousands of photo's they believe almost all of it consists of black holes and planets that are invisible from Earth. They say this explains why the universe weighs so much more than the mass of the visible objects.

.....
 Astronomers have come up with new evidence that black holes exist. Black Holes are one of the most intriguing phenomena in the universe and not much is really known about them. It's believed they are stars so heavy that they've collapsed, leaving a hole that can suck in everything within reach - even light.

Now, photo's taken in a galaxy 40 million light years away show what scientists believe is an entrance to a black hole.

.....
 Scientists seem to be busy people. Now more of them claim to have discovered the largest prime number ever found. The mega-figure has 258,716 digits in it and it would fill eight sheets of newspaper.

Prime numbers are ones which can only be divided by themselves or 1. Simple examples include 2,3,5,7 and 11. A super-computer was used to calculate this new prime number.

The Fort Dimension
 is a column dedicated to the memory of
 that great Victorian visionary, Charles
 Fort. An American whose research and
 questioning approach to the strange
 phenomena of his time has ensured that
 he remains an influence on our
 tomorrows.



Raining Cats and Frogs! - J Fairhurst

OVER THE LAST hundreds of years there have been many reports of the rain depositing objects from the skies. *The Times*, Saturday June 17, 1939, contained the following report from Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

"Trowbridge has been visited by a shower of frogs which apparently fell for a few seconds within a restricted space.

Mr E Etllee, superintendent of the Municipal Swimming Pool, said that at about 4.40 pm in the afternoon, a heavy shower of rain came on and he ran for shelter. As he was running, he heard sounds as if lumps of mud were falling behind him.

"I turned," he said "and was amazed to see hundreds of tiny frogs falling on the concrete paths surrounding the pool. It was all over in a few seconds but there must have been thousands of these tiny frogs, each about the size of the top of one's fingernail. I swept them up and shovelled them into a bucket."

Mr Etllee said that he found later that hundreds more had fallen on the grass on the sunbathing terrace and these were destroyed with a chemical.

"A few of the frogs fell into the pool but it was quite easy to remove them. Had the main batch fallen into the pool, it would have had to be emptied."

Earlier, in 1927, people in Selsey, Sussex, reported that a sudden shower had deposited thousands of tiny frogs hopping around enthusiastically, full of bounce and go. One of the witnesses claimed that they came down like hailstones. Tadpoles dropped on the Wiltshire town of Chippenham in 1983 and pink frogs were reported as having descended on Stroud, Gloucestershire in 1987.

The following appeared in the *Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel*: "Shortly after 5.30 pm on Saturday evening, writes our Stone correspondent, there was a curious happening in the town of Stone. The sky started to 'rain' hay - or was it clover? - and continued to do so for several minutes over a wide area and as far as anyone could see in any direction.

The hay fell from a tremendous height. It could be seen coming out of a bank of dark clouds and it came down, some of it, in spiral form and some in the shape of parachutes."

How are these phenomena explained? One gentleman from Kettering, Northants told how, as a boy, he saw a dark whirlwind rushing towards him picking up straw as it came. Suddenly it stopped and deposited thousands of small frogs all over him. It is believed that whirlwinds and tornados are more frequent than is believed and may number up to 50 each year. When they pass over a pond and small lakes they can vacuum up these small creatures. The small animals can stay suspended in the air and can be carried for miles before being deposited.

What cannot be explained is how they survive without hurt during the voyage to the ground.

Animal Crackers



FISHERMEN have rescued a dog swimming in the Pacific Ocean more than four miles off the Queensland coast in Australia. No-one knows how the alsation came to be so far out at sea but customs officials fear the four-year-old bitch might have fallen overboard from a passing foreign ship. (Source: *Belfast Telegraph-Dec 4/93*)

IT took three police cars and a dozen policemen to apprehend a wild boar which ran amok through Japan's ancient capital, Kyoto. The animal collided with a moving taxi and then bumped into a 67-year-old woman before police cornered it in a sports field. (Source: *Belfast Telegraph-Nov 6/93*)

A stowaway African cat which jumped on to a pilot's lap during a flight to Britain could be getting a ticket home. The jet-setting puss appeared at 30,000 feet during the 10-hour trip between Zimbabwe and Gatwick. Aircrew feared the cat might cause a short-circuit but were unable to catch it. After landing at Gatwick and causing a 12-hour delay to the return flight, the intruding tom was lured out by the RSPCA and ground staff using a plate of mince (should that have been 'mice'?-ed).

