

GEMINI

Vol 1 No 4

The twin UFO journal



Did a UFO rip up a tennis court ?

See 'The South African flap'



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The twin UFO journal
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Editor Mark Stenhoff
Managing Editors Norman T Oliver
C David Oakley-Hill

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Directors Norman T Oliver Mark Stenhoff C David Oakley-Hill
Subscriptions Sylvia Shaw
Registered office 95 Taunton Road London SE12 8PA
Subscription address 20A Dyke Road Brighton BN1 3JA Sussex
Telephones 01-852 7653 01-856 6994 01-850 4528

Consultants
Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard KCB CBE MA
Dr Geoffrey G Doel MRCS LRCP DMRE
Alan J Watts BSc FRMetS
Rev Fred O Gardner FRGS FIEC
Dr John Cleary-Baker PhD
John A C Reynolds BSc
Robert A M Chapman
Lucius Farish
Eric Livingstone
W Raymond Drake
Frank M Morton
Richard Farrow

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GEMINI letterform: C David Oakley-Hill
Artwork: C David Oakley-Hill,
Norman T Oliver and Ed L Blandford

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The South African flap

C David Oakley-Hill

The Fort Beaufort incident on June 26 sparked off a sizeable UFO flap. Reports dated prior to this only came to light as a direct result of the Bennie Smit report. Firstly I must say that FSR have done an excellent job in cataloguing the reports. Would that it was easier for (and there was more contact with) investigators in this vast area. Nevertheless, we are indebted to those who have kindly sent newspaper clippings from which, in common with FSR, we are obliged to obtain the majority of our information. Despite the customary spate of misinterpretations, I feel Charles Bowen's title of "Mini-wave" does not do justice to the string of reports from South Africa since June 1972, which continued to the end of August, and then "recommenced" with a new "classic" in November. And the information that has reached us is probably only the tip of the iceberg.

I present here in chronological order all reports received to date. Where they have already appeared in FSR, I give the reference no. allotted by FSR and only a very brief summary, plus any fresh details. All dates refer to 1972.

Sat June 17 Midnight Fort Beaufort
Mr Fraser Moss lives about 1km from Mr Bennie Smit. Heard drumming noise coming from the sky but couldn't see anything.¹
(SA Sunday Times July 2)

Thurs June 22 Midnight Pietermaritzburg, Natal
Colin Vary, a qualified pilot, and Carole Mitchell saw bright greenish-blue light moving fast. Only visible a few seconds.
FSR 18/5 report 5,p6. (Natal Witness, July 6)

Sun June 25 Port Elizabeth
Mr & Mrs Brian Hibbert saw "bright incandescent white" flying object above the Baakens Valley. Also "ball of fire" sighted near Fort Beaufort. (Star, 28 June)

Monday June 26 0800-1200 Fort Beaufort
The Fordyce Bush, Braeside Farm sighting/shooting by Bennie Smit, two policemen and a labourer has been meticulously recorded by FSR.² It would be foolish to duplicate any ground covered already, so any material here will be additional to FSR's coverage. Here is a brief account from the SA Sunday Times, 2 July 1972, containing one or two details not mentioned in Flying Saucer Review:

What happened last Monday morning? This is the story as told by Mr. Smit. "At 9 am one of my Coloured labourers reported that he had seen smoke near the kran, and then a big ball of fire.

"I went with him to the



Mr Bennie Smit

spot. Sure enough, there was a fiery ball, hovering at tree-top height.

"It was about two-and-a-half feet across, with flames shooting out.

"My man shouted, and it moved sideways for about 300 yards and disappeared behind a big bush.

"All that was left was a smoke trail. Later it reappeared from behind a tree, and kept changing colour. When I first looked it was a big red ball, but now it was green, and it suddenly changed to a yellowish-white.

"I was shocked, and felt that this thing could be dangerous. I hurried back to the house to fetch my .303 rifle, and phoned the police. I went back to the spot and fired several shots. I am sure my eighth shot hit it, as I heard a thud. It moved up and down, and disappeared behind the trees again."

About 10 am Warrant Officer P. R. van Rensburg, the Fort Beaufort station com-

mander, and Sgt. P. Kitching arrived.

WO Van Rensburg continues the story: "After Mr. Smit and Sgt. Kitching had fired a couple of shots in the direction of the ball of fire, we saw a round, black shiny object about two-and-a-half feet in diameter emerge from behind a tree.

"It slowly disappeared from sight, and then reappeared. Shots fired had no effect, but when anyone approached it shied away behind the bushes."

Mr. Smit then moved into the thick bush. He carried a stick with a white handkerchief tied to it so that the police could keep track of his movements.

Mr. Smit told me: "Suddenly I saw it about 20 yards away, now greyish-white. I fired two quick shots, but with a loud whirring noise it veered off over the tree-tops, cutting a pathway through the foliage. It disappeared quickly from sight."

The trees behind which the object moved were about 7m high (Star, Tues June 27). Another factor that does not come across clearly in FSR is that, according to Mr Smit, the object was moving slowly while all 15 shots were fired, but its course was unaffected. Also "when it disappeared in the dense bush we could hear it crashing through the undergrowth, but when we followed we could see no sign of its passage." (Sunday Tribune, July 2).

An interview with Mr Smit in the Rand Daily Mail, Sat July 8, after he had been shown the photograph taken at Port Elizabeth on the evening of July 6 (not July 7 as quoted in FSR)³, reported his views as follows:

"That's the same UFO," he said definitely. "The outlined shape is exactly the same."

Mr. Smit, a down-to-earth plumber from East London, said he was completely convinced the UFO was not an out-of-this-world spacecraft.

"I don't know why everyone thinks it's from some other world. I don't believe in life outside the earth. The UFO was made by humans. I saw it in broad daylight and it is definitely man-made."

"I believe it is from the United States, is remote controlled, and is peaceful.

"It won't destroy people," said the man who opened fire on it last week with a .303 rifle, putting out a bright light on top of the nearly 2 m high, barrel-shaped, metal object.

Mr. Smit, who says he has seen and heard the UFO many times, thinks it may be off course or out of control. It takes no notice of any sounds except the human voice, he

says, "then it disappears in a flash".

And, he is convinced, it has a base on his farm. "I'm going to catch it," he vowed seriously. "Then you newspaper people had better come to me with plenty of cash before you see it."

The intrepid UFO hunter is totally plausible in his description of the flying object, which has now been seen by scores of people in the Eastern Cape and Border.

He has been closest to it — about 50 m.

I don't doubt that he, and two experienced police officers, saw the object.

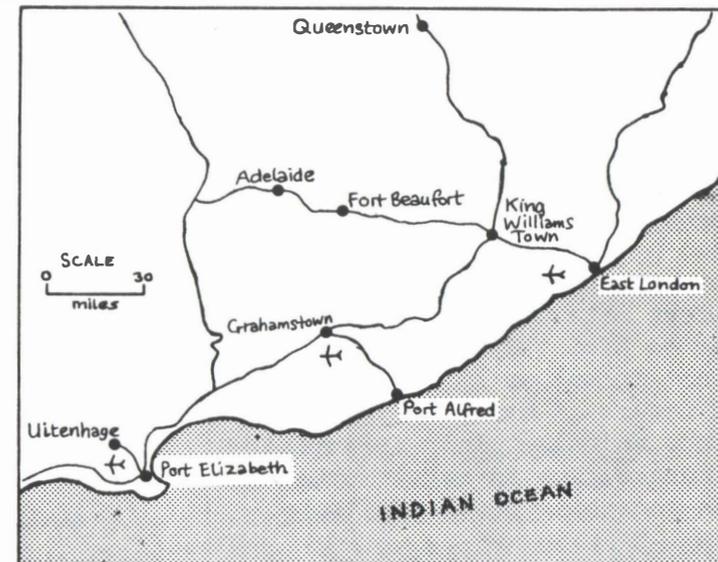
It is certainly not Aurora Australis, or fireflies in a swarm, or an aberration of light in a spiderweb, as the SABC suggested.

But an off-course, secret mechanised spy for the United States? Well.

Mr. Smit stood yesterday in his newly-planted field of lucerne — a powerful, cheerful, practical man — and convinced me he had seen and heard something perplexing but palpable.

Dozens of other people in Fort Beaufort claim to have seen it as well, on numerous occasions since Mr. Smit first reported it to the police.

The comments in the above article are by reporter Dennis Gordon



A map showing the position of Fort Beaufort and the surrounding area, with major roads and airports

Wed June 28: 12 policemen combed an area of 4 sq.km around the "landing site". Photographs and samples were taken of the "fist-like" soil imprints. Pilot-instructor Sandy Matthew and amateur photographer Brian Lawrie took about 40 aerial photographs hoping to reveal charring over parts of the bush. (The Star, Johannesburg, Thurs June 29)

Thurs June 29: A parcel with plaster casts of imprints collected from the Braeside farm "landing site" was sent by passenger train to the labs of the CSIR (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research). There was a train crash at Norvalspoint and the parcel didn't reach Pretoria. (Star, July 7). A second parcel did, however, and two samples were received by CSIR "in canned fruit bottles", one containing ordinary soil, the other soil from the Braeside site (Rand Daily Mail, July 13). A spokesman said "The soil samples were tested in a number of ways but no significant dif-



One of the sods of earth sent to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (from The Sunday Tribune, July 2)

ferences could be found between them. Further tests will be conducted and the results will be available at some future date." (Star, July 14)

Further soil samples were analysed by Mr C S Kingsley, a lecturer in the Dept of Geology at Fort Hare University. According to him, they are "definitely not animal or human" imprints. The nature of marks in the imprints and also of their surface texture suggested metal rather than something soft and fleshy. (Star, 5 July)

Acting District Commandant of Grahamstown, Captain O J M Calitz, believes that that the object Mr Smit and the policemen saw "could perhaps have been a swarm of bees". (Rand Daily Mail, July 12)

Sat July 1 0725 Wellington (see FSR 18/5, report 1, p6; Argus July 1; Sunday Tribune, July 2). Witnesses: Mr & Mrs J Fourie and milkman Mr J Basson. According to the Sunday Tribune, the height was 200m, not 260m, and the address should be Willem Basson Road. The milkman said he saw the UFO "smaller than and too low for an aircraft, shining with a whitish flickering light and hovering silently for 5 mins before it disappeared over mountains in the direction of Worcester." (Plane?)

Sat July 1 late evening Constantiaberg, Cape Town (see FSR 18/5, report 2, p6;

Star & Cape Times, July 3) Witness Mrs M Merand of Meadowridge. In the Star, no mention is made of a golden colour, but 3 sightings of a "large white ball" are reported. In this paper the president of the Cape Astronomical Society, Mr Rupert Hurly, is alleged to have suggested Venus as the explanation (rather than Canopus, given as his explanation in the Cape Times, July 3.)

Sun July 2 2000 Fort Beaufort UFO flashing red, blue, green & yellow lights seen by a gathering of people. Saucer-shaped. Flew over town with its "points" facing earthwards, and sent out a steady ray of light. Seemed to be travelling NW-SE. 2 small boys were sent by the crowd to the police station to point out its position. One of them said they had watched it from the

Warrant Officer P.R. van Rensburg, one of the two policemen who saw the Fort Beaufort UFO with Mr Smit



town hall and that "it appeared to be landing". Warrant Officer P R van Rensburg was roused from his bed to look at the UFO, but he said so much doubt had been cast on the first story that it wasn't worth the time, and went back to bed. (Rand Daily Mail, July 4. Also see Case Histories 11, page 4, which should read "July 2".)

