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SPOTLIGHT ON THE WITNESS

ANATOMY OF A PERCIPIENT.
UFO WITNESSES: PUBLIC PROPERTY?



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Editorial Notes - continued

forming at times an embryonic cult. We believe that this study provides such useful information on the early stages of the 'contactee syndrome'.

As an afterword, we gather that since the episode of the 'angel' (to be described in part two - Ed) Paul has claimed no further visions. He is now engrossed in O-level examination studies. A rather more disturbing development is his apparent adoption of a local spiritualist as a 'guru'. This gentleman now seems to do all the talking for Paul. (PR)

editorial notes

In this issue of MUFOB we present the first part of an extended report on the teenage 'contactee' Paul Bennett. The Editors feel that some words of explanation may be useful.

No doubt many readers will wonder what relevance the fantasies of an adolescent have for UFO research. John Rimmer's article Fact, Fraud and Fairytale provides a rationale; for the study of dream, hoax and fiction is most revealing. The basic themes of 'real' UFO experiences are to be found in these sources also.

It is difficult to estimate how real the events that Paul Bennett describes are to him. The investigators have made some interesting points. They point out that for young children the distinction between 'personal reality' such as dream, and public reality, is very blurred. Consensus reality has to be learned - society teaches us what is 'real' and what is 'imagination'.

Now in this context the investigators noted something very important. That Paul Bennett's reading consisted very largely of that which is often called 'faction', that mixture of established fact and wild speculation which is characterised by such writers as von Daniken, Berlitz and Don Wilson. Bennett parrots their views and expands on them. In effect he is learning a 'factional' reality!

However this in itself is probably not sufficient to explain Paul Bennett's behaviour. Many hundreds of people may have 'factional' intellectual systems without projecting them onto their own experiences. Paul must, however, have some powerful motive for creating what his own family (and no doubt many of his schoolfriends) regard as a delusional system. Perhaps it is a mixture of artistic impulse, a desire to brighten up the tedium of everyday existence, a spirit of rebellion or a yearning for attention. In other words a similar constellation of factors which lead other less articulate teenagers to commit various anti-social acts. As for Paul, perhaps in other cultural contexts he would have been the 'pious child' who receives a religious vision or the centre of poltergeist activity, or even the 'victim' of a witchcraft attack.

The material in the Paul Bennett article provides the record of the growth of a series of non-consensus experiences; associated with the growth of, and reinforced by, a non-consensus belief system. At times it seems Paul can persuade other people to share his experiences,

Continued in column one

ANATOMY OF A PERCIPIENT

NIGEL WATSON

INVESTIGATES THE REMARKABLE CASE OF PAUL BENNETT

Paul Bennett's UFO experiences came to my notice through the UFOIN scheme. Paul is an intelligent 14-year-old who appears to be above average in intelligence and articulation. He lives in a pleasant home in Wrose, between Shipley and Bradford, Yorkshire. The only aspect of his life that put him out of the ordinary is that he and his friends have seen many UFOs and experienced various aspects of the 'unknown'. These experiences constitute the bulk of this report. I have tried as far as possible to keep to the statements made by Paul; either quoting from an exercise book he filled with UFO accounts, or transcribed notes from tape-recorded interviews.

My first visit to Paul was on Monday 5th September 1977. During this visit I had an opportunity to speak to his mother, who commented that he "believes what he sees but his sightings have no basis in reality" (this was the gist of her sentiments. Paul protested, but reading the accounts one cannot but think that there is more than a grain of truth in her comments. My second visit was on the 9th October 1977, when I had the opportunity to meet several of Paul's friends, including Darryl Tate and Andrew Hammond.

Certainly Paul is subject to many influences. He lives in a hilly area, and there are many suitable places for observing the sky. He has an extensive collection of UFO books, from Keel to Daniken - a total of about eighty paperbacks, as well as books on various Fortean phenomenon, and one on witchcraft. Paul has read the Bible right through, saying "Revelations is my favourite chapter, I keep reading that..." He views the Bible as a source book for the events interpreted by von Daniken. This viewpoint has brought him into conflict with some of his schoolfriends and teachers.

UFOs are his main interest, but he also studies "astronomy, meteorology, nuclear physics and a little psychology which is helpful to the subject of UFOs". Not only does he collect UFO records and accounts and write about them in his exercise books, but he is now also checking up possible links between UFO and other phenomena. and ley-lines.