A spokesman said: "It is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food." (Source: *Belfast Telegraph-Aug 31/93*)

ALL the guests who admired a young cow at Clay and Pat Oeser's wedding reception must undergo vaccinations after the heifer died from rabies. The Oeser's showed off the year-old cow named Tiffany at their reception at their rural home near Canajoharie, 50 miles from Albany, New York. (Source: *Belfast Telegraph-Dec 4/93*)

AN escaped budgie found his way home after two weeks by speaking out his name and address, the daily Tokyo Shimbun reported. Housewife Teruko Tsuyukubo's budgerigar Pico-chan (Little Pico) flew out of the front door in mid-September when a visitor opened it. Three days later he flew into a petrol stand 20 miles away and landed on the shoulder of an attendant, who gave him to a neighbour to look after. When his strength returned the eloquent bird chirped out his name and the area he lived in. (Source: *Belfast Telegraph-Oct 1/93*)

A woman found her hire car came complete with an unwelcome optional extra - a 3 foot long South American snake. The boa-constrictor slithered along the windshield as she was driving on the A1 near Catterick in North Yorkshire. The woman pulled over and phoned the police but by the time officers arrived the snake had disappeared into the ventilation system. It was later recovered by the car-hire manager. (Source: *Ceefax-Oct 10/93*)

A monk in Thailand is trying to sell his cat - for £4 million. Sirimongkol is a snow-white Siamese cat with one completely blue eye. Her owner says many people have offered to buy her, as Thai people think blue-eyed cats are lucky. But, not surprisingly, no one has been willing to pay what he wants. (Source: *Ceefax-Nov 25/93*)

A boy testing his new fishing rod landed an unexpected catch, an 28-cm (11-inch) piranha, the South American flesh-eating fish. Since eight-year-old Michael McManus caught the fish, state department officials have received five other unconfirmed reports of piranha in the Prince George's County pond at Bowie, Md.

DNR officials planned to electrically stun fish in the pond to see if any other piranhas were present. Spokesman John Verrico suspects Michael's catch was a discarded pet. (Source: *Toronto Sun-May14/93*)

TWO cars of armed Russian police went to an emergency call and shot a stray cow attacking a woman and child in Yarostavl. The news agency ITAR-Tass said: "Nine shots stopped the aggressor". (Source: *Teletex3-Jan 17/94*)

A policeman with a submachine-gun killed an African lion that escaped from a travelling circus in the city of Maloyaroslavets, 60 miles from Moscow. (Source: *Teletex3-Jan 20/94*)

Strange Lands

Somerset County Herald - March 3, 1849

A French physician established at Vera Paz, who besides practising medicine, has the charge of extensive farming operations, upon making some excavations undertaken with the view of forming a canal through which to carry his produce to the sea, discovered at the bottom of the Bay of Honduras, a opening of a monumental canal 75 metres wide (about 240 feet) and running in a straight line towards the south west, its sides being constructed of enormous stones rudely cut. The two walls, which continued parallel, had been followed to the distance of several leagues. Having reached the foot of the mountains, where the volcano of Fuego is now in activity, and having cut away huge trees that obstructed the entrance, they passed under a vault of 106 metres in height and of the same width as the canal. Nothing among the ancient cyclopean structures of ancient Greece could give an adequate idea of the tremendous masonry of the walls of this vault. The canal was filled with salt water 20 metres deep.

Embarking with some in a pitegue, 18 hours afterwards he entered the great ocean (Pacific) between Guatemala and San Salvador through an immense natural grotto, called by the fishermen of that coast the Devil's mouth, which superstition had prevented them from ever entering. The whole vaulted part of this superhuman structure was lighted by shafts cut through to the surface above and through its whole extent it is navigable for the largest ships.

Bewildered residents of a Russian port watched on in amazement as the sea caught fire last August. The incident happened in Tikhaya harbour, near Vladivostock, which is in the far east of the Russian republic. Experts believe that the blaze was caused by oil pollution in the water - a serious problem in the area.