Sun July 2 Port Elizabeth and Cape Town
More than a dozen people reported seeing a UFO (Star, July 7)

Sun July 2 noon/Tues July 4 0720 Queenstown
Joe Gerber's UFO detector sounded 3 times in 6 minutes, shortly after noon on Sunday and once at 7.20 am on Tuesday. According to the report, each occasion coincided with a sighting nearby. He said it had sounded on previous occasions. "I have passed a strong magnet over the device myself and it has reacted", Mr Gerber said. (Star July 8)

Mon July 3 0600/Tues July 4 0540 Durban
Mr A G Hill, a Canadian artist, saw a UFO over the sea on successive mornings. (Venus?) (FSR 18/5 report 3 p6; Star, July 5 & 7; Daily News, July 4)

Mon July 3 1900 Fort Beaufort R L Brown, Fort Beaufort's commonage ranger (formerly a farmer), + 3 witnesses saw UFO. (See Case Histories 11 p4-5; Rand Daily Mail & Star, July 4)

Mon July 3 eve. Fort Beaufort Fort Beaufort Town Council adjourned a session and 9 carloads of people drove to Brae-side and (contrary to FSR assumption that they saw nothing) "saw an object rise in the undergrowth and head in the direction of Grahamstown." (Case Histories 11 p5; The Star, July 4)

Mon July 3 2000 Queenstown (see map on page 3)
Witness Mr R P Golding alleges his radio "went funny" as he and his wife watched a UFO. (FSR 18/5 report 8 p7; Daily Representative, July 4)

Wed July 5 0125 Fish River Bridge, E. Cape Province (see map, p11)
Railway truck driver and assistant saw red half-moon shaped UFO (FSR 18/5 report 9; Daily Dispatch, July 6)

Wed July 5 2100 Kraankuil and Witput Stations, Orange River
UFO seen by 3 station foremen. (FSR 18/5 report 4; Pretoria News, July 6)

Wed July 5 2215 Vryburg, N. Cape Province
6 witnesses saw UFO "as big as a house". Correction to FSR report: should be "Molopo Road". (See FSR 18/6 report 11 p14; SA Sunday Times, July 9)

Wed July 5 0150 King Williams Town. (see map on page 3)
Brilliant red object seen to take off from ground by 2 witnesses. (FSR 18/6 report 18; K.W.Town Mercury, July 13)

Wed July 5 1450 King Williams Town
2 witnesses saw two bright objects near
each other in the sky move out of sight.
(FSR 18/6 report 19; King Williams Town
Mercury, July 13)

Wed July 5 Cape Town
UFO passed Boeing 727 on a flight to
Cape Town. Ground control, Cape Town,
knew of no other aircraft in the area.
(Sunday Times, July 9)

Thurs July 6 Shortly before 2100
Johannesburg. "Hundreds of witnesses".
UFO "dived and soared" for 30 minutes,
seen from Inanda, Illovo, Linksfield
and Kew. Mr John Hotine of Third St,
Kew, said that through his binoculars
it appeared balloon-shaped and he saw
a reflection on its side. Its bright-
ness when it first appeared over the
house startled his wife. He estimated
the object's speed at about 1000 m/h,
judged by the rate at which it got out
of focus in his binoculars. Mr E.
Egnos, a businessman of Eton Place,
Illovo, his wife and son Lewi, 26, saw

Geoffrey Allen's photograph of a UFO seen widely over
Port Elizabeth on July 6. Camera 35mm with 640mm lens



a red object "like a
feather duster on fire"
(a description also
given by Mr G Kraft of
Linksfield) moving NE-
NW. "It seemed to slow
down, stopped, then
began to move again, but
this time vertically.
It went straight up,
getting smaller until
it disappeared." When
Lewi first saw the UFO
he thought it was the
light of a low-flying
aircraft, but he saw it
was not flashing and
went in to tell his
parents. Mr E O Stern
of Oxford Road, Dunkeld,
2 students at the Uni-
versity of Witwaters-
rand - his son Andrew
and David Tessel of
Fifth Avenue, Inanda,
saw "a red ball hover-
ing about in the sky.
It stood still for a
while then disappeared.
It stayed in the sky
for about 10 minutes."

A spokesman for the
Pretoria Weather Bureau
Upper Air Dept said it
could not have been a
weather balloon. "We
send them up at 1 am.
They are gas-filled &
burst after a 1/2-hour."
(Sunday Times July 9;
Rand Daily Mail July 7;
FSR 18/5 report 6, p6).

Thurs July 6 2030
Port Elizabeth (see map

on page 3). Geoffrey Allen's
photograph was taken on July 6.
For this and other reports see
FSR 18/5, report 7 (incorrectly
dated July 7) and Rand Daily
Mail, Cape Times, and The Argus,
July 7.

Fri July 7 1945 Fort Beaufort
Mr C du Plessis of Savoy Hotel,
Fort Beaufort, said a UFO was
hovering over Mr Smit's farm.
(Rand Daily Mail, July 8)

Between Wed July 5 & Fri July 7
(date unconfirmed)
Captain Chester Chandler and crew
reported UFO pacing his Boeing
727. Chandler said: "Its inten-
sity was about that of a medium-
sized star. It was impossible to
say how far it was. We often see
satellites or meteorites. Satel-
lites keep a constant path. This
was something I have never seen
before." (The Star, July 8. For
full details see FSR 18/5, report
10, p8, and the SA Sunday Times,
July 9. This is a different
report from the Cape Town sighting
on July 5, and occurred later.)

Fri July 7 Honeydew, nr Jo'burg
Mr Neil Wright, 35, Jo'burg calen-
dar publisher, Mr & Mrs John
Green, visitors from England (now
returned) and others at a drive-in
movie saw, according to Mr Wright,
"a brilliant ball of fire, about
half the size of a full moon. It
was blinding white and trailed 3
tails like a rocket's after-burner
and it was moving very fast. It
cut behind the screen in a north-
westerly direction." Mr White's

description agreed: "I saw it
for 2 or 3 seconds, and the
speed it was moving it must
have been extremely high when
it caught my attention. I
thought at first it might
have been an aircraft in
trouble and as it vanished be-
hind the screen I waited for
the explosion - but there was
none." A spokesman for the
Johannesburg Planetarium and
the Republic Observatory said
it could have been "a large
meteorite or more probably a
broken-off part of a satellite
which had re-entered the at-
mosphere and was burning up."
(Sunday Times July 9)

Fri July 7 Port Elizabeth,
Uitenhage (see map on page 3)
and Despatch: many witnesses
to UFO with indefinable shape
emitting red, white and green
light. Port Elizabeth weather
office men trained radar on
the object but failed to pick
up an image. The radar has a
range of 400km. (Sunday Times
July 9)

Sat July 8 Fort Beaufort
Strange noises like the whine
of jets in a valley 7km from
the town. Flashing lights in
the sky, seen by scores of
people. 2 explosions in the
early hours of Saturday morn-
ing. Water reservoir on
Braeside farm collapsed Satur-
day night. "The damage there
is the result of ordinary wear
and tear" said W/O P R van
Rensburg (Rand D.Mail July 12)

Sun July 9 2030 Fort Beaufort
Dennis Gordon, Rand Daily Mail
reporter, saw bright light
(Rand Daily Mail, July 12)

Mon July 10 2030 Adelaide
(see map on page 3)
Mike Benade was driving home
from Grahamstown with his wife.
Saw bright light "hovering" 15°
above horizon. Stopped car to
look at it. (Venus?) Mr Benade
also discovered a "suspected
UFO landing-ground" on a golf
course on July 4 (FSR 18/6,
report 14; Rand D.Mail July 12)

Mon July 10 0730 Wellington
Mr Ernst Koen of Transvaal saw
shell-shaped object going S-N,
first slowly then it accelera-
ted away. (FSR 18/6 report 12;
The Argus July 10)

Mon July 10 Welkom, O.F.S.
Over 25 witnesses of "semi-
circular" object flashing
coloured lights (seen through
binoculars). (FSR 18/6 report
16; The Friend, Bloemfontein,
July 12)

Monday July 10 Pretoria
Mrs J P Davenport and Mr J W
Rademeyer saw "huge green light,
apparent size of a rugby ball".
"Hovered" 20 minutes and dis-
appeared suddenly. It was nearly
dark. (FSR 18/6 report 16;
Pretoria News, July 13)

Tues July 11 1400 Kensington,
Johannesburg. The Dr Edward
Blumberg report. His wife's
name is Ruth, not Rita as given
in FSR, and his address is

Glanville Avenue, not Road.
For full details see FSR 18/6
report 15, and Rand Daily Mail,
July 12)

Thurs July 13 0400 Franschoek
3 witnesses saw "brilliant ball
of light". Visible until dawn
(Venus?) (See FSR 18/6 report
17; Pretoria News, July 13)

Thurs July 13 1800 Craighall
& Parkmore, N. Johannesburg
Mrs M J Lay of St Alban's Ave,
Craighall, a previous sceptic,
said "Neither my husband nor I
could identify it. It was an
orange light that stood still
for a while then ascended verti-
cally. It was very bright -
like a flare - but the fact
that it stood still for so long
made us think that it could not
be. It wasn't a star or an
aeroplane." Mrs R E Hunter of
11th Street, Parkmore had also
cast around for a "cynical"
explanation before deciding she
had seen a UFO. She described
it as bright orange and flare-
like, but differed in saying
that it descended in a vertical
line after hanging in the sky
for 3 minutes. "It was to the
right-hand side of the evening
star, Venus - and descending
vertically. I saw it from my
kitchen window. It was a
bright orange ball which seemed
to be glowing and had a long,
smoky-orange tail." (The Star,
July 14.) (Flare?)

Sun July 16 1840 Florida,
Johannesburg: Many witnesses
saw fast-moving UFO going S-N.

Suggested explanation: balloon
with burning rags suspended
from it, sent up by hoaxer.
(Rand Daily Mail July 17; FSR
18/6 report 20)

Sun July 16 2030 Malmesbury
10 witnesses watched UFO going
up and down at great speed for
15 minutes. (FSR 18/6 report
21; Cape Times, July 17)

Sun July 16 Odendaalsrus, OFS
Constable J P Myburgh & a Mr
Slabbert saw glowing UFO, 1m
in diameter, dive at patrol van.
Observed for 15 min. 6 other
policemen also saw it. (FSR
18/6 report 22; The Friend,

Bloemfontein, July 18; Star,
July 19; Die Burger, July 17)

Mon July 17 Bloemfontein, OFS
Brigadier G C Bester, Div. Com-
missioner of Police, saw UFO.
Police also received many other
reports, including one from a
reporter and his wife. (Star,
July 19; Rand Daily Mail, July
19; FSR 18/6 p17)

Thurs July 20 0330 Durban &
Tongaat. Colour-changing UFO
seen over Durban harbour for
over an hour then moved off
"at an incredible speed" in a
northerly direction. Witen-
ses included a policeman.



'It's just that the police at Fort Beaufort feel you might be able to help them with their inquiries.'

Reported on Radio Natal. (FSR 18/5 p4; Natal Mercury, July 21)

Thurs July 20 1100 Pietermaritzburg, Natal
Miss Thelma Odell saw, while driving, a circular "pink" object with a slight vapour trail. There was another independent witness. (FSR 18/6, report 23; Daily Representative, Queenstown, July 21)

Fri July 21 Pietermaritzburg
Many witnesses to an evening UFO. Prof. Owen Williams, Professor of Geography at the University of Natal, and his wife watched conical UFO with a constant red light beneath, through binoculars. (FSR 18/6, report 24; The Argus, July 22)

Fri July 21 2030 Pinelands, Cape Province
Muriel Alexander of 51 North Walk, neighbours and independent witnesses saw red-orange object complete a large circle and shoot off towards Paarl. (FSR 18/6 report 25; Argus, July 22)

Sun July 23 0415 Umkomaas, Natal
Eridiano di Marco and his wife saw bright light travelling N-S, which took at least half an hour to disappear completely. Two photos were taken. (For detailed account see FSR 18/5, page 3)

Wed Aug 16 Roosboom, Natal/
Sat Aug 19 Mayville, Durban
"Spectres" seen. (Full details in FSR 18/6, pages 17-18; Natal Mercury, Aug 22 and 23)

Landing?

Sun Aug 20 0530 Port Alfred
(see map on page 3)
At least two witnesses saw UFO "parked" on the coastal road near the Rufanes Beach turn-off. It took off and made its way out to sea "looking like a big silver bubble". The witnesses "turned tail and fled back to Port Alfred".
Children have also seen "it" recently - from school playing fields and over beaches.
Electrical engineer Mr Kruger saw a UFO showing a red light passing from east to west below cloud. (East London Announcer, Aug 24)

Sun Aug 27 2000-2130
Schmidtsdrif, Kimberley
Mr Koos Harmse and Miss Daphne Vertue were "followed" by a light like a big star, changing colours, for about 1½ hours. At times it appeared to change shape and have two rows of lights like portholes, with a bright, dull orange spotlight on "the front". (See FSR 18/6 p31; Diamond Fields Advertiser, Kimberley, Aug 30. Incorrectly dated Aug 28 in FSR.)

Mon Aug 28 2000 Boshof, Kimberley
Mr L James, his wife and their farm labourers saw a glowing light with a long red tail, low over the horizon. (Diamond Fields Advertiser, Kimberley, Aug 30; FSR 18/6 p31. Incorrectly dated Aug 29 in FSR.)

Did UFO rip up a tennis court?

Sun Nov 12 2100-2130 Middelburg, Cape

About 9.00 or 9.30pm, policemen watched a strange brightly-glowing object through binoculars. It appeared to change colours and its shape from circular to elliptical. It travelled towards Rosmead, it hovered over a hill behind the Rosmead High School, then disappeared. Later it reappeared for a short while before finally disappearing. The principal of Rosmead High School, Mr Harold Truter, also saw a beam "like a searchlight" in the sky.

The following morning it was discovered that the school's tar-surfaced tennis courts had been severely damaged. Huge chunks of tar had been gouged out. Lumps were found caught high up in the tennis court fence. Pieces were found near where it is thought the UFO hovered, about 30 metres from the court. Large chunks 3 or 4 metres wide were found on top of the almost vertical face of a nearby hill or "koppie".

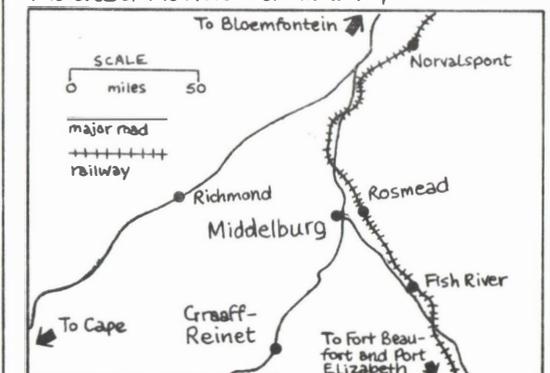
Hundreds of sightseers flocked to the scene on Monday. The District Commander of the Middelburg police, Lieutenant-Colonel B J van Heerden reported the matter, through his divisional head office at Oudtshoorn, to headquarters in Pretoria and asked for an

investigation. Middelburg is 160km from Fort Beaufort. (Rand Daily Mail and Cape Times, Nov 14)

A tree next to the tennis court is reported to have started dying. It is a big bluegum and shows signs of scorching, according to Lieutenant-Colonel B J van Heerden. Theories that the ripping of chunks of tar from the tennis court was the work of a gas explosion were discounted because no trees in the vicinity were damaged.