Is Paul telling the truth about his observations and experiences? There is no clear answer to that, as far as I can see. Certainly, in his

accounts we can see the influences of his books on his experiences. He compares his first UFO sighting to an illustration in Brinsley le Poer Trench Flying Saucer Story. Other experiences he compares to Flatwoods and Warminster (which he visited in the summer of 1977), and parallels to many of the events described in this report are easy to find in the literature. Could it be that an over-worked imagination has been subjected to too many UFO books? He has been able to attract attention to himself, and add an element of adventure to his life. Many people, including some 'ufologists', would say that he is either deluding himself, or is simply seeking attention. However, I would argue that he has created his own 'reality'. To him his UFO experiences are as valid as any other mode of reality. This is borne out by his statement: "I once had a dream, or semi-dream, I don't know whether it were a dream or not,..." Perhaps he did 'dream' his sightings, but they are dreams which have been shared by his friends. When we read Andrew Hammonds comments in the 'Robot' section, we can see that Paul has a powerful influence over his friends. For instance, Andrew says: "I thought I saw something, but I thought 'oh, it must have been you (Paul) trying to make me think so'. He always does that".

Beside Paul's mother and grandmother being slightly psychic, Paul seems to be the only member of the family to have a great interest in the unknown.

I think we might hear more from Paul Bennett in the future.

The first sightings

The first UFO sighted by Paul was on Sunday 13th May 1972. He saw a disc the size of a taxicab. It was glowing white, and flew at terrific speed past his bedroom window. Paul wrote in his book: "This UFO was about 3-4 yds away from me when I saw it. I was about a yard from the window, and the UFO was about 2½ yds from the window when it flew past. I would give almost anything to get another good look at that UFO. (It) made absolute no noise at all, I think that's what scared me when I saw it".

According to Paul the UFO looked exactly like one photographed over Holloman AFB, Alamogordo, New Mexico, on 10th October, 1957. (1)

Almost exactly 20 months later on Monday 14th January 1974, he had his second UFO sighting. At 8.40pm whilst looking out of his bedroom window at the Pleiades star cluster, he saw a flash of light in the direction of Aldebaran and the Hyades star cluster in the constellation of Taurus. This light flared to a magnitude of -5.2 (2), slowly passed his field of vision in a westerly direction. Suddenly the light did a 90° turn and shot towards the Moon. After crossing the face of the Moon the light dimmed then flared up to a magnitude of -6.0. After hovering at the zenith it grew a little dimmer and then shot off to the horizon in about three seconds.

These two sightings obviously fired Paul's imagination, because in late December 1974 Paul and Darryl Tate (a school-friend of his) decided to form an informal UFO group, which they called BRUFORP, standing for Bradfordian Research into Unidentified Flying Objects and Related Phenomenon. (3)

Idle Hill Reservoir

On Friday 10th October 1975 Robert Hopkins, Andrew Callaghan and Paul Bennett were playing in a woodland area near Paul's home. One of the friends looked up to the Idle Hill Reservoir and shouted "What's that". They all looked up and saw a "glowing red cigar-shaped object" directly over the reservoir. Later on Tuesday 21st October 1975, Robert Hopkins and an anonymous witness saw a "glowing green object" also hovering over the reservoir, at 7.33 pm. Eleven days later on Saturday 1st November 1975 yet another red cigar-shaped UFO was seen hovering at the same spot at 7.25pm.

Paul spotted the fact that there was an eleven day cycle to these events, so "on the 12th November at 1975, John Tilleard and myself went to the reservoir with a camera, binoculars, notebook and a pen and pencil. We were around and on the reservoir for almost an hour. It was as if the people within the saucers knew that John and I were going to observe the reservoir. No UFOs were sighted over there that night and to this day no UFOs have been seen above the Idle Hill Reservoir."

During the period of UFO activity over Idle Hill, Paul at a spot nearby saw a robot...

The 'Robot'

"On the 12th of October 1975 (at 4.05 pm) Andrew Hammond and myself were slowly walking home from our school, and making our way up towards Carr Lane cliffs. As we got to the top of Hope Avenue we both split up. Andrew walked up another part of the field as I continued forward." So wrote Paul in his book.

During our first interview he told me that, "at first when I was (walking along) at the bottom of the field it was... up there, I thought it was just a man. It just looked like a person, so that if anybody in the flats ever saw it, it just looks like a person."