A doting dad's letter in a bottle has turned up 51 years after it was dropped into the sea. Gunner Bill McKennie penned the note to daughter Nola, 11, as he sailed the Indian Ocean to war in Egypt from Fremantle, Australia, in 1942.

Nola, now a nursing sister in Sydney, was traced after the bottle was found on a South Australia beach 23 years after Bill died. (Source: *Today-Oct 16/93*)

MERMAID: Legend or Red Herring?

AROUND 2000 people gathered on the Hong Kong waterfront during October last in order to see a fishing boat return with an unusual catch.

The excitement was caused by a local fisherman who had radioed to shore saying he had caught a mermaid! He described the creature as having human-like hair, a pointy face and no arms or legs.

However, the crowd was in for a disappointment as the fisherman never did return with his mysterious haul. The man was not the first and undoubtedly he won't be the last to make such claims either.

A Cairo newspaper in 1973 reported that an Arab fisherman had found a mermaid with an upper half like a fish and the lower part like a woman.

In 1961 the Isle of Man Tourist Board offered a £500 prize to the first angler to catch a mermaid, but it had to be landed by net rather than hook.

Irish newspapers reported in 1937 the return of the Merman of Connemara. They said two fishermen "gave him a mackerel, which he appreciated so much he tried to climb into their boat".

In 1936 a Kettering steelworker gave away a mermaid he said had cast a bad spell over his family for 150 years. An X-ray proved it to be a monkey and fish. In the year prior to that an issue of the Sunday Chronicle recorded the finding

of the mummified body of a mermaid-like creature which was being advertised by a London dealer as "The Eighth Wonder of the World".

Victorian peep-shows featured some gruesome fakes, including malformed foetuses, contraptions of wood and wire and taxidermists' creations of ape and fish skins.

As recently as 1974 council officials in Brighton donned black hats to bury the remains of the town's 130-year-old "mermaid". It was said to be definitely a fish.

So, is the legend of the mermaid simply nothing more than a Red Herring? A number of mammals may have contributed to the myth.

The manatee may have nurtured the tale, with its human-like bosom and a tail that resembles a whale.

The dugong, a slow-moving sea-cow, with near human features sometimes draped in the seaweed it browses on, has also been blamed for the legend. The siren-like calls adding to the legend.



RESULTS of the five-month long survey of Loch Ness, sponsored by the Discovery Channel last summer, were shown in its special program on November 28.

Loch Ness Discovered was a major scientific investigation into the whole, remarkable ecological system of the famous Scottish freshwater loch - one of the least studied but most astonishing natural habitats in Europe.

A group of leading scientists kept a professionally open mind about Nessie, while the program itself included several interviews by leading psychologist Dr Susan Blackmore with people who claim to have seen the monster.

Film and photographs of famous sightings were also examined and state-of-the-art computer systems used in order to enhance the older images, with some intriguing results.

Since the 6th century more than 3,000 people claim to have seen the water monster - from monks to policemen and even a Nobel Prize winner. Such sightings have often taken place in the water close to Urquhart Castle, situated on the North side of the loch.

The incident last June, when Edna MacInnes (25) watched an animated object on the loch surface for some ten minutes, was also featured. At the time she was accompanied by her boyfriend when during the evening they both spotted the light-brown body of a creature with an 8m neck similar to that of a giraffe.

That same night and time another witness, Lorraine Davidson whose home overlooks the loch, saw a large wake some half-a-mile long in the water. Her sighting also lasted about 10 minutes, during which she could see something

Nessie

MONSTER or MYTH?

that appeared to be protruding from the water.

Father and son James Mackintosh Snr and Jnr were driving along the loch shore road at about the same time when they too were witness to a similar sighting. Again a giraffe-like neck was observed some six-feet out of the water that caused a wake to develop.

The dark and foreboding nature of Loch Ness has been translated by some people into a monster, according to Dr Blackmore.

"People are very certain about things that they should not really be certain about," she reported, "Because that is what happens as people tell and retell accounts."

Dr Blackmore believes that witnesses to any unexplained phenomena remember the way their brain has saved an economical version of events. And then in subsequent recounting such versions become increasingly clear and precise.

"You don't remember how things actually appeared to you at the time," she added.