Since hearing about the damage to the courts, 4 military trainees guarding the petrol dumps 400 metres away have made statements to the police that they saw red lights on the courts. "It looked as if someone in a car without headlights, but with taillights burning, was riding round in circles on the tennis court", they said. "The lights disappeared and then the whole petrol dump was illuminated with a strange incandescent light." (Rand Daily Mail, Nov 18)

The area of the November "mini-flap"



Little red men

Fri Nov 17 night Middelburg

Many sightings reported. Mr Gert Pretorius of Middelburg said he saw a bright light which lit up a whole koppie (hill) like daylight. The lights went off, then on again. He said he then saw two "little red men" disembarking from a "landed flying saucer".

Air traffic controllers responsible for the area said no night flying was taking place when the saucer was sighted. A flight control officer in Bloemfontein suggested that it was nothing more than a light aircraft landing on a private

airstrip, but the Port Elizabeth flight control office had no record of any landings scheduled for Friday night.

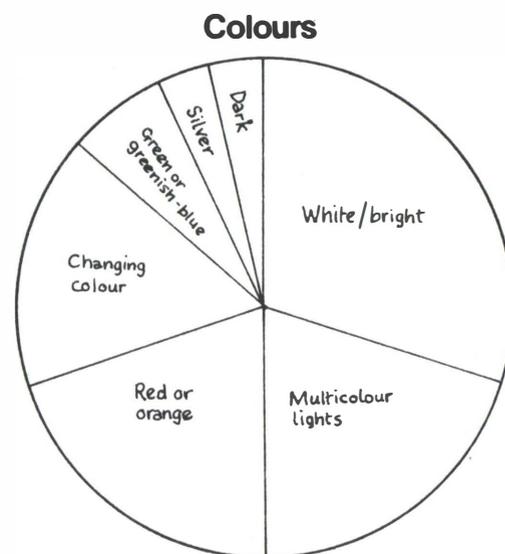
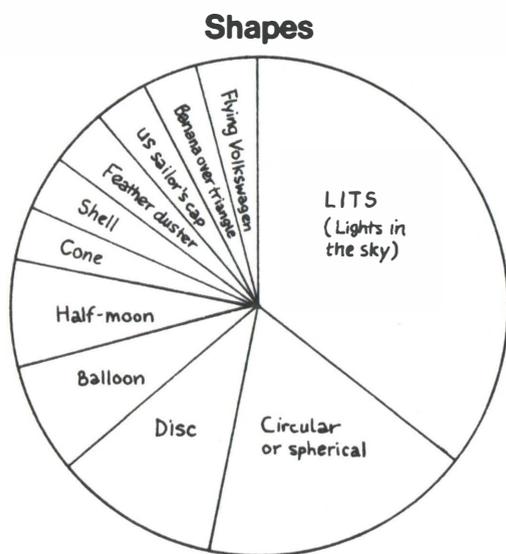
(Rand Daily Mail, Nov 20 & 21)

Flying Volkswagens

Sun Nov 19 Richmond
(see map on page 11)

Two UFOs were seen in broad daylight, 30 miles from Graaff Reinet, on the Richmond-Cape road, by a family. Mr P C Struwig, of 79 Hope Street, Richmond, said his son drew his attention to two "flying Volkswagens."

The charts below give some indication of the predominant shapes and colours of UFOs reported in the South African flap. Reports have been omitted from these charts if a suggested explanation is given or if insufficient information is available.



Professor Arthur Bleksley, one of South Africa's most noted scientists, was quoted liberally in the newspapers throughout this flap. He thinks schoolchildren may have staged the lights and the damaged tennis court. He refused, however, to investigate the sighting. He also said "However tempted I might be, I would never dare to go anywhere near Fort Beaufort". His attitude, he says, is one of complete scepticism, but he warns anyone who shoots at UFOs against doing so! (Presumably if it doesn't exist, there's no point in firing at it?)

Finally here is part of an interview with Mr Tom Geary, director of the Johannesburg Planetarium, by Lin Menge. It appeared in the Rand Daily Mail in early July: Mr Geary obviously thinks ETH. TG: Shooting them is the last thing one should do. Show you're friendly and observe them as long as possible - until someone in authority comes along.

LM: Who is an authority on UFOs?

TG: Well, I mean someone in the astronomy line, and who has access to photographic equipment. I'd be baffled to know precisely what to do with a UFO myself, especially if there are no portholes to signal at the beings inside. But I feel you should demonstrate friendly intentions, signal them to come out - you know, crook your hand and wave it toward yourself, indicate you'd like to speak to them by moving your hand in front of your mouth.

LM: That could also mean come out and be eaten.

TG: Oh. Well I still think the worst thing to do would be to show hostility. If we've been demonstrating we're not a friendly people that may be why there have been so many sightings but no contact.'

REFERENCES AND NOTES

1. Compare with Flap 71, report 8, GEMINI 1; also "February flap in South-east London" in SIRIUS 3, pages 4-6.
2. FSR Case Histories 11, Aug 1972; FSR 18/4, July-Aug 1972; FSR 18/5, Sep-Oct 1972.
3. FSR 18/5, report 7, page 6. See photo on page 6 of this issue.
4. See map on page 11.

British UFO Research Association meetings

at Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road, London W8.

- MAR 3 1973 Norman Oliver: "A decade of UFO experiences"
 APR 7 1973 Sir Gilbert Inglefield TD MA ARIBA AADip: "Fatima"
 MAY 5 1973 Prof Bryan Winder BSc AMIMEchE: "UFO Technicalities"
 JUN 2 1973 A panel of experts: "Brains Trust"

NORTH-KENT

«MINI-FLAP»

The FAVERSHAM TIMES of 30 Nov 1972 heralded a short spate of UFO sightings around the Faversham and Whitstable areas with the front page headline "UFOs OVER TOWN", and the WHITSTABLE TIMES followed up the next day with "MYSTERY OF THE FLYING OBJECTS".

On three consecutive afternoons - those of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the 21-22-23 November 1972, sightings by employees at Faversham Shipyard were reported both to the police and to the RAF Manston. Altogether, more than 30 shipyard workers were involved.

Several workmen working on a trawler in Faversham Shipyard were the first to claim sightings on the Tuesday afternoon, amongst them Mr Henry Blow of Canterbury, who is quoted in the FAVERSHAM TIMES as giving the following description of the object:-

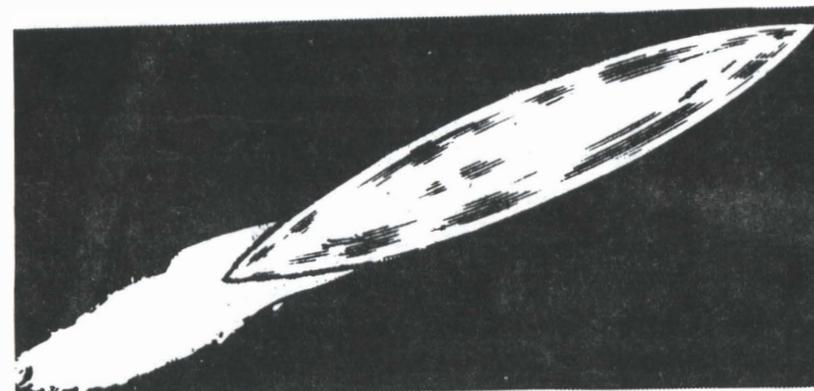
"...Suddenly, when it seemed to be over the middle of the Creek a vapour trail came from it. It changed its shape from circular to something like a cigar as if it had turned round and we were getting a side view, and zigzagged to a stop.

"Red lights appeared around it. You know what an atom looks like highly magnified - a solid core with the nuclei around it - well, it was like that. Then it went straight up into the air until it was the size of a pinhead and disappeared.

"Earlier I thought it was a weather balloon. It first seemed to be drifting, moving towards the north."

Mr Joe Taylor, of Sheldwich, supported Mr Blow's report..... "It started off pure white and then changed colour as it altered shape until it was glowing red. Then, as it rose in the air, it reverted to white again...." It was difficult to judge the height of the object but he thought that in the course of its zigzagging it dropped at least 1,000 feet.

The next day not one, but two objects identical with the



"CHANGED SHAPE
FROM CIRCULAR
TO SOMETHING
LIKE A CIGAR"

first were seen at the same time - between 4 & 4.30pm, and a further one on Thursday - again the same time of day. Oddly enough, whilst quite a number of shipyard workers spotted the objects, no reports were received about them from any other source. On the first occasion just a few workers saw the "thing": on the second there were about 30 witnesses and on the third, apparently most of the employees.

According to the FAVERSHAM TIMES, reports have been forwarded to the Ministry of Defence for investigation by the RAF at Manston.

The following week the FAVERSHAM TIMES uncovered another UFO report, which, whilst at first not seeming to be anything out of the ordinary, has a definite "punch" in the tail.

The sighting was made by Mr & Mrs Patching of Oare on Tuesday 28 November at about 9.30pm whilst they were out walking with their Alsatian. They were standing on the top of Colegate's Hill when they saw a bright flashing light over the village of Oare, and to quote Mrs P's account in the FAVERSHAM TIMES: "It was a silvery bluish light that seemed to be revolving, but it stayed in only one place. It was definitely not a balloon or a plane.

"We carried on walking home and kept looking at it from time to time. I couldn't believe it was a star because I've not seen a star that bright.

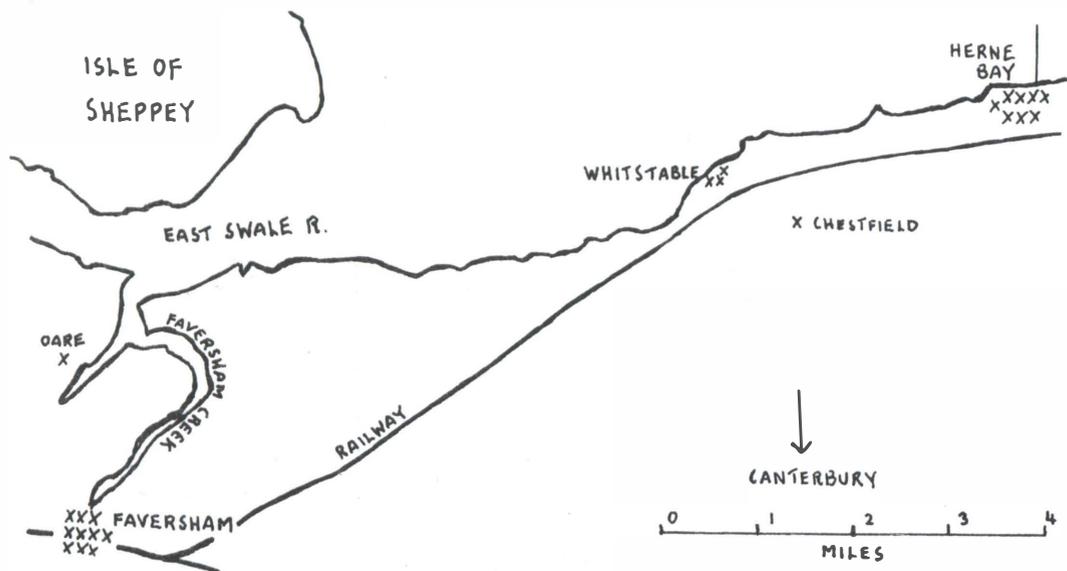
"When we got to our garden gate we turned in and walked up



".....AN.....ATOM....
HIGHLY MAGNIFIED"

the path.....I stood on the lawn and looked up again. I had the shock of my life because the light was moving towards us at a terrific pace.

"We could hear the purr of an engine, but we both knew this was no helicopter or aircraft from this planet. We were frozen to the spot. My husband.....became very cold and suddenly we couldn't watch any longer and had to go indoors. When I last saw it the object was moving off in the direction of Sittingbourne still flashing this almost unbelievably bright light.."



..... And from the WHITSTABLE TIMES of 1 December 1972 we learn that Mrs Parks of Chestfield was walking back home from work at about 6.10pm on 17 November when on reaching the Ham Shades Lane bridge she spotted a 'glowing object' in the sky.

She described it as "changing colour from red to white to green and it was revolving." It "made no noise" and moved "at about tree-top level" travelling at about 10mph.

It moved towards Chestfield then zigzagged away in the direction of Herne Bay. Mrs Parks noticed it because of its beautiful brilliant colour, and knew it was unusual because of the absence of noise.

The UFO Experience a scientific inquiry

J Allen Hynek, Chairman, Dept of Astronomy, Northwestern University
 Published by (UK) Abelard-Schuman, 158 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1 @ £2-50. (US) Henry Regnery Co, 114 West Illinois St, Chicago, Illinois 60610 @ \$6.95. 276 pages + 8 pages of plates.

REVIEW BY MARK STENHOFF

This is a very general book, not intended for the UFO specialist, and it would be unfair to review it on the basis of its specialist merits. However, there are a number of useful "tips" for the researcher - the urge for specialisation within the subject being one. There is a useful list of definitions for "UFO reports", "UFO experience", "UFO phenomenon", "UFOs" and "Flying saucers".

Dr Hynek, who (as is generally known) was chief scientific consultant to the US Air Force's Project Bluebook for 18 years, also suggests the procedure which might be adopted for a scientific investigation. He develops several "prototypes" for recurrent types of report: Nocturnal Lights, Daylight Discs, Radar-visual UFO Reports, and Close Encounters. I feel the "Daylight Discs" /over

Dr Hynek with David Oakley-Hill (left) and Mark Stenhoff at the reception party given in October 1972 by the UK publisher of "The UFO Experience"



category is as misleading as the term "flying saucer" - it is apparently used to cover all daylight sightings of all shapes of objects.