Nigel Watson: "But you came a bit closer. What made you look closer?"

Paul Bennett: "I carried on walking home, I'm

always inquisitive, looking for things, now, and I just looked up at him to see what he was doing. He appeared to be just a man with a rather big body and real thin legs. And I thought, men don't look like that, so I walked up and looked up, and he was in the shape of two round balls, and I carried on walking further up, and I could see that it wasn't anything like a man."

In his book Paul wrote: "After getting about five yards from the bottom of the cliffs I noted his definite shape, height, colour, and appearance" He continues... "What I could see was a monster-like thing, about twelve feet tall scooping up samples of dirt, with small charcoal deposits in it, (picking) up and placing them in the side of its abdomen. The monster was... a definite green colour. The arms which collected the dirt/charcoal samples were exactly like a fly's leg. Two arms were observable and both were about four feet long. A remarkable thing about the monster was that it had two long stilt-like legs and two small plate-like feet. The head had no eyes, nose, mouth, ears or hair, but looked just like a thick, solid ball of green metal."

"I threw some stones at the thing and only one of them hit. It made a 'ping' sound as if it were metal. Even though I hit the thing, it did not retaliate in any way."

The following transcription of our interview has been rearranged and edited for ease of presentation and continuity.

Roger Hebb: "You didn't imagine it?"

Paul Bennett: "Well there is physical evidence there. When I saw this I only had two books on UFOs. It was just after the sightings that I got really interested in it."

Nigel Watson: "Had you heard about the Flatwoods Monster before then?"

PB: No, not before. It was about three weeks after, I got Uninvited Visitors, and there was something about Flatwoods in that, and I thought it just sounds like what I saw. Except the eyes."

NW: What sort of eyes did you see?

PB: It didn't have eyes. That one at Flatwoods had eyes, but this one didn't.

NW: What did it have in the way of a head?

PB: It had a kind of circular metallic ball, it didn't have eyes.

NW: It was all the same colour?

PB: The top part was a darker shade, dark green or light brown.

NW: How high did you think it was?

PB: Ten to twelve feet.

NW: What colour was it?

PB: It was green... well I'm colour blind, either green or brown. It looked green but it could have been brown.

NW: Could you see it in detail?

PB: Not everything, but I could see little pockets at its side and it was putting gravel into them.

NW: How often did it scoop its arms? Did they scoop in unison?

PB: One scooped up at one time and then there would be another and would do exactly the same thing... like a paddling motion... the arms seemed to grow a bit longer, it seemed to just scoop 'em down, bring 'em up and put them into a little pocket on its side. It'd stay still, and the other one would dig exactly the same.

NW: It was doing that all the time?

PB: Yes, except it didn't do a thing for about twenty or thirty seconds.

NW: How did it move?

PB: When it moved it looked as if it were hovering. It didn't move its feet at all... it just seemed as if it hovered.

RH: How long did you see it for?

PB: About two minutes... I didn't see it disappear, because my friend (Andrew Hammond) was stood by the cliffs and he was staring at me, and I saw him out of the corner of my eye and looked over to him. (I) shouted there was something up there, and as I looked back it had gone.

Paul and Andrew went over to where the 'robot' had been. They found two impressions "about the size of a dinner plate", and some small grooves, which Paul compared to a shovel or trowel marks. The traces were visible for three days to a week. The ground was warm, and the circular impressions were "very warm indeed". A boy at school told Paul that guides had camp-fires on the cliffs, but not where Paul had seen the creature.

On my second visit I was able to talk to Andrew Hammond:

NW: You were with Paul when he saw that robot?

AH: I was just opposite him actually... he was about 100 yds away. He went up the cliffs, and I went the other side, and I looked up and I thought I saw something and I thought it were Paul. And I shouted... no, it were you that shouted to me wasn't it?

PB: Yes, I shouted to you.

AH: You shouted to me. You said 'Did you see something up there?' and I said 'Yes, what was it?'. I didn't believe you at first... I thought I saw something, but I thought 'Oh, it must have been you trying to make me think so'. He always does that, that's the reason I didn't believe him at first.