A big surprise was the fact that Loch Ness had a greater fish population than was previously thought. A study in 1972 theorized there were 3 tons of fish - sufficient to support a higher predator.

In reality there are an estimated 27 tons of fish - which has major implications for those who believe in the existence of a breeding population of water monsters.

The famous 1954 surgeon photograph of

the monster was submitted to computer enhancement. What was discovered to be present in all copies of the photograph was the presence of a tiny white object. This was located in such a position relative to the creature's head as to almost give the impression of towing it along.

In another photograph, however, composite overlaying of the same picture actually revealed what appeared to be large flippers or fins projecting from the dark shape of a body. Something that was totally hidden from investigators until now.

Disappointingly, while a previous sonar survey had revealed the location of mysterious 'footprints' on the loch bed, a underwater robot camera zeroed in only to discover and record one old

wheelbarrow.

Whilst this latest investigation has ended, tourists with a spare £70 can book an hour-long trip on a submersible and descend 230 metres to the bottom of the loch.

Adverts for the trip, which say 'Join our professional crew on the ultimate monster-hunt,' appeared recently in the specialist magazine Diver.

The vessel, formerly used in offshore work, has been adapted to carry six passengers and a pilot and is equipped with powerful lights and large viewing ports.

Adrian Shine, who heads the Loch Ness project, which has a laboratory at the official monster exhibition, said he was looking forward to using the sub early this year to study the loch's marine life.

A festival in a village in the Slovak Republic is likely to be a spirited occasion - because ghosts are invited to join in. Humans are also allowed to come along to the first International Ghost Festival. It is being held in April in Bojnice. The villagers hope to attract tourists and people who are interested in the supernatural. The organiser, Jan Papco, says he's contacted a local ghost, the Black Lady, and she's agreed to appear.

An American has asked historians to help him find some treasure he buried in Wales - in a previous life! James Bethe from Arizona has never been to the Gower peninsula in West Wales, but says he saw himself there while under hypnosis. He says he buried a casket full of gold and jewels in the area at the beginning of the last century. Bethe adds that in his past life he fought in the Napoleonic wars and died when he was shot at Waterloo.

Three crowbar-wielding thieves fled a monastery empty handed when they were confronted by a hooded apparition. The raiders were trying to force a safe off a wall at 4 am when their torch beam picked up the wraith-like figure of a monk, his face hidden in shadow. The trio shrieked in terror and fled.

Father Jerome, 62, was on his way to give the last rights to a parishoner. Creeping along so as not to wake the other monks at Belmont Abbey, Hereford, he rounded a corner and came face to face with the thieves. They were so startled they ran off leaving the crowbars they had taken from the garden shed. (Source: Today-Jan 20/94)

NEXUS - A wide subject matter that includes UFOs, unexplained, alternative and suppressed news, future science and a great deal more. This Australian magazine is well worth the subscription. Now published simultaneously in the U.S.

•74pp A4 - 6 issues pa - £2.50 ea/US\$40 pa UK (6 issues). Editor: Duncan M. Roads-Nexus PO Box 30, Mapleton Qld 4560, Australia.

THE CEREALOGIST - New editor George Wingfield bemoans the current state of crop circle studies in his Autumn 1993 issue. His editorial subheadings 'Under siege' and 'Disenchantment' sum up much of last year's 'motley bunch of formations', as expressed in James Chapman's review for 1993.

•28pp A4 - £2.50 ea/£7.50 pa (3 issues). Editor: George Wingfield - The Cerealogist/Specialist Knowledge Services, St Aldhelm, 20 Paul Street, Frome, Somerset BA11 1DX.

ENIGMAS - Strange phenomena is its meat and potatoes. The Nov/Dec 1993 issue includes an interview with Linda Moulton Howe (American cattle mutilation investigator) and part 2 of Rex Gilroy's 'Man-Apes of Eastern Australia'. Enigmas' editor also receives some of the strangest mail you will ever read (see the article 'Does anybody care?').

•44pp A5 - £2.00 ea/£10 pa (5 issues). Editor: Malcolm Robinson - Enigmas, 41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, FK10 2TT, Scotland.