The book ends with several appendices including an index of sightings discussed in the text, which contains a number of errors and omissions.

On a purely aesthetic note, the English edition is a reprint of the American edition, and is of considerably reduced quality. Print in the UK edition is fuzzy and the photographic plates are appalling and unnumbered. There is also an erratum for a mistake that never existed.

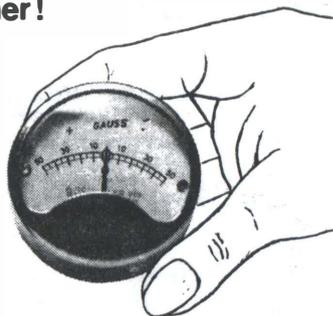
We can, however, thank Messrs Abelard-Schuman for an excellent review/cheese and wine party.

I would recommend this book to any layman or scientifically-/technically-trained people who know little or nothing of the subject. I would suggest that the UFO researcher will benefit best by reading the third part of the book meticulously.

MS.

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Mr Michael Hervey informs us that he is shortly to write a book to follow his first tome, "UFOs over the Southern Hemisphere". He would appreciate any interesting reports/photos. Please write to:

MICHAEL HERVEY FIAL BEM, c/o Hampton Press, 5 Dick Street,
Henley, NSW 2111, Australia.

LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION IN GEMINI

Please address letters for publication to:
NEW MAILBAG, 95 Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA.

AUSTRALIAN SAUCERAMA



----- Norman Oliver

Whilst saucer pundits in Britain have been sagely nodding their heads (in different directions, needless to say!) at the Banbury 'flap' and the apparent absence of subsequent activity over here other than an isolated sighting or two, they've been having a real field-day Down Under. Australia, despite its comparatively small population and vast area, has always had a reputation for being 'UFO-conscious' and for research and researchers of a high calibre: readers of GEMINI 1 will recall the report on the Symposium of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science on Oct 30 1971. It has been apparent from the constant stream of reports and cuttings I have received from our representative Eric Livingstone and also Colin Norris - to both of whom I am extremely indebted - that the Australian scene should be receiving considerably greater worldwide prominence than it has hitherto. I trust that this article will help redress the balance.

"NOT EASY"

The RAAF is baffled by some of the 579 UFO sightings that have been reported to it in the last nine years, we are told in the Adelaide News of 16 9 72. "One of these is the UFO sighted in the La Trobe valley town of Traralgon, 100 miles north-east of Melbourne three times this week". Wing-Commander Ilton at Sale air base, 31 miles from Traralgon said, "We have been unable to eliminate it as an explainable phenomenon. We understand this week's other sightings in Taree, New South Wales have been satisfactorily put down to Venus, but our one isn't so easy."

"SKY HOLDS TERROR"

According to the issue of the same paper two days earlier, this 'strange brilliantly-coloured object in the South Gippsland sky is terrifying animals and scaring local people'. 'The blue and silver red-rimmed object was sighted yesterday

and has been seen several times this week. The RAAF has classified it as inexplicable'.

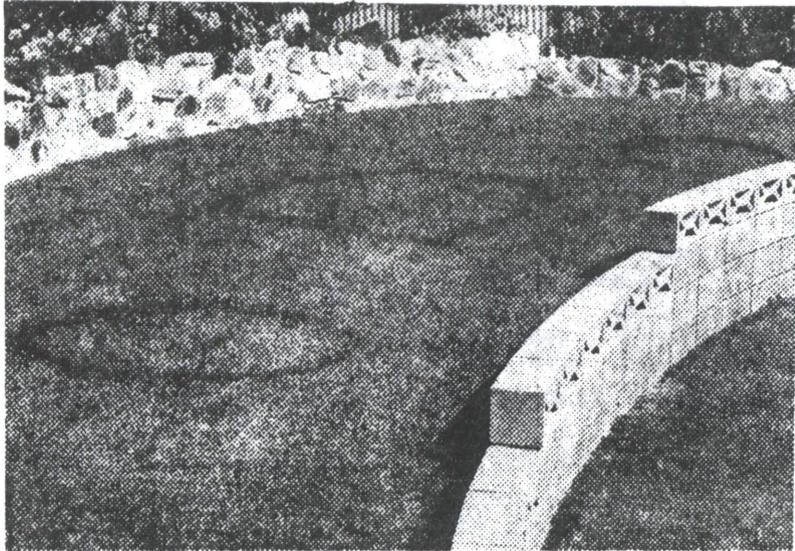
Senior Sergeant Ron Tanion of Traralgon police said he saw the object as a silver ball in the sky.

Another Traralgon policeman, constable Neil Davey, said the object changed from a blue and red colour to a silver circular shape.

Residents who have seen the UFO say it hovers for a time, then shoots away at frightening speed.

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LUSH CIRCLES IN THE LAWN



From the Adelaide Advertiser of 5 10 72 we learn that "Rings of lush green grass have mysteriously appeared in the back yard lawn at the Seaview Downs home of Mr Bill Sanders. The grass in the rings is much taller and greener than the rest of the lawn.

"Mr Sanders, who lives in Gooronga St with his wife, Coralie, and son Mark, 7, said last night he had no explanation for the rings.

"He believed, however, the appearance of the circles could be linked with 'some strange buzzing noises' his wife heard in the back garden about 11pm on Tuesday and 'when I got up in the morning there were these circles'.

"Mr Sanders said he had mown his lawn almost two weeks ago. It was last fertilised about two years ago.

"There were three circles, the middle one being the largest with a diameter of about six feet.

"The other two were smaller and about the same distance from the middle circle."

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LIGHTS....

The Sydney Daily Mirror received scores of reports of strange lights on 13 September 1972, amongst them:-

- * Three orange lights in formation over the sea seen by a Warriewood woman at about 11pm.
- * A lone bright light seen travelling north by a Waterfall woman.
- * Four reddish lights speeding north over the sea - shaped like a sword - seen by a Terrey Hills woman, and
- * A single orange-red light cruising low across the horizon by a Wooloware man.

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TAREE'S UFO....

Taree's UFO (Taree is 220 miles north of Sydney) was seen on a number of days last September and, after reading through three different accounts I must admit to being puzzled. By all the laws of the Medes and Persians this has to have been Venus. But...there is something odd about the reporting if not the reports. According to one paper, to see it, one had to go to a linesman's depot on the outskirts of Taree, and if you looked from here at 7 09am you'd see nothing but blue sky...but if you looked at 7 10am, suddenly there would be this white light glistening silver. Other descriptions add little to this, though it was widely reported and seen by

many people who apparently could not see it from elsewhere. OK - so I said it had to be Venus: this is why:-

*According to the tables in the 1972 BAA Handbook, this light must have been seen approximately where Venus was visible....and.....

*As Venus was visible, if this was a UFO, why wasn't Venus seen as well? However, I said "But....."

.....
*Venus CAN be seen in a clear blue sky - just about, but only faintly and if one knows where to look.

*Why was it visible at 7 10am and not at 7 09am?

*Though in one paper the RAAF was reported to have said it was Venus, in another it was reported as having ruled out the possibility of its being a weather balloon, satellite or Venus! There I must leave readers to draw their own conclusions - I pass!!

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MELBOURNE UFO

On the 22 September 1972 an Advertiser representative told of a UFO experience by Melbourne photographer Ron Jamieson the previous Tuesday: he sighted a UFO for about 20 minutes - and took the accompanying photographs.

"THE SKY WENT WHITE"

Jamieson was driving on a main road in a Melbourne suburb when "suddenly the sky went white" and he saw a fast moving object throwing brilliant light in all directions: it was light-coloured with a purplish fringe.

"LOOPS"

It was moving very fast - much faster than any aircraft, although it was close to the Tullamarine airport air lanes. At one stage it did five to seven loops in less than three seconds - just like a rolling coin.

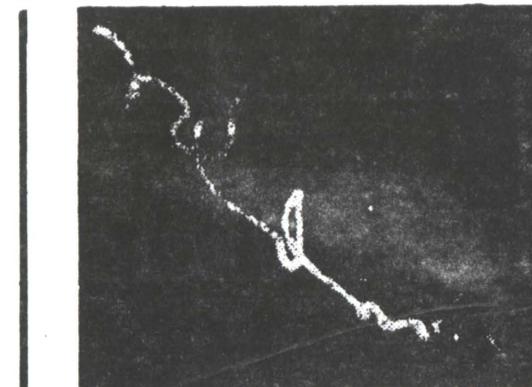
"NO EXPLANATION"

The following quotes appear relevant:

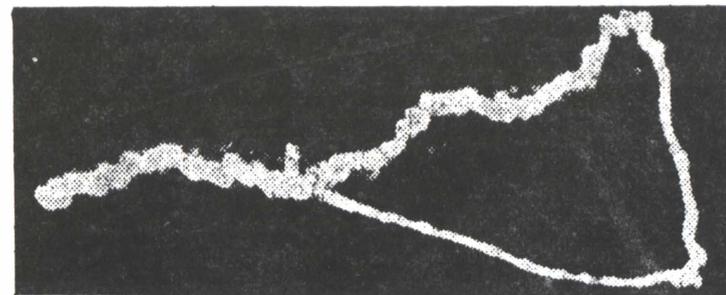
*RAAF officer in charge of UFO sightings, Squadron-Leader Roddy said in Melbourne, "no explanation".



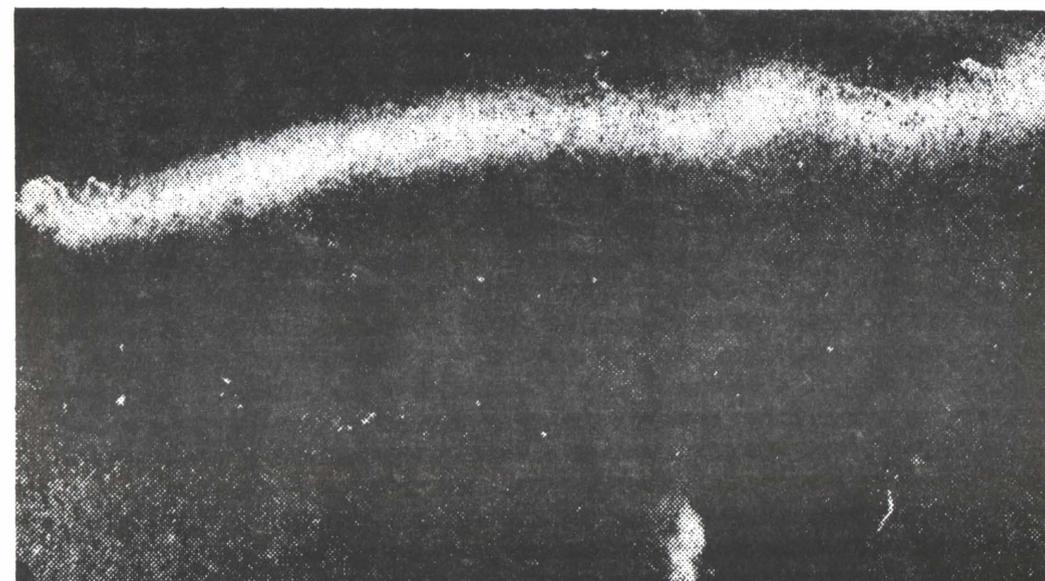
AS FIRST SEEN



"5 TO 7 LOOPS
IN 3 SECONDS"



A TRIANGULAR
PATTERN IN THE
SKY



"BRILLIANT LIGHT IN ALL DIRECTIONS BEFORE IT DISAPPEARED"

*Mr A K Hannay of the Bureau of Meteorology: "We can't put forward any logical explanation."

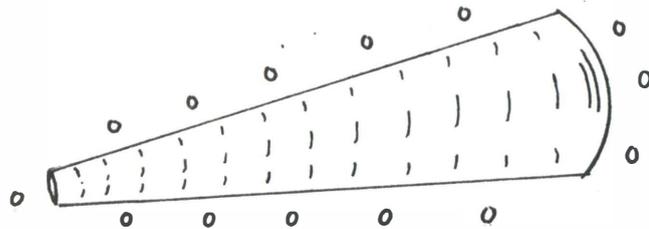
*Officers of the Department of Civil Aviation: "Not possible for aircraft to have created the lighting effects claimed."

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UFOs OVER S.A.

A recent investigation by the Australian magazine PIX/PEOPLE revealed a remarkable number of reports over the northern part of South Australia ranging from the 1940s to the present day. (And even one as far back as 1890.) Amongst them:

A woman, on July 19 1959, who, together with her sister, saw a cone-shaped UFO with a shiny metallic surface surrounded by small lights passing near her home at Clare.



"CONE-SHAPED WITH
A SHINY METALLIC
SURFACE SURROUNDED
BY SMALL LIGHTS."

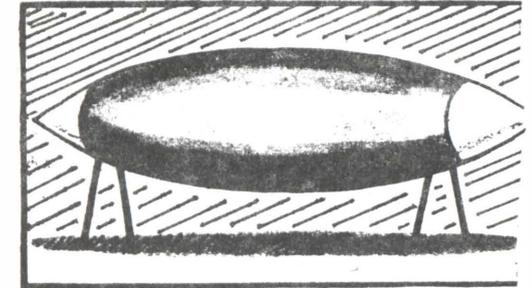
A Mr Lionel Overton who, one evening in May 1969, saw a green glow coming from a creek bed some 100 yards away: then a large green ball of light which rose from the creek, reached about a height of 60 feet, stopped, then shot away to the East.