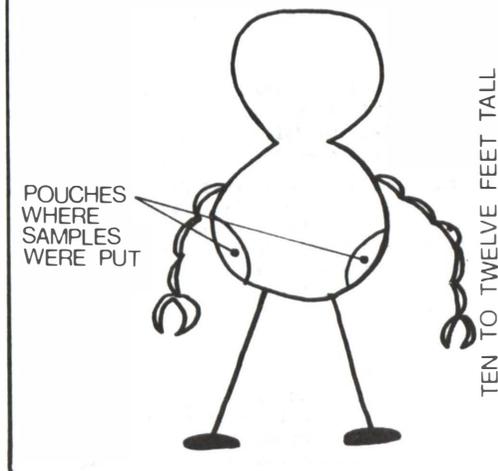
PB: Just when we were at the bottom, I says that if there were owt there, there should be two circular prints and there should be scoop marks, like claw marks in the soil, where it were digging up...

AH: When we went back we saw the things exactly what he described, the two pads...

In Paul's book he wrote in his account about the robot that "the case of this suspected robot was closed for several months as a hoax, but later re-opened by Andrew Hammond. This statement seemed rather self-contradictory, especially since Paul was the prime percipient. When questioned he explained:

"Well, there was this guide camp up there, and I heard someone say they had a barbecue

THE 'ROBOT'



From sketch by Paul Bennett

stand, and they (put) it near the top of the cliffs. Well, I thought they must have put it there and the imprints were from the barbecue stand, and that the (robot) must have been an hallucination or something, so I didn't bother with it."

Apparently Paul's later renewed interest in UFOs made him remember the robot sighting, and after reading about the Flatwoods Monster in Ivan Sanderson's book, he assigned his observation more importance. At our second meeting I asked him for more details of the sequence of the robot's movements, particularly the movement of the arms and claws:

"It scooped up alternatively, I think. One arm scooped up and then the other arm, and it put it in a little pouch, then the other arm did exactly the same thing... You know the last time you were taping me? And you asked 'How did it get its claw up there (the pocket), did it lengthen or not?'. They didn't lengthen... But they must have been rubber to do it. How..? I don't know how it did it."

In answers to further questions, I learned that the robot had made about ten or eleven scoops. Paul demonstrated the speed of the movement with his arm, which took about five or six seconds. The claws were black, a fact which he had not mentioned before. Paul further described the hovering motion. Apparently once the robot started floating along, it did not start scooping up again until it returned to the ground. The distance it travelled from the observer's right to left was a matter of a few feet. When it started scooping for the second time it was seen by Paul for "not longer than thirty seconds, then I turned round and saw him (Andrew Hammond) and it had disappeared when I looked again".

When I asked Paul how he thought the robot had disappeared, I wondered if he thought it had gone off in a spaceship or some similar device, he just replied that he "didn't know".

Dreams

To shed a little light on to Paul's robot sighting, and to illustrate the impact of the UFO subject on him, the following part of the interview of 5th September 1977 is of interest:

NW: What sort of dreams about UFOs do you have?

PB: Sightings... It only lasts about five minutes... I'm either playing or writing something, and something will alert me. I'll turn round and there'll be a UFO hovering behind me or something... and that's literally all it is, it only lasts a couple of minutes.

NW: Do you ever have the same dream recurring about UFOs?

PB: No, I don't think so, I might have done, but you know you can't always remember your dreams. Two of us had the same dream and we drew the objects that we saw in separate rooms, and they both came out the same thing.

NW: Who was your friend?

PB: John Tilleard (a school friend)

NW: How often do you go sleepwalking?

PB: About once a month.

NW: Have they coincided with your UFO sightings?

PB: I haven't noticed that.

Paul seemed very interested in this idea, and said he would check this if he had any future sighting. The shared dream was of a 'space capsule' flying past his bedroom window. This may have been at about the same time he saw the robot.

The 'Cigar'

In late August 1976, Neil Edmundson, "DL", and Paul Bennett were playing just to the west of some woods in Ravenscliffe. As all three of them ran towards Paul's grandmother's garden, Paul looked towards a golf-course which is north of the woods. As he looked up he "noticed a massive glowing silver object flying west at very low speed. The UFO was about half a mile away from us, but only several hundred yards away from some of the golfers. When we first saw the object only one end of it could be seen, and we all thought it was a plane. As it came up from behind the hill we saw that it was not a plane. It looked like a silver cigar-case on end (sic) but its overall size amazed us. At an estimate it was about 250 feet in diameter."

The UFO rose higher at an angle of 45 degrees, at an approximate speed of 40 mph. It disappeared from view behind some clouds. Paul was surprised that there was no article about the UFO in local papers the next day, because it flew directly above the group of golfers.