COSMOLOGY NEWS - A good percentage of the Winter 1993 issue has been assembled by a straight reproduction of news clippings. These are of the Ufo/Psychic variety and no doubt essential to the inveterate collector of such facts. Its editor was all for ceasing publication in a few issues but readers supported its continuation. Edward Harris also edits and produces the World UFO Journal and has decided that CN should carry less on Ufo's and more on Astronomy and space.

•24pp A4 - Exchange only/Editor: Edward Harris, 16 Newton Green, Great Dunmow, Essex CM6 1DU.

FORESIGHT - A unpretentious little mag that also includes reprints of news clippings on Ufo's, conspiracy, occult etc; plus snippets of information



designed to make you think and ponder.

•14pp A5 - 49p inc p&p ea/£1.99 (4 issues). Editor: John W.B. Barklam, 44 Brockhurst Road, Hodge Hill, Birmingham B36 8JB.

NORTHERN UFO NEWS - I've said it all before: If you want updates on new sightings in the UK, plus a glimpse at the Ufo world of Britain's busiest and best known investigator, then this is the magazine for you.

•20pp A5 - £1.25ea/£7 pa (6 issues). Editor: Jenny Randles, 37 Heathbank Road, Cheadle Heath, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 0UP.

THE CROP WATCHER - Has consistently adopted a more reasoned approach - unlike some. Relishes in revealing the shortcomings of the 'believers'. While circles may be media 'old hat', TCW still manages to cram acres of information on all aspects of the subject, into each issue.

•36pp A4 - £1.50 ea/£9.00 pa (6 issues). Editor: Paul Fuller, The Crop Watcher, 3 Selbourne Court, Tavistock Close, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 7TY.

THE GATE - Covers all the mysteries via press clippings and short articles in a neat style interspersed by nice graphics. Always carries something you will have missed elsewhere.

•20pp A5 - \$2.00ea/\$10 o/seas pa (4 issues). Editor: Beth Robbins, The Gate, PO Box 43516, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143. USA.

ALIEN SCRIPTURE - In the first issue, editor Kevin McClure begins by explaining what his magazine is not and then spells out for the reader just how different it is from the multitude of Ufo, Fortean, psychic magazines that abound. In this and subsequent issues we will join the search for contact with Non-Human Intelligences. Indeed, while it may embrace all of the above subjects it truly is "a search (that) might take us anywhere".

•29pp A5 - £2.00ea/£7.50 pa (4 issues). Editor: Kevin McClure, Alien Scripture, 42 Victoria Road, Mount Charles, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4QD.

CAT BEAST IDENTIFIED

In Devon a mysterious creature dubbed The Beast of Exmoor is thought responsible for the deaths of hundreds of sheep and deer since 1983.

Now what may be the same creature has been filmed on Bodmin Moor, in the neighbouring county of Cornwall, by moorland farmer Rosemary Rhodes who captured a large black creature on video tape. Animal experts who have studied the evidence confirm that it is either a puma or a black leopard.

Mrs Rhodes has been obsessed with catching the beast ever since sheep were mysteriously killed on her land more than three years ago. Just two hours after buying a video camera last December she succeeded in filming the creature as it walked through a gully just 200 yards away.

London Zoo's big cat expert Douglas Richardson says Mrs Rhodes' video pictures are the most conclusive evidence so far that the beast exists. From the way the animal is seen moving on the film it is identified as a black leopard from South east Asia.

"The body shape and the way the animal is carrying itself makes me pretty sure it is a black leopard," says Mr Richardson. "They are slightly larger than a labrador dog and are extremely adaptable. They will adjust to the

moorland terrain as well as to the climate. The animals seem to be doing very well especially if there have been sightings with cubs."

While there have been many sightings, from Cornwall to Somerset, it does not mean that there are very many beasts because black leopards travel long distances - as far as 40 miles in a night.

Reader Marcus Matthews, of Crockerton, near Warminster, Wiltshire, wrote advising me last October of puma reports near Frome, Somerset.

Marcus, who has been studying and gathering information on such reports for some considerable time, believes that the creature is living off deer in the woods around Chantry/Mells.

This is particularly interesting to me as I travel that road from Wells to Frome almost daily; while the only creature I have spotted in nearly three years has been one deer. I can confirm a thriving deer population in the area, however, as several years ago I took a hot-air balloon flight over that area of Somerset.