Farmers in the 1890s who saw "ghost lights" moving along roads and above fences.

A couple who reputedly sold their farm property because of continued spacecraft landings in their paddocks, and another farm family who heard an explosion and "swishing noise" one night and the next day found a ring of scorched stones nearby. This was about 40 feet in diameter and the rocks had been turned to a gunmetal colour. A shearer has apparently kept one of the stones to prove it!

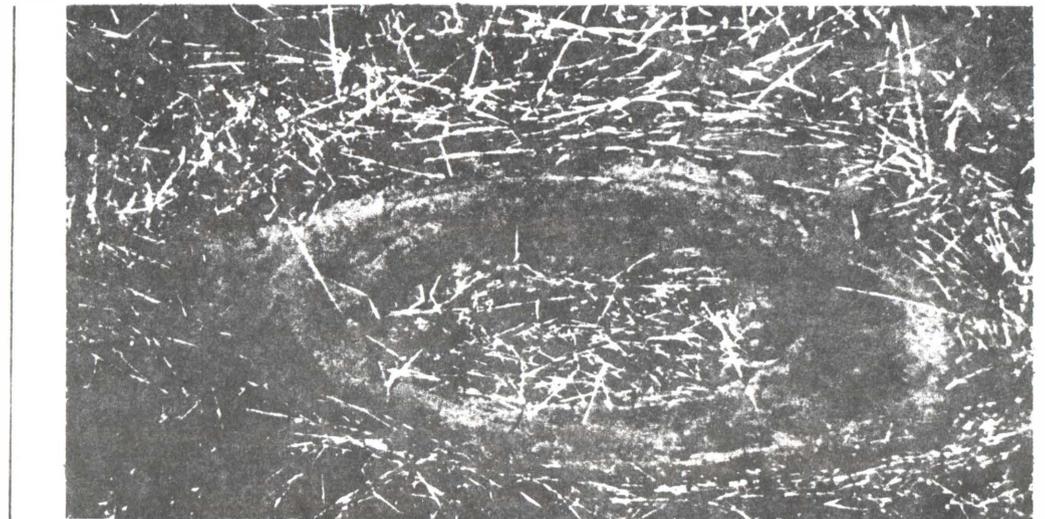
People in a house in Clare who in Feb 1964 heard a noise like a loud whirring travelling across the sky: and others on the Clare outskirts who - at 2 30am - heard an intense whirring like an object descending and coming nearer: the next morning their own and neighbours' clocks were found stopped at 2 30am.

PIX/PEOPLE also tells the story of Gary Pink, aged 12 who, on 29 Oct 1970 saw an object on the ground near a barn about 120 yards away from the house. It was cigar-shaped, about 18 ft long and 4 ft high. It stood on four legs and seemed to be partly transparent as Gary could see through the middle but not the sides: the middle was white, the sides yellowy-white. He had actually gone to the outside toilet, and though he saw the object for several minutes he didn't wake his parents because it was in the early morning hours.



+++++

"SAUCER NESTS" are by no means uncommon, and the illustration below shows a typical mystery ring in a Tooligie Hill wheat paddock apparently gouged out with a spinning motion.....



Let me now turn to a most unusual story - one that was reported in full, one incident apart - in the Australasian Post of 24 Aug 1972. In addition I am indebted to Eric Livingstone - and to the Victorian UFO Research Society - for his sending me a recording of an interview with Mrs Puddy by a VUFORS representative. So.....

mrs puddy and the saucer

Mrs Maureen Puddy, a housewife aged 37, was driving along the lonely Mooraduc road between Frankston and Dromana on the Mornington peninsula some 35 miles south-east of Melbourne. The date: 5 July 1972: time: about 9 15pm.

She was coming home in her car from visiting her son, who had had an accident some weeks before and who was in hospital. She had just crossed the Mooraduc railway crossing when, some 600 yards further on, the road "lit up with a blue iridescent light." Her first thought was that it must be a helicopter flying too low. She carried on, but the light continued with her: she slowed down - so did the light. Mrs Puddy thought that possibly this meant "it" - still thinking of a helicopter - wanted her to stop the car which she did, although "not a thing I'd normally do on a dark road on my own." Up to this point the absence of noise had not struck her: now it did, and as she got out of the car and looked up she saw "an enormous flying saucer much wider than the road." It hovered, glowing and illuminating the whole road at "about the height of two telegraph poles" (app 100 feet), giving off a hum like an electrical sub-station. Nothing was visible on its surface, which she described as "almost perfectly round and some 20 feet in height." (The diameter must have been at least 50 feet, probably more, as the actual road surface here was 24 feet.) It looked like two saucers one on top of the other, but turned up at the edges "like a snail's shell."

At first, Mrs Puddy couldn't move, but then she got back in the car and went off as fast as she could to report the incident to the police: the object followed her for some 8 miles, then suddenly reversed direction and disappeared in a flash. There was no-one on duty at the first police station she came to, so she continued on to Dromana where she made an official report. The next morning she also reported to the Air Force who sent her a questionnaire - "you'd need to be an astronaut to complete it!" But she did.

However, the saucer hadn't yet finished with Mrs Puddy, for, on 25 July, she was again driving along the same stretch of road at approximately the same time, when, having passed the railway crossing, the road lit up just as before: this time though, she didn't stop - accelerating instead: then, after about half a mile, the engine cut out and Mrs Puddy found she

* * * * *
AUSTRALIAN FS REVIEW

The magazine of VUFORS

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AUSTRALIAN FS REVIEW
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CANADIAN UFO REPORT

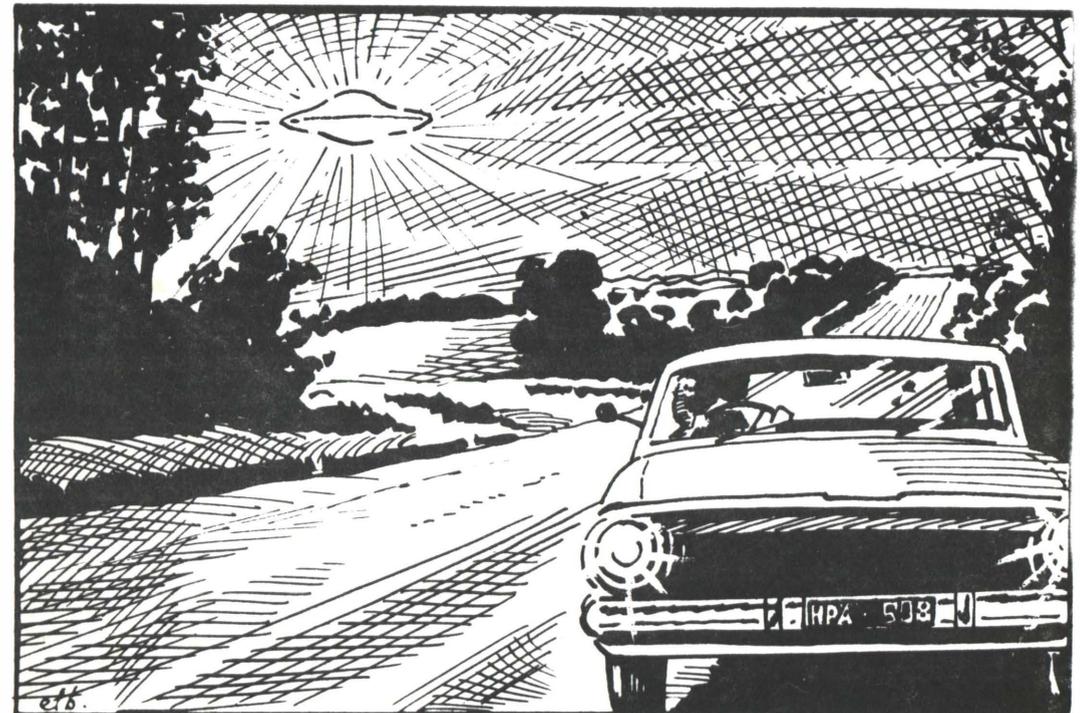
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CANADIAN UFO REPORT

" ...LIT UP WITH A BLUE IRIDESCENT LIGHT "



had no control over the car at all - not even the brakes or steering! The car moved over to the side of the road guided by some force she was powerless to control and the car glided to a stop: the headlights remained on.

To Mrs Puddy it now seemed as though she was "sitting in a vacuum" - there was no sound, it was like being in a sound-proof tube. She then felt she was receiving a message from the thing, the edges of which she could see round and above the car. In fact she received three "telepathic messages" in "beautiful English". The first: "ALL YOUR TESTS WILL BE NEGATIVE". The second: "TELL THE MEDIA DO NOT PANIC, WE MEAN NO HARM". Then a pause and: "YOU NOW HAVE CONTROL". Total duration estimated at most at 5 minutes, probably less.

The car engine then started up of its own accord, the blue light went out and off Mrs Puddy went. She again reported the occurrence to the police at Dromana and told them of the "messages": she also again rang the Air Force and was rewarded by receiving a second inevitable questionnaire which she again completed. Subsequently she also related the story on radio: it was a "talk-back" programme and several listeners phoned in to say they had seen a blue light in the area around that time - and one may possibly have seen the object itself:-

Maris Ezergailis saw a flash of blue light travelling horizontally, and.....

Mr and Mrs Beel described "an unusual light unlike anything we'd seen before" in the direction of the place described by Maureen Puddy. Mr Beel, in fact, went back inside the house to get binoculars, but on coming out again the "thing" had disappeared.

Mrs Puddy had stated she had had no previous psychic experiences of any description, but from the tape-recorded interview one extremely interesting point emerged, one that was not referred to in the Australasian Post.

On Monday 24 July (Mrs Puddy normally visited her son on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but this week it was the Tuesday and Thursday), she was at home in the evening and thought she heard her name - Maureen - being called and told her husband; he went outside the house but no-one was there. They live on a corner and Mrs Puddy thought it must have been someone passing by.

On going to bed that night, she was kept awake for a long time by a "voice" repeatedly calling her name - "Maureen, Maureen" just as if someone was outside. Twice she went to her daughter's bedroom, but her daughter was sound asleep. She also went out to the back yard without any luck and then realised it was almost certainly "in her mind", and the following morning rang her mother to see if anything was wrong with her, but she was quite well. That evening the second "saucer" incident occurred.

When one thinks about it, the space or other entities involved went to a vast amount of trouble to put over - in effect - two messages which really seem to be rather ambiguous or unnecessary in themselves. Mrs P certainly did "tell the media" of her experiences, but there had been little or no evidence of "panic" so far as UFO reports in Australia generally were concerned, so why bother? And why Mrs Puddy?

"All your tests will be negative" - what tests? New weapons? Lunar and extra-terrestrial probes? Tests to "prove" the existence of flying saucers or this particular one? Etc etc. Or even possibly a personal message to Mrs Puddy?

It is also a point that although Mrs Puddy claimed no previous psychic experiences, her reaction to the "voice" the following day was to phone her mother to see, in effect, if "Maureen, Maureen" might be a psychic or telepathic contact attempt.

Whilst I personally prefer the ETH to John Keel's "Ultra-terrestrials" etc, it has to be admitted that this "voice" incident and some other features of the Puddy encounter tend to lend some support to his propositions. There is, however, some indication that the saucer was "real" inasmuch as it would seem to have been observed by others: it is possible, too, there is a further witness as yet untraced, since as Mrs P drove over the railway crossing the second time, she passed a man with a flashlight leading a cow in the opposite direction, and he could well have observed the whole incident.

Really an extraordinary case.....

I would add that the tape-recorded interview and the article in the Australasian Post coincide in almost every detail.

NORMAN OLIVER

NO MOORE, PLEASE!

A review by Colin Bord of CAN YOU SPEAK VENUSIAN? A Guide to the Independent Thinkers, by Patrick Moore, published 1972 by David & Charles, £2.75.

TV's tame astronomer, Patrick Moore, has produced a pot-boiler in which he idly lumps together individuals whose ideas seem to him to be unconventional, and gives them all the same tongue-in-cheek treatment thinly disguised as unbiased reporting. Such intellects as C G Jung, Velikovsky and Wilhelm Reich are jostled alongside flat-earthers and pier-end palmists. Whilst expressing 'the greatest personal admiration' for these 'independent thinkers', Mr Moore gives very abbreviated and sometimes inaccurate reports of their ideas and experiments - in fact just sufficient material to provide him with his Aunt Sallys.

When writing of C G Jung's researches into astrology, he confesses that he cannot make head nor tail of them, and whilst writing of the phenomenon of impressing thought images upon photographic film he mentions Fukurai of Japan who experimented with some success in 1910: he then goes on to say, 'Alas, I know of nobody who has followed up Professor Fukurai's work...' Apparently Patrick Moore has never heard of Ted Serios and Jules Eisenbud, who have produced such a wealth of incontrovertible material with the Polaroid camera. These are not the only occasions when Mr Moore shows us that he was way out of his depth whilst compiling this book.

The subject of flying saucers does not suffer as badly as it might. Starting with Adamski and Allingham, both of whom he has met, he gives his customary tongue-in-cheek account of their experiences and then flits on to the Charlton crater, which he visited when it was in the news. The rest of the chapter deals with Arthur Shuttlewood and Warminster, which Patrick Moore believes 'represented the high water mark of British Saucery'. Arthur Shuttlewood and his books are an easy target for sceptical sarcasm, and the fact that Patrick Moore deals with him in almost a kindly manner should cause us to watch with interest Mr Moore's attitude to the future developments of Ufology.