The Black Entity

"On the 15th October 1976 I was playing with some friends several yards from Westfield Grove when I turned round and saw a small, black, two-year-old-child sized thing run across the road and up Westfield Grove. The time I saw the thing was between 7.30 and 8.30 pm. About a minute or so later I ran to the area where I saw the thing, and found nothing." So wrote Paul in his book. In my interview with him he gave further details:

PB: There were about six of us here. I... turned round and I saw a little black creature, about two feet tall standing on the road... It moved to the edge then on the path and up Westfield Grove.

NW: Only you saw it though?

PB: Yeah...

NW: What did it look like?

PB: Its head was squashed a bit like a tomato, you know what the top of a tomato looks like... it didn't have any toes or anything like that, just straight legs that ended with flattened feet. Its arms... had no fingers of hands, and (it had) no nose, eyes, mouth or anything like that, what I could notice. And it had no ears; it was just like a deformed flattened body.

NW: How did it walk, did it move quickly?

PB: Just like you see dwarfs at the circus, they run with little short paces, just like that.

Paul's mother suggested that he had seen a dog, but he was adamant that it was definitely not a dog. This sighting, whether real or not certainly had an effect on Paul and his friends, as can be seen from this extract from his book:

"With all my friends laughing about it they all walked away. Everybody that is except Michael MacDermott, he stayed behind to help. After about three minutes of searching for evidence, Michael found the most fantastic evidence; there on the pavement were two small circular footprints. At the side of the road was a small puddle, the humanoid thing must have stepped into the water and run up the dry path leaving altogether about thirty small prints finally leading to JB's garden. Even later Michael claimed that he heard a faint whistling and a voice calling my name. Michael claimed that he heard the voice come from behind our hedge and we both saw the hedge move. There was no wind to make the bush move.

"This scared me a little and that night I attempted to block the case out of my mind, I could not, then when I was lying in bed the same night I was more frightened than I had ever been before. As I was staring at my door a silhouette of a small man appeared against it. At this point I felt like screaming out but I managed to calm down... about eight minutes later a voice definitely said "Paul, Paul, Paul". That night I could

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UFO WITNESSES Public Property?

HARRY TOKARZ

Throughout the past 30 years UFO investigators have amassed a wealth of reports dealing with close encounters by credible witnesses. Many of these reports have proven invaluable to those who have dedicated themselves towards the task of piecing together one of the greatest scientific puzzles of the 20th century. Data has been passed on to scientists and amateur researchers alike by UFO percipients, contactees and abductees, and this information is scrutinised, evaluated and catalogued for reference. In effect, people from all walks of life and from throughout the world have contributed graciously to this on-going investigation by having the public spirit to step forward and relate their UFO experiences to competent parties. These people have, by working closely with investigators, unwittingly persuaded us to look at ourselves and our universe in a different way. Although these witnesses have greatly assisted one part of the population, their stories seem to have an adverse effect on another group. Many eventually suffer indignities from those who cannot fathom their claims. Have you ever noticed the behavioural effects that the mere suspicion of the UFO 'presence' has on a large proportion of our society? UFO witnesses have been troubled by such manifestations for years.

There is no 'average' UFO witness. People from all walks of the population and from various ranks of the military services have been unexpectedly confronted by unusual ariel phenomena. Subsequent investigations have borne out the validity of their testimony, and they are resentful of the flimsy explanations that are often thrown to the public. These people are in a very precarious position, and there is little they can do, and what happens to the witness after the investigations is unfortunately beyond the control of the investigators or the witnesses themselves. UFO investigators invariably hear a frequently repeated complaint from witnesses: "I wish I had never reported this sighting".

What is behind this regret? Were they so severely traumatised by their UFO encounter that

they could not cope with it afterwards? Some certainly were, but out of a cross-section of 31 close encounter cases studied, 28 were definitely not. What the majority of the percipients dreaded since the day they made that fateful report was the 'depraved' public reaction. Since their report they seemed to inherit a wide variety of new difficulties. The emotional impact is tremendous and the UFO incident becomes secondary in this new chain of events.