At nearby Clay Hill, Warminster, a creature the size of a labrador dog, with a long tail and small round head, was spotted at 2 am one morning late last year, adds Marcus. While on nearby Salisbury Plain there have been reports of a black big cat being seen, plus a lynx-like cat on the Wiltshire downs.

On the night of October 26 a woman was walking her dog on the remote moorland of Cornwall's Bodmin Moor when she was knocked unconscious by a mysterious attacker.

The incident occurred around midnight and when she awoke found her dog standing beside her growling and

defending her. Approximately 30-feet in front of her was what the woman described as "a very large, dark-coloured, cat-like creature," a Devon and Cornwall police spokesman said later.

"The animal was stalking her. She described it as having lower front legs. The tail was about three to four feet in length and curled upwards. It made a grunting noise," the spokesman added. In late November teenage Sea Cadets based at Millpool, had the Beast of Bodmin in their gunsights but couldn't shoot the cat-like creature because it strayed outside a Royal Navy firing range.

"It was jet black, about 4ft long and had a 4ft tail," said Sub Lt Neil Jones. "It also looked well fed."

The cadets, from Truro, Cornwall, watched the beast for about 15 minutes. "It stalked in quite a distinctive way," said Mr Jones. "It certainly wasn't a domestic cat or even a large dog."

These accounts are just the latest in a series of reported sightings of exotic creatures not traditionally associated with the British countryside.

If the main culprit is a puma (or pumas) then they are far from their natural habitat - this covers the whole American continent from Alaska to Patagonia.

Large pumas could live well on 70 to 90 deer a year and sightings across the moors of Britain follow deer migrations.

It is believed some of these animals belonged to unscrupulous pet owners who released the creatures into the countryside after the 1976 Dangerous Animals Act meant all 'big' cats had to be registered.

Reports continue to surface each year and from many different parts of the country, which suggests such animals are

breeding successfully.

Here are some brief accounts:

- * 1960's + Surrey - various sightings of so-called Surrey Puma.
- * July 1988 Hayling Island - dead swamp cat found.
- * April 1990 Cambridgeshire - Fen Tiger spotted and identified.
- * July 1990 Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire - "panther" observed.
- * March 1992 Derbyshire Peak District - various sightings including an Alsatian-sized creature which apparently came through Kathleen Topliff's catflap (some catflap - ed) and bit her hand.
- * 1992 Hampstead North London - businessmen spotted a "labrador-sized golden brown cat" climbing a tree.
- * Wales - many reports especially around Pembroke and Port Talbot.
- * Worcestershire - sightings near Kidderminster

Sources: Western Daily Press-Oct 28/93; Today-Nov 24/93; Sunday Independent-Dec 12/93; BBC TV/Radio; Marcus Matthews.

Out Of Bounds

HOUDINI, a three-year-old wallaby, has been roaming the Quantock hills in Somerset since going over the wire at a wildlife park in Washford, near Minehead, last summer.

The animal has since been seen mingling with a flock of sheep on a farm a couple of miles away. So far he has eluded all attempts to net him.

Six other wallabies escaped from a wildlife centre on the other side of Exmoor more than two years ago. The creatures made a dash for freedom after thieves left open the gates of Exmoor bird gardens, and are now living on one of the remotest parts of the moor, where, say wildlife experts, there is little chance of them ever being caught.

Such incidents are not new, of course. In my own files I have accounts of escaping kangaroos such as one near Dorking in October 1850!

AMAZONIAN MONSTER HUNT

A shaggy beast, reckoned to be the size of a 280lb man, is said to stalk the Amazonian rain forest.

The creature has been launching dawn attacks on unsuspecting villagers. It rips the heads off its victims and disappears again with their bodies tucked under its arm.

So far it has escaped capture but an American biologist based in Brazil plans to mount a full-scale expedition in February to track the red-haired animal down. David Oren believes it is a species of giant ground sloth which was considered to be extinct more than 10,000 years ago.

Tribesmen and farmers have named the creature mapinguari - after the apparent "mouth in its belly". Oren believes the strange organ is really a gland which releases foul-smelling gas to deter enemies.

Thanks to Agent Orange?

WILDLIFE experts have confirmed that an extremely rare species of rhinoceros is living in the jungles of Vietnam.