The only reason for writing about this book in GEMINI is that its title and dust jacket (which shows what is probably

some of Bernard Byron's space languages (though no credit is given) might cause some readers who wish to learn more about contactees and their experiences, to think that here is a book which could be of value. There is in fact nothing here that is of any value to such an enquirer. With only 160 pages and only one plate as a frontispiece (showing two photographs of Patrick Moore - and there is another on the jacket), this book is poor value at £2.75. But, as the publisher probably thought, with a name like Patrick Moore, how can we go wrong?



MYSTERIOUS BRITAIN

Book Review

This, a new book by two of my personal friends and GEMINI contributors, Janet and Colin Bord is, according to its publishers, "a panorama of questions and answers in words and pictures (complete with Ordnance Survey map references), of the places, facts and beliefs which have made Britain a land to visit all through the ages. It is a book to read AND to use."

This is true, for the book contains sections on wells, hill-figures, church carvings, burial mounds, leys, ufos and many many other facets of the unusual, which, in a large number of cases are so much in evidence that their unusual connotations are normally ignored.

A fascinating book - and out of six reviews that I have seen in the national press, all six commend it to their readers. Its price is high, but this is offset by the magnificent illustrations - 243 in all, many from photos taken by Janet and Colin themselves - with which the book abounds. A "must" for the connoisseur.

Norman Oliver

MYSTERIOUS BRITAIN.....Janet and Colin Bord.
Published by.....The Garnstone Press
59, Brompton Road
London SW3 1DS.

Price £5.90

Discussions with **PHILEMON**

MOLLIE THOMPSON

Concluding parts of a series of telepathic contact experiences with an entity of 'great wisdom'. The name 'Philemon' was agreed upon because the human mind required this as a focal point. No actual words were spoken, but since thoughts were framed in the manner of a conversation a Q & A format has been adopted.....

PART 5.

Self: Would I yet be able to comprehend the machinery of UFOs....their propulsion unit?

Philemon: 'Propulsion' in your terminology presupposes that one is overcoming a resistant force. Is it wise to assume that for UFO in their native environment such methods are necessary?

S: I suppose not. Tell me in your way then.

P: I would like you to consider the functions of the following machines in your environment:- telephone, mechanical grab, television. What have they in common?

S: They are all made by man.

P: The common denominator is even more basic....each is an externalisation of one member or one attribute of the human body.

S: Yes, when you look at it that way....and each extends the 'reach' of the person using it.

P: And what would you say provided the motive power, Man's creative inventiveness or mere fuel?

S: Wait a moment, I'm getting that 'feeling' again. It is something to do with externalising what is already a part of you. You don't mean this literally in connection with UFOs, do you?

P: Not as literally as your framed thought. Again we have arrived at a gap in experience/memory, for you have no comparable situation with which to connect what I send to

you. Relax. We will establish another set of connections. You are aware that 'solid' matter is a situation involving both energy and motion; the degree of materialisation - or matter forming - depends upon the rate and the angle of the energy's motion. Since yours is not a brain conversant with Earth's scientific nomenclature, this crude analogy must suffice:- the pitch of a note depends on the length and hence the vibration-time of a plucked guitar string; the 'state' of matter anywhere in the created universe depends upon subtle differences and variations of 'vibration of energy.

S: I think I follow you. When you say the 'state' of matter I feel that you don't mean its physical properties but rather its 'mode of existence' as the dictionary puts it.

P: True. Now, your physical sight depends upon light-energy causing a response within your brain circuitry, and you also know of light rays that are beyond the limiting factor of that circuitry. Likewise there are states of matter that are beyond the limit of your perception.

S: We are getting around to UFOs.

P: You sense that...Good. You, as observer within a body composed of earth-pitch-vibrations, are in a (relatively) static state, one which you cannot alter....the 'mode of existence' or state of UFOs is variable.

S: This is another 'onion skin truth' - I see true and not true differently as skins of non-comprehension are peeled off. So, UFO are always real, tangible, visible to themselves but not always so to me. You once asked if I would doubt my sanity if a craft that I was watching suddenly disappeared.

P: Excellent. And have you any fresh thoughts about your assumption regarding a 'propulsion unit'?

S: Well, if their state is variable and I have no knowledge of the conditions of that state I can't imagine movement within it. But when they are registering within Earth's conditions surely they will need to abide by our physical laws of motion?

P: So they do. However, the ability which enables these beings to change state also enables them to utilise an externalisation of inner power which extends to their vehicle and serves to 'propel' it through your less rapidly vibrating atmosphere/matter.

S: This ability.....is somehow connected with them being many-but-also-one.

P: Definitely so, and let me dispel that sad droop of the shoulders by assuring you that mankind also has the potential for such abilities. Wearing the bodies that you do (which are marvellous in themselves and yet are very limited), consciousness has first to learn the circuitry of the brain/computer....for the power-source can only be tapped when the owner knows exactly what he is 'occupying'.

* * * * *

PART 6.

Self: Can you tell me what problems space peoples have, or have had..and how they negotiate them? From what you've said previously I feel that conflict is unknown, but what of disease?

Philemon: Your phrase 'space peoples' needs clarification. The created universe is teeming with life in many stages of evolution and in many forms: some would be unrecognisable as 'life' under your definition. Your own planet herself supports several life-streams of which Man, the dominant species, knows nothing...and many of Man's problems arise from the non-recognition of the purpose and needs of other life-streams. In other regions of the universe similar problems have faced dominant species...the solution of which depended upon a widening of conscious recognition of life-in-relation-to-life. During the process of evolution there are four basic thresholds:-

- (1) The dawning of awareness.
- (2) The dawning of self-awareness. This leads to
- (3) The process of perfecting the physical vehicle, which begins with the natural-selection process and culminates in a conscious participation.
- (4) Then comes the fuller development of consciousness ...which can also be termed a vehicle. This in turn moves through a further set of thresholds in the perfecting process.

S: What stage are we at?

P: As a life-stream you are mid-way through process number 3.

S: Can you tell me more about disease, since this seems to belong in category 3?

P: Conflict is of itself a dis-ease and its results are registered through the physical vehicle. It may or may

not be obvious to you that a being who is gaining mastery over the complexities of its own brain mechanism is moving towards a disease-free body.

S: Yes, and medical science knows that much illness is psychosomatic.

P: Yet this dawning recognition is viewed only in the one specialised area, when in fact it should extend into every area of mankind's life situation.

S: I can 'feel' how utterly important this is...I wonder.... could you help me to write a book on it...later?

P: Before that would be possible you would need to gain experience of this truth which you feel to be so vital. I can supply you with further pointers toward self-experience but only you can implement them. There is however, one primary step that you must take, because this process of self-experience cannot be undertaken simply as a mechanical survey of the brain and body. I have used such words as circuitry and computer only because they represent an analogous system. That first step is to feel respect and admiration for the services given to you by the body, which is your only vehicle of expression.

S: That seems rather odd...like a split personality, as if I were separating myself from my body...or worse still, a sort of Narcissus.

P: It only seems odd because the concept is new to you. There will come a time when, by having seemingly separated your self from your body, you will have become more integrated with it. As I mentioned while stating the thresholds of evolution:- first a nature process, later a conscious one.

S: On to a slightly different line...your talk of 'respect' reminded me of once when you asked me to consider 'Love'.

P: Follow your line of thought, it is important.

S: During the last year or so I have been able to 'feel' a growing Love for everything...people and plants and planets ...But it is a strange thing that when I think of you...I feel an enormous respect for you, but it doesn't seem possible to call this 'Love'. Why is this?

P: You are approaching a great leap in your comprehension level. I shall not answer your questions directly for to do so would be to rob you of making a great step on your own. Sufficient to say that the caution you feel in this matter is natural, and is the clue to the discovery you will make. It may surprise you initially....then you will laugh: and Philemon will be laughing with you. THE END

Themes of Contact

SAUCERS & SORCERY

Norman Oliver

"Oh no! Not satisfied with telling us that sex goes nicely with Saucers, he's now going to say we should celebrate black masses, grab our broomsticks, nip off to the meeting place of the nearest coven and sacrifice a virgin or two to encourage a Flying Saucer to come down and join in the fun! I can hear the chorus already - albeit a minority one if I know my readers!

Nevertheless, let me pander to this viewpoint for a moment and take a look at QUEST UFO REPORT No 2 published in Ontario Canada, on the front cover of which we are "treated" to a photograph of a nude female who, at first glance, appears to be stabbing herself with three arms whilst lying on her back with her bottom in the air! From the caption, however, we gather she was merely recoiling from a ritualistic knife!

This was the "hors-d'oeuvres", so to speak, to the article inside by Ramona Clark, which certainly shows she doesn't have a very friendly attitude towards witchcraft as we are told, "It has long been recognised by authorities that the use of mind-expanding drugs, telepathy and hallucinations are all part of the witchcraft ritual." (Why should telepathy be 'bad'?) ...and..."The black mass is held near caves, rivers and Indian burial mounds. Meetings also take place near gravel pits where many UFOs have been sighted."...and..."Amnesia, telepathy, hallucinations and astral projection, strange entities that possess the power of teleportation.....all these and more are related to witchcraft and the now-familiar modern-day stories of UFOs, Space-men and UFO occupants. We are quite aware now that surrealist dreams are being used to cover up the actual happenings



that take place during 'time loss'. That there are incident almost too weird to accept happening is quite evident. The actual events are clouded under their cover. These incident can - and do - happen to many people, many we shall never learn of for fear of ridicule. It can happen to anyone any-time and any place. We are dealing with a complicated intelligence: one that we must certainly learn to understand before we become its victims....."

All this apart from alleging that witchcraft includes "selling one's soul", "making blood sacrifices", "child-slavery", "lycanthropy", "vampirism" and "cannibalism" - not to mention the old chestnut of reciting the Lord's prayer backwards! Go on - you try it! No - I don't believe it always works out that way.

To begin with, the average person's misconception of the "black arts" and witchcraft is astounding, a result of centuries of "indoctrination" and in more recent years frequent sensationalist treatment by the press and other media. To be a witch is only just ceasing to be synonymous with being evil. True, there are different types of magic - "black" and "white": but then we have the "goodies" and the "baddies" in almost every sphere of human activity - it certainly isn't the sole prerogative of witchcraft. To illustrate my point, here are a few quotes from E A St George, an occultist, who has written some of the soundest, and most humorous, common sense it has ever been my pleasure to read.....



"...the reporter came along. He arrived without any warning and he wanted to interview me on "Sex, Magic, Sex, Witchcraft, Sex." The subjects seemed to be somewhat mingled in his mind, for he was convinced that everyone in the occult world took off their clothes at every opportunity, that we were all Satanists and worshipped the Devil and so on. I tried to sort the man out and I failed. He wanted kinky thoughts and interesting pictures and he left quite unsatisfied.

".....Black magicians are supposed to go in for orgies - the

Sunday papers have exposed orgies so often they must know more about them than even we do! But I know a couple of black magicians who wouldn't be seen dead at orgies and a couple of white ones who would willingly participate. It doesn't prove a thing either way.

"...Then there's our reputation for desecrating churches, stealing wine, wafers and all the rest. Now, I've never met an occultist who did anything of the sort, but I've come across hooligans who did."

Thank you E A St George - the point is made. But, you are saying, what about the Saucers then? So, let me turn to one of my sources for saucer 'sorcery'.....

LADY HELEN - A WITCH

"LADY HELEN" has been a personal friend of mine for a number of years, though only comparatively recently have I learned of her Wicca connections. She is also interested in our own subject of Ufology for reasons she may not wish fully to divulge, but I suspect that a proportion of her interest lies more in discovering what makes ufologists "tick" than with the mechanics of the Saucers themselves. Possibly because she is more interested in people than things: possibly because she has no need to find out. I have every respect for the lady concerned and her family, who seem to me to have closer ties with one another than many professing more "conventional" beliefs: but, here in a Q & A format is Lady Helen to speak for herself:-

NORMAN OLIVER: I understand why you prefer to use a "nom-de-plume", but perhaps you would like to explain your reasons to our readers.....

LADY HELEN: The subject of witchcraft is very emotive. We all have children and do not desire them to be subject to persecution. Those of your readers who are parents will understand a child's need "not to be different to his friends." Therefore, until there is more tolerance towards "the different", the anonymity must remain to protect our kin.

NORMAN OLIVER: Are you the leader, or one of the leaders, of your coven and do you have a "title"?

LADY HELEN: I am, for the purpose of ceremony, the leader of the coven. My title is "The Lady", hence

"Lady Helen". However, in the coven there are a group of people who are known as "The Elders". The Elders and myself decide our policy: if there is any dissension (but this is rare), it is left for me to decide.

N: How many are there in your coven and do you practice "black" or "white" witchcraft?

LH: There are 37 members in our group. We practice a religion which is "Wise" and therefore it must be for good and against evil. We have many associate members, who, understanding our aims, give help where and when needed.

N: Could you define the difference between "black" and "white" witches?

LH: I don't think you need me to tell you what is good and that which is evil. I do wish the word "black" and the word "white" had not been brought into being in this connection, as they have different meanings to different races. However, for the purpose of answering, "black" has come to mean simply "evil" and "white", "good".

N: Have you always been a witch?

LH: No, only since I was seven years old, when my father promised to guide me in the way of his fathers. He then started to teach me how to recognise different plants and trees and their uses in medicine: also the lore of the birds and insects and the needs of our fellow-man.