In many cases the UFO witness stands alone against vast numbers of curious, sceptical and downright hostile people who do their best to make his or her life miserable. Immediately following the press reports and the spate of unwanted publicity, an interesting variety of characters come 'out of the woodwork' to converge on the home and privacy of the vulnerable 'celebrity'. If the hordes of curiosity seekers and 'little old ladies in tennis shoes' with tape recorders were not enough to contend with, many witnesses in recent years have been intimidated by a new breed of visitor - the violently disposed. They are awakened by publicity given to a witness and seem to object to the 'candidness' of a percipient, sometimes to the extent of threatening death if he continues to repeat his story. The very existence of a significant UFO report or a sighting of 'entities' affects the security of many people in different ways. Some turn to 'hard' scepticism, and successfully convince themselves 'It can't be, therefore it isn't'. These people become harmless 'scuffers', unwilling to recognise that their attitude is emotionally rooted.

But what about the deranged individual who would threaten the witness or attempt to ruin his livelihood because his report aroused some dark emotion? The general public is largely unaware of the continual harassment incurred by percipients, even years after their report is made public.

Robert Suffern knows he saw an 'extraterrestrial' being near his Bracegirdle, Ontario, farmhouse on October 7th, 1975, and sceptics be damned! If only it were as simple as that. The 27-year-old carpenter encountered a darkened circular craft in the middle of a gravel road, and nearly run down a small, silver-suited, helmeted figure, while investigating a report that his barn was on fire. Suffern was shaken by the event, but he was a reliable witness and gave researchers some excellent details, and provided a 'scoop' for reporters, who considered it good copy. His troubles had just begun.

By October 9th the wire services had picked up his story and many newspapers played up the sensational aspects. Then followed an almost ritualistic parade of investigators, reporters, curiosity-seekers and outright cranks, to the Suffern farm. One group set up a night vigil 'skywatch post' on the roof of the house. In the weeks that followed, Suffern was inundated with uninvited visitors who tramped around his property day and night. The phone rang continuously at all hours and he eventually had to get an

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unlisted number. As a father of two he became justifiably furious at two men who drove up one day in a Volkswagen and threatened his family if he persisted in talking to investigators. He ejected them from his property but the threat remained in his mind, and caused him considerable mental anguish. Two years later, with the movie "Close Encounters" rekindling public interest in the UFO phenomenon, Suffern reports that his children have "once again started receiving the treatment at school". To a parent this represents one of the worst forms of cruelty one can inflict upon a child. Suffern finds in incredible that his children should be subjected to ridicule for an experience he himself had two years earlier, and one to which he does not seem to attach a great deal of importance. In his own words: "I know what I saw, and seeing is believing but I don't care whether I ever saw that creature again. If it happened all over again I would never tell anybody!"

To make matters worse, various religious groups have capitalised on his experience, and attempted to convert him to their beliefs. The crank mail keeps rolling in like clockwork.

For many individuals the mere mention of the UFO phenomenon stirs up deep-seated fears. For some, the mere hint that 'their' world and 'their' state of being are not the centre of the universe is enough to release a lifetime of pent-up emotions and frustrations. Chronically unstable individuals may react violently towards any unfortunate UFO witness who crosses their path. Man reacts to a given situation on the basis of habit and precedent. The 'unknown' presents a problem. Harsh 'rejection' of any subject comes easily if the person has only been fleetingly exposed to it. Perhaps the crank who surfaces after a well publicised UFO incident senses 'truth' in the incident, cannot reject it as a hoax and thus appease his fears, so sets out to silence the percipient.

As a matter of note, these individuals should not be confused with the many Men in Black reports, since they have distinct identities and have been tracked down by law enforcement agencies in many cases. In one particular incident a veteran publisher of UFO literature in Toronto received a series of handwritten letters threatening his life if he continued to publish UFO books. The anonymous writer professed intimate knowledge of UFOs and seemed 'disturbed' by the accuracy of various accounts being published. The handwriting was eventually traced to a former subscriber who felt it was his duty to harass researchers and witnesses alike. He was reprimanded by the local police, but the following week the publisher received an identical letter.

In some cases the harassers, when confronted off guard, seem hypnotically entranced. Some feel they have a mission to accomplish. John Keel has concluded that many individuals are 'manipulated' by unseen forces connected with the UFO phenomenon, and carry out 'assignments' of which they have no knowledge afterwards. The answers to the

immediate problems of UFO witnesses are rather more mundane. One must ask, can public attitudes really be expected to change when our own governments have systematically been contributing to the problem for the last thirty years?

Carmen Cuneo, a worker at the Domtar Mines in Caledonia, Ontario, thinks not. His