The one-horned rhino was once believed to be no more than an Vietnamese myth. But a herd of about ten of the animals has been discovered in the country's Lam Dong province.

Conservationists are calling for the creation of a nature reserve in Vietnam to save the rhinos from extinction.

The Worldwide Fund for Nature has just classified an animal also found in Vietnam.

Looking like a cross between a horse, an antelope and an ox, it evolved 10 million years ago but was said to be extinct.



MIGHTY MOLLUSC

Groundsman Frazer Jepson discovered this monstrous ten-inch mollusc as he walked on the beach at Woolacombe Bay Holiday Centre, North Devon, during last October

Frazer gave it to his mother, Angela, to look after and both were surprised when it refused its normal diet of vegetation and instead favoured a bite of chicken.

(Source: Western Daily Press-Oct 14/93)

A DEVIL OF A NAME

A vicar refused to baptise a baby Damien because he claims the name is associated with the devil. The Rev Clive Kirke told the child's mother Gaynor Brennan to choose another name, rather than that of the child in the film *The Omen*. He added: "Damien is a demon's name."

Rev Kirke, vicar of St Andrew's Church, Litherland, Merseyside, said he asked the mother why she wanted to call him that and she said because it suited him.

"She implied he was a little devil and in many cases the name Damien is associated with demons."

Gaynor and her partner Colin had their baby baptised at a nearby church last November, where the vicar raised no objections.

Said vicar Andrew Scaife: "I have no objections. Damien is a good Christian name. ...There was a famous Father Damien from the last century who helped lepers in South Africa."

(Source: Today/CeeFax-Nov 11/93)

* Saint Damian, a 4th century Turkish physician is the patron saint of doctors.



Unpredictable

Fed-up Paulo Gallici pumped three bullets into fortune teller Mario Montebruno in Polenza, Italy - because he did not like his predictions. Police said: "Unfortunately Mario didn't see it coming." (Source: Daily Record-Scotland-Aug 17/93)

Kill Or Cure

The Argentine government has banned the import of Mexican holy water, claiming it could cause cholera. (Source: Teletex.3-Aug 18/93)

Spirited Defence

An Australian pig farmer who said he was trying to exorcise satanic spirits from his wife when she died has been cleared of manslaughter charges due to lack of evidence.

Ralph Vollmer, 55, and three other defendants testified during a four-day hearing that a demon killed Mrs Volmer, 49, as it left her body on January 30, 1993. (Source: Belfast Telegraph-Sept 18/93)

Psychic Investigation

Detectives probing the murder of Mid-Glamorgan couple Harry and Megan Tooze took the option of calling in a psychic. Sussex-based clairvoyant Jenny Croft, who has helped other forces solve murders, was in South Wales last October attending a psychic fair. The police requested she visit the murder scene in an effort to further their investigations.

Hell's Cop Cracks

A Bangkok traffic policemen stationed at the

city's worse crossroads, nicknamed Hell Intersection, was diagnosed as suffering from severe mental illness, newspaper reports said. The overstressed cop was taken to hospital after switching all the lights green and dancing amid the ensuing chaos. (Source: *Belfast Telegraph-Oct 13/93*)

Wacky Doctor

A Cairo doctor who persuaded a woman she was possessed by evil spirits beat her to death with a rod while attempting exorcism last November.

Spell (re)Bound

Kenya's only licensed witch hunter has died - after somebody allegedly put an evil spell on him. Tsuma Washe, 54, had a Government permit to hunt down witchdoctors who were credited with having magical powers.

Since getting the job in 1980 he is reported to have denounced hundreds of victims. Some were lynched by neighbours. (Source: *Belfast Telegraph-Nov 2/93*)

666

Priest John Rona has been fined £25 in Cebu, Philippines, for refusing to display his car licence plate because it include 666 - the mark of the Beast. (Source: *News of the World-Nov 28/93*)

Satan of Swansea

Churchgoers handed a 500-signature petition to Swansea City Council in January, urging the removal of a statue of the Devil.

Swansea City Mission said the figure, fixed to a wall at the entrance to the Quadrant shopping centre, caused them great offence.

Old Flame

At the Saltergate Inn near Whitby, the fire has been kept burning for the last 198 years as a symbol of respect and fear of the Devil. Legend says if the fire goes out the Devil

will appear and now the Inn's owners are having difficulty meeting the huge fuel bills.