N: Are your ceremonies normally held in the open, and is nudity involved? If so, why?

LH: Quite a lot of ceremonies are held in the open, because this is where it first began. You know the Gods and Goddesses are the Gods of Nature, so naturally they are more easily worshipped in their own surroundings. But for our own convenience we do most of our teaching in our own homes. Nudity? If someone works better in the nude, why not? The human body is one of the most beautiful things in the Universe. In the past, people used very heavy robes for protection against thorns and the cold. They hurried to the meeting-place where there were fires burning and food and drink. So, when the dancing began people became very hot. And, really, have you ever tried to dance in a very long robe made of a blanket-like cloth? Seriously, though, there is a ceremony when the removal of clothing has to be.

N: Witchcraft has its origins before Christianity...is that correct?

LH: Yes, the religion goes back much farther than Christianity

Many Christian feast days are based on those of "The Old Religion": the old teachings are paralleled many times in Christianity.

N: You once mentioned to me that the origins of witchcraft could be connected with extra-terrestrials. Could you enlarge on this?

LH: As at present, craft usually land in remote places. In the past, it was the more intelligent among the natives who became curious and ventured out to see who these beings were who came in "Iron Birds", "Dragons", "Angels' Chariots" etc. Their courage was rewarded in that they were taught the secrets of Nature: how to make it work for you instead of against: plants to help in sickness etc. And so these people became known as the "Wise" and others turned to them in time of sickness.

N: Does a witch possess what others would regard as "supernatural" powers? For example, can you effectively "curse" people?

LH: A witch possesses nothing which is not basic in everyone. People, in becoming "civilised" have lost sight of these powers. A witch cultivates them, learns how to bring them back to life - how to control them and make the power work for you. Yes, I can "curse" someone, and did in the case of a person being very cruel to animals. It is not a power to use lightly and I have only used it once. I do not believe in putting "Power" to a bad end, but this person had to be stopped before they turned from animals to young children.

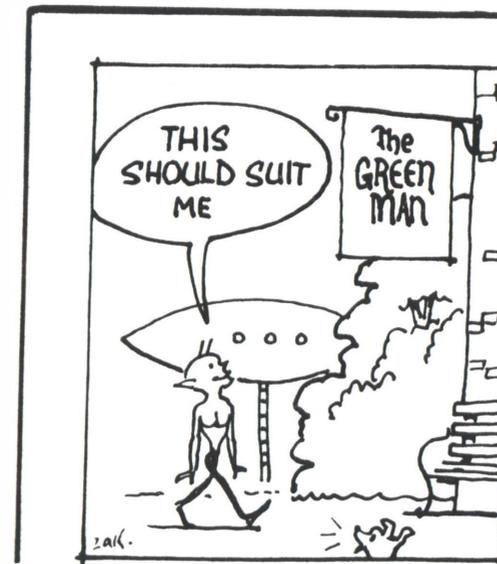
N: Are you telepathic to any degree? If so, does this apply to other members of your coven?

LH: Yes, we are telepathic in varying degrees. Most of us can also "read the future": these arts are naturally brought to the surface by practising our arts.

N: I have asked about the origins of witchcraft in relation to extra-terrestrial craft: is there a present-day connection between the two?

LH: Between members of the Old Religion and the "Old Ones" there is still a connection. I don't mean that should you join a coven you will automatically meet space people. There are many people practising witchcraft who have no connection with the "Old Ones". This is not to say these people are not sincere, and mostly they practise a very beautiful and satisfying religion.

N: As well as being a witch, do you yourself have extra-



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terrestrial connections? If so, can you elaborate?

LH: The one thing follows from the other in our case, as you can see from previous answers.

N: Do you regard yourself as an extra-terrestrial? If so, can you enlarge?

LH: Yes I do, but for the present would rather not enlarge.

N: Have you ever entered what is popularly termed a "flying saucer"?

LH: I have travelled with people who did not originate from the planet Earth.

N: Have you always lived in North England?

LH: I have lived in many different places, but hope to spend the next few years in the Lancs-Cheshire area. We have work here I find most satisfying.

N: Personally, I would regard "white" witchcraft as a love of, and an attempt to become one with nature in its broadest sense. Would you agree? Or could you give a more accurate appraisal?

LH: Yes, this is so, but it is also the door to secret knowledge, of worlds you never knew existed in your wildest dreams. A sense of wonder you thought you had closed the door on as you left childhood. A knowledge of the good in the Universe, but also, of the deep evil which lurks in some of these secret worlds. But by far the most wonderful thing you learn is a love and understanding of your fellow-man that surpasses anything you have ever known.

N: What advice would you give to anyone wishing to join a coven? And how would they set about it?

LH: I would say first, what do you want from witchcraft? What are you prepared to give? If you want sex, cheap thrills, then jump on the band-waggon, there are many of these covens up and down the country. Don't, unless you are prepared to spend long hours studying. But even so, it is very hard to become a member of the real Wicca. It is easier to become a member of the "imitators" and there are many covens all over the country fulfilling this need that has become apparent in people. Depending upon an individual's need I could advise on this point. You could of course start your own coven, but the leader would have to be instructed, guided and initiated.

N: What advice (printable!) would you give to the Ufologist?

LH: These people are here now, in great numbers. Take care! Lest you entertain "Angels" unaware. A look through your

newspapers will tell you the "side" of Earth you are presenting to them. Read and think! When we show no love and respect for our own world and people, then surely these people are right to be afraid of open contact for the present. The Ufologist has a job to do. Show by your example that the world is maturing.

N: How, in your opinion, can one best effect contact with extra-terrestrials? And do you consider there is any danger involved in attempting to do so?

LH: One cannot effect contact. THEY contact YOU. Its not when THEY are ready, its when YOU are. Cheer up, you are gradually moving in the right direction. There would be no danger in contacting these people if it were possible. It is possible that in attempting to do so one is very frequently led astray. There are many mischievous beings whose sole aim in existence seems to be to throw red herrings. They are harmless but exasperating. There are also, unfortunately, beings intent on evil. And these would willingly destroy a mind for the sheer hell of it. But of the "Old Ones" themselves - only good can come from knowing them.

N: Have you any other comments you would like to make? Or other information you think would interest readers of GEMINI?

LH: My stars Norman, I would reckon you've had enough! If your readers have been interested, perhaps they could fire questions in your direction and I would do my best to answer them. Meanwhile, "May you walk in the paths of your Gods."



Thank you - Lady Helen, and now let us touch on somewhat different associations of Witchcraft with Ufology.....

Witchcraft and the occult open up a fascinating field to the researcher: they bristle with hidden meanings, cross-associations and "tie-ups" with subjects closely associated with Ufology if not Ufology itself.

The possibility of the existence of ancient civilisations such as "Atlantis" and "Lemuria" in eras of pre-history has fascinated many a researcher and leads us to.....

RITUALS

Stewart Farrar, in WHAT WITCHES DO tells us that "the origins of esoteric teachings are lost in legendary pre-history. A firm occult tradition places them in Atlantis: not merely an inherited tradition, but one reinforced by psychic techniques of recalling past incarnations and reading the Akashic Records." And later...."The Akashic principle can be thought of as a multi-dimensional recording medium, in which everything that has ever happened has left its mark. Advanced adepts acquire the gift of "consulting the Akashic Records" for information on their own and other peoples' past lives."

Whilst admittedly writing in a modern vein, William Gray, in his book SEASONAL OCCULT RITUALS provides us with what may perhaps be a more remarkable analogy than he realises when describing the Rite of Commencement which "....in a way.... is very similar to the initial thrust behind a rocket ship which puts it into orbit. Providing the first stage falls off properly and allows the remainder to take up its orbit in a correct fashion, all is well...." and: "When the main Rite is done a sort of descent programme is needed to bring the ritualists back to ordinary Earth Levels of life with a series of broad 're-entry' circles that culminates in what might be described as a perfect landing. Thus the psyche is gently and naturally brought back into alignment with the everyday personality."

Back in WHAT WITCHES DO we are informed that a phallic wand should be carried for most Wiccan festival rituals. It may, however, be a plain wand, decorated with a black and white ribbon, possibly the true form of Caduceus or Mercurian staff with its intertwined twin serpents. George Hunt Williamson, in OTHER TONGUES, OTHER FLESH states that early in 1952 a young man who lectured in California on the coming of the Space People to Earth used the caduceus symbol, and he goes on to allege that men from space came to settle disputes and "heal" man's



sufferings by wandering from place to place dispensing cures, and the caduceus became a sign of healing and settlement of quarrels. It could be pure speculation, but this calls to mind the earlier words of Lady Helen and the "connecting thread" of space visitors - caduceus - witchcraft - healing - caduceus - ritual wand - witchcraft - space visitors is food for speculation in itself. It becomes even more so when it is recalled that Dan Fry, when relating his trip in a remote-controlled saucer in THE WHITE SANDS INCIDENT said that the material design inside was the symbol of the tree and the serpent - a design bearing a remarkable resemblance to the caduceus "wand".

Some of the most remarkable references in WHAT WITCHES DO and similar works concern the Tarot cards. For example, those black and white ribbons on the ritual wand are also regarded as symbolising the pillars of Solomon's temple, Boaz and Jakin (Black and White), which stand for duality, the unity of balancing opposites and are a recurring theme in occult symbolism: they stand for the twin forces of power and love and amongst other cards are found on the High Priestess who sits between the two pillars of Solomon's temple (Boaz and Jakin). She is crowned with the horns and disc of Isis, the crescent Moon at her feet. Bearing in mind that Isis is regarded by many writers on saucer pre-history as a space entity, I wonder, could it be stretching imagery too far to substitute - say - AVB for Boaz: the woman in the craft for Jakin, and the craft or its world of origin for the High Priestess? Quite possibly it would, but certainly so far as this Brazilian contact case is concerned (see GEMINI 2 and THE HUMANOIDS), it could surely be said that a unity of balancing opposites occurred!.....

Our next item is extremely intriguing, but it should be remembered that the Tarot may be interpreted in numerous ways and this is but one example. Nevertheless.....



TAROT TRUMP - SAUCER TRUMP?

Whilst meditating on other possible associations between the Tarot and saucers, by pure chance I happened to open the book **MAGICAL RITUAL METHODS** at a point where the Tree and the Tarot Trumps are described. The Trumps fall into ten distinct categories of associated ideas, and No 1 category was shown as below.....



There are two points of great interest here. The first is the description of the ten categories of ideas, namely: The SUN, MOON and STAR. These may be called COSMIC and refer to the structure of our Universe away from our own Earth and into the depths of space.

The second point is the symbol itself, for if one just removes the small circle from the symbol (and for argument's sake allow that the circle is symbolical of this Earth or life on it), we now have the symbol on the right and, as will be seen, this is precisely the symbol on the San Jose de Valderas photographs, the story, a summary of which follows, being told in complete detail in **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW** Vol 15. 5.

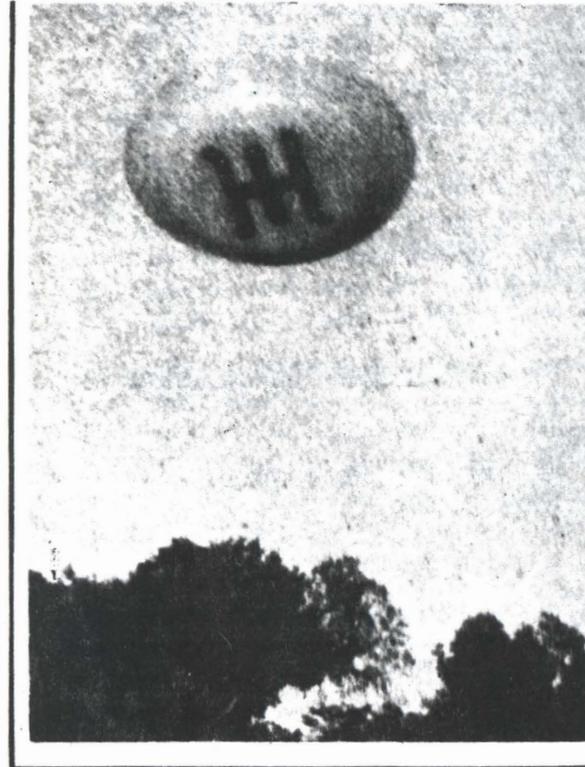


THE SAUCER OF SAN JOSE DE VALDERAS.

On the evening of 1 June 1969, several people in San Jose de Valderas in Spain saw a "strange disc-shaped object which appeared almost immediately over the castle and then performed evolutions over the area for a period of some twelve minutes, flying so low that it almost grazed the tops of the trees, fluttering to and fro in a strange movement like a falling dead leaf and finally vanishing in the direction of the Extradamura Highway.....It was perfectly round, about 12 or 13 metres wide, and seemed to consist of two wash-basins placed with their concave sides facing each other. On the underpart, the belly of the craft bore a curious design....."

Several witnesses gave differing descriptions of the "design" as, indeed, witnesses are prone to do of practically any incident the world over, but any differences were resolved on

on the photographs being developed. There were in fact two sets of photographs taken by different people, though only one set were taken at an angle from which the sign was clearly visible. The corroborative evidence is given in full in the **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW** article and this must surely rank as one of the most well-authenticated sightings ever reported. The association of the sign with the Tarot is extremely intriguing and if the report itself is a 'true bill' - which it certainly appears to be - is food for thought indeed. If not, one can only say that it must have been a most complicated and devious hoax to arrange. This I do not think it was, but in Ufology, of course, one can seldom be sure.....!



I would be very interested to hear readers' opinions on points raised in this article: also "Lady Helen", as she has said, is willing to do her best to answer readers' queries. Correspondence sent to me at 95, Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA will be published and/or answered in the next "THEMES" when we shall examine further occult aspects.

FOOTNOTES:

1. The sign on the Tarot is also that by which, astrologically, the planet Uranus is designated.
2. A letter sent to the Italian magazine **CLYPEUS** from West Berlin on 30 August 1969, written in French and claiming to be from inhabitants of the planet UMMO, was published in full in **CLYPEUS** No 33, March/April '71 The notepaper heading incorporated the sign on the "Valderas" craft. In issue No 41, July/August '72, **CLYPEUS** examines this

claim thoroughly and comes to the conclusion that the claim - not the "Valderas" sighting report - is most probably a hoax, but if so, it is more likely to be the work of a sophisticated organisation than that of an individual.

It would appear, incidentally, that a more accurate presentation of the (alleged) planet's name is OUMMO and that of its sun, IOUMMA.

REFERENCE SOURCES:

QUEST UFO REPORT No. 2 Ontario, Canada.
WHAT WITCHES DO by STEWART FARRAR
SEASONAL OCCULT RITUALS by W G GRAY
MAGICAL RITUAL METHODS by W G GRAY
OTHER TONGUES, OTHER FLESH by GEORGE HUNT WILLIAMSON
THE WHITE SANDS INCIDENT by DAN FRY
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW Vol 15 No 5
CLYPEUS No 33, March/April 71 and No 41, July/August 72
(PO BOX 604, 10100, Torino Centro, Italy)

THE GRIMOIRE OF THE HOLY PARTNERS is read throughout the world. For further information send a SAE to the Secretary, Holy Partners, 11, Bramham Gardens, London, S.W.5. The Grimoire deals with ceremonial magic only.

PUMA SPOTTERS AHOY!

The following letter was recently received by GEMINI:-

Dear sirs,

We are a group like yourselves who are investigating the phenomena of A.S.C's. During the last two years we have been investigating the mysterious Puma type of creature which appears to be roaming the South of England, hence our title. It has become apparent to us through our A.S.C. research that the presence of strange animals etc. reported in conjunction with UFOs is quite startling.....we were wondering if during the course of your investigating you have come across similar findings.....

THE PUMA RESEARCH GROUP
3, Lemon Road, Shirley,
Southampton, Hants.

Editor's note: Don't ask us what an ASC is - ask them!

Exposed! The great flying saucer hoax

The above headline was carried by the DAILY EXPRESS dated Oct 6 1972, and referred to the long-accepted "saucer" photograph taken by Alex Birch (then 14) in February 1962 at Mosborough, Sheffield. This was allegedly taken with a box camera and was of 5 objects in formation. He was with two other boys and their stories tallied.

The DAILY EXPRESS article quoted Alex as stating he painted the "saucers" on a pane of glass, then photographed through it. This was confirmed by Alex himself the same evening on the BBC 1 TV programme NATIONWIDE when he appeared during a section of the programme devoted to a book by Mr Rex Dutta which, unfortunately, prominently featured the Birch photograph on the cover.

Now, I am not so naive as to jump up and say the photograph WAS genuine and that for some reason or other Alex Birch had been "got at"! The indications are, certainly, that the picture was a fake. Nevertheless there are one or two odd features which are a little puzzling and could certainly benefit by amplification. I must admit to some element of personal interest here, as several years ago I was instrumental in disposing of the negative on behalf of a third party who had already purchased it from Alex Birch.

Accordingly I wrote the following letter to Alex Birch c/o NATIONWIDE as he had moved from his former address.....

"Dear Mr Birch,

Firstly, may I congratulate you on having cleverly and successfully pulled the wool over the eyes of UFO societies - and for that matter the Air Ministry also - with your extremely well-known "saucer" photograph. I have heard many suggested explanations of the "objects" in the photo, but to the best of my knowledge no-one has ever thought of their having been painted on a pane of glass!

I must admit, having seen the NATIONWIDE

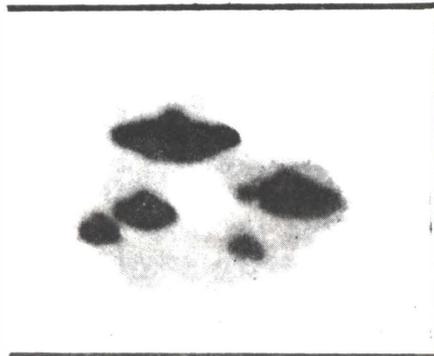
item, that there are one or two points I would be most grateful if you could clarify as I feel sure they will be raised by some of our readers, namely:

- 1: What prompted you to reveal the photo was a hoax after it had been generally accepted for ten years?
- 2: Was Mr Birch, senior, aware of its being a hoax from the beginning?
- 3: Was the pane of glass shown on NATIONWIDE the original one?
- 4: Have you believed, or do you believe in the existence of Flying Saucers despite faking the photo?

I appreciate your time is valuable, but if you could reply to the above I'd be most grateful.

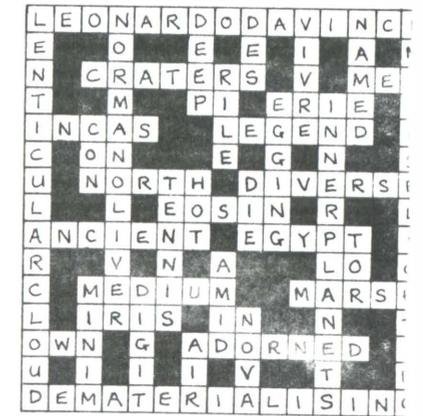
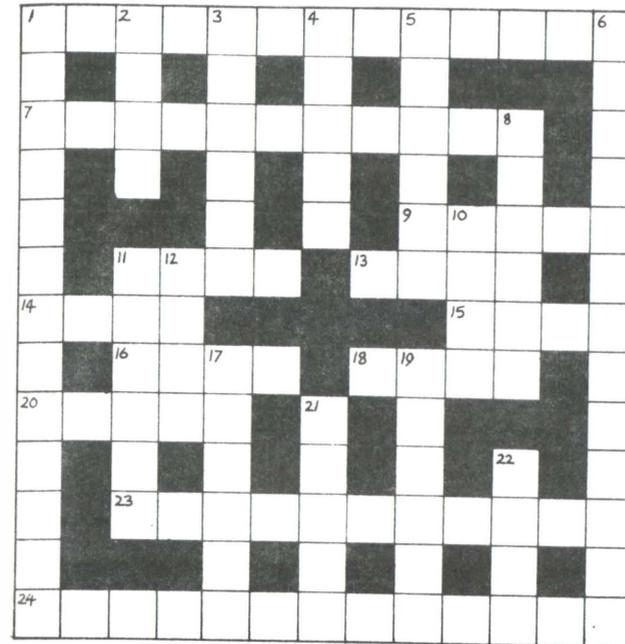
Yours sincerely.....Norman Oliver.

The BBC acknowledged receipt, stating the letter had been forwarded to Leeds where the interview with Mr Dutta took place. To date, nothing has been heard from Mr Birch, but readers will be kept informed of any developments. Point No 2 in the letter was, however, subsequently found to have been answered in the SHEFFIELD STAR of Oct 6 1972 which stated that his father was unaware of the hoax until Oct 5 1972 - the day prior to the "revelation" of the hoax.....NTO



GEMINI AND FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

In the Sept/Oct '72 issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, the second "leader" headed BAD PUBLICITY was devoted to criticism of myself and through me, GEMINI, the cause being an article in the SUNDAY PEOPLE some months ago. In the interests of harmony and space I am not taking the matter up in GEMINI. A reply has, however, been sent to FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and I am informed by Charles Bowen the probable issue in which it will appear will be March/April '73. Readers wishing to see the reply are advised to purchase this issue of FSR. NTO



Solution to Crossword 3

Crossword 4



Compiled by CDOH

ACROSS

1. Misnomers that blaze away (8,5)
7. Gemini cat left a bit of a problem (11)
9. Greek in final home game (5)
11. When they burn, listen for a message (4)
13. Do these UFOs wish us to think them planes? (4)
14. Some make a meal of this produce (4)
15. Humanoid whose existence is yet in doubt (4)
16. Life of saucer occupants? (4)
18. Typical scene of car-stopping incidents (4)
20. Feature c Mars recently resolved (5)
23. Study that could aid communication with space visitors (11)
24. They gather for a mock invasion (7,6)

DOWN

1. Ray's method of analysis (13)
2. Leave out this one (4)
3. As the cry went up in Siberia (6)
4. Birth of SA contactee story (5)
5. Degree of fridity on trendy Pluto (2,4)
6. They look skywards for rescue (13)
8. Gawked - as might a disturbed spaceman (6)
10. Singularly ancient culture is an illusion (4)
11. Etch in some thing concerning a race (6)
12. Burma, Siam are included here (4)
17. Spherical UFOs appear worldwide (6)
19. Cry of dismay on going down instead of up (2,4)
21. They emanate from you and Sara (5)
22. Taken place - in France? (4)

The first correct solution received before April 20 wins a year's subscription to GEMINI commencing immediately or from the expiry date of his/her current subscription.

NEW MAIL BAG

"I think the last GEMINI edition was excellent. I found it not only interesting but very fair and its coverage of so many aspects of the UFO scene was extremely helpful to those of us who are attempting to discover the secret.

Raymond Drake's ideas and researches are so nearly touching on my own small discoveries that I again take heart. It is only by verification from many such sources that what one might call the Inherent Probability of UFOs can be outlined. The more of us who do just that then the nearer we are to a true conclusion. I like also David Oakley-Hill's HARD FACTS. The nearer we get to rational explanations then the nearer I feel we shall be to a wider self-illumination because our own expansion depends on wider understanding.

I enjoyed the touch of authenticity in the Blue John account especially as I did some exploration in that area myself with Philip Rodgers in the past.....I would like to state that from my own mental contacts that area is terrifically powerful mentally and I have received long messages from space people telepathically while in that region....."

Mary Long
East Grinstead

"Many thanks for the latest (and best) issue of GEMINI - the editors are to be congratulated....."

The Blue John affair seems once again to operate in the near dream-sphere/reality world which so often bedevils our ufology and which has been touched on recently by many UFO authors.....The question of the strange scarcity of cars on the road near B J during the landing is mentioned. Could it be that restraint can be exercised on movements of some approaching motorists mentally when secrecy of UFO approach is required and those cars already too near may be halted in the manner now often evident - by interference with electric circuits? It's a thought.

Dr G G Doel
Lymington
Hants.

"Many thanks for sending me your latest issue of GEMINI. I found contents most interesting indeed: not many mags or journals like yours about nowadays....."

Roy Lak
Dagenha

"Re your Sex and Saucers article, I confess that when I first read it, I did not even bother to think further about it to see what one could make of it, but recently I have been looking into the so-called "Man's Other Faculties" and probably the report on sex and saucer contacts may be significant in this direction.

In mythology, one frequently finds examples of sex used for purposes other than self-gratification and if, as C G Jung suggests, the UFO phenomena appears to be modern myth in the making, then I think it should be studied from this angle along with religious ceremonials (East and West).

In the last issue I found Mollie Thompson's articles highly interesting, even though the ufological connection appears vague, but the psychological/philosophical aspects, as you probably agree, must not be overlooked.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for the content and production of GEMINI."

(Full name and address supplied) L.S
London SW 1'

Readers with questions or comments on DISCUSSIONS WITH PHILEMON should address letters to Mollie Thompson c/o GEMINI, 95 Taunton Rd London SE12 8PA. Please enclose SAE.

"I congratulate you on your publication which gets more and more interesting and very good in print. I am sure you spend a considerable time on it and nobody minds if you are behind schedule now and then.

You must have excellent connections in Norway. Their report are most interesting and the sketches help a lot in putting weight on them....."

Lou Zinstag
Basel
Switzerland

"Thanks very much for sending me GEMINI. It is a first-rate publication and I wish you every success.....

The Blue John story is quite fascinating. I have come across several similar cases here involving amateur radio operators. Incidentally, the absence of traffic on a normally busy road is an important clue to the real nature of the phenomenon. It usually suggests what I have labelled a "distortion of reality". That is, the witness enters another time frame and it takes him (or her) several minutes of his time to experience something that probably takes place in seconds in real time. The best case of this that comes immediately to mind took place in Cherry Hill, N J in 1966. A carload of witnesses on a normally very busy highway saw no other traffic during their sighting.....an enormous object hovering over a computer plant. When I pieced all their stories together it became obvious that some complicated distortion of time had occurred.

For years now I have entertained the theory that the individuals who have turned up all over the world, claiming to be extraterrestrials and even moving in with families temporarily in Spain, France, England and the U S, were in actuality normal human beings who had disappeared enigmatically from their own environment and who were "possessed" by an outside intelligence. These displaced individuals turn up later in remote parts of the world with no memory of what has happened to them during the weeks, months, or even years of their disappearance.

I abandoned the ETH long ago simply because I couldn't fit any of the real data into it. So I turned, instead, to medical and psychiatric studies, and to philosophy...much to the annoyance of the "hardware boys" and the ETists.

Note that you spoke to Arthur C Clarke about his old anti-UFO story. After re-reading Clarke's writings from the early 1950s I labelled him the world's leading ufologist. He has extended his thinking far beyond the simplistic ETH and it is a shame the ufologists do not take him more seriously."

john a keel
New York

-----TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT GEMINI-----