Witch Report

An elderly woman accused of being a witch was ruthlessly beaten in January by residents of an eastern Indian village after she failed to revive a dead infant. She was rescued by police.

Hand of God

God saved a Swiss driver from punishment when he was caught speeding in Geneva. The motorist, a religious fanatic, told the police: "God was driving my car. I was on my way to buy condoms to stop an Aids epidemic."

He refused to give evidence until the court allowed him to call God as a witness. The prosecution has now been dropped. (Source: *Belfast Telegraph-Dec 10/93*)

Joke's On Him

Parish councillors have refused to allow a joke epitaph on hairdresser Keith Woodward's headstone.

Mr Woodward, who died last April after a long battle with heart trouble, told his wife Jane he wanted the words 'I told them I was ill' inscribed in his memory. But officials in the village of Shrivenham, Wiltshire, where his ashes are buried, ruled the wording was 'not acceptable'. (Source: *Daily Mail-Jan 13/94*)

Unforgiving

Former soldier Ron Davies is locked in an unholy row with a vicar over three letters on his father's headstone.

The Rev Brian Green has banned the late Ivor Davies's headstone from his churchyard at Tidenham, near Chepstow, because it has the letters RIP on it. Ron said: "I don't know why he doesn't like it. God may be forgiving, but this man isn't." (Source: *Teletex3-Jan 14/94*)

Robert the Bruce's family could at last get lucky again. That is if they are freed from an ancient curse. Misfortune is said to have dogged the Bruces since the 18th century. The family of the former Scottish king were cursed by a priest after a clan member smashed a church symbol. On September 20, 1993, a cleansing ceremony was to be performed in the Bruce family vault at St Margaret's, Westminster. More than 40 members of the family from all over the world had accepted invitations to be there. (Source: *Daily Record [Scotland]-Sept 20/93*)

SATANISM SCARES

The discovery of a stone mound, said to resemble an altar, in an overgrown field near Ballyshannon, has stirred up the fears of Black Magic rituals in this Irish town. While Superintendent John Duffy at the local Garda station said he had no hard facts to back up the rumour, he confirmed that a mound of stones had been found at the centre of the field and the body of a dead crow lay nearby.

Local priest Fr Dermot Britton remarked: "There is a holy well in the area and around August time these take on particular significance. There are holy wells all over Ireland and they do at times attract strange practices," he said.

A month later a similar devil-worshipping scare gripped the residents of Ballymoney, in Northern Ireland. Many believe that a satanist ring is operating there, with incidents having taken place since last June.

Some locals are claiming that savage acts of cruelty committed against animals and birds in the Riverside Park were carried out by such people.

In one case two ducks from a pond in the park were found hanging from a fence. Police are investigating the discovery of a skinned cat there in September, although councillor Charlie O'Kane thinks there could have been as many as three skinned cats in the vicinity of the park.

Residents claim that a satanist symbol was drawn in the earth in the park and candles were found scattered around the scene.

Added councillor O'Kane: "One woman said she saw a young goat being shepherded into the park in the early hours of the morning.

"There is a lot of concern in the local community about this and there have been more incidents than the ones reported."

The RUC, however, affirmed that "there is no evidence whatsoever" that the killing of the cat and the graffiti were connected."

(Sources: *Belfast Telegraph - Sept 3 & Oct 2/93*)

Bishop Freezes "moving statues"

THE "moving statues" phenomenon has cropped up again in Ireland and this time a Bishop is calling for them to slow down.

The latest apparition has been reported from the little village of Inchigeela in West Cork, the scene of some of the most spectacular reports of moving statues in the late 80s.

This time an 18-year-old girl has reported a vision at the grotto and promised a reappearance later in the month of August, 1993. Then along came another woman who saw the same vision, only this time wearing a different colour of clothing.

But the secretary of the Irish Episcopal Conference, Bishop Michael Smith, has called on people to be "very cautious and circumspect" about the claims. It was part of human nature to seek certainty about one's faith, he said but added: "The Lord doesn't make things that easy."

(Source: *Belfast Telegraph-Aug 26/93*)



A Purple People Eater Production © 1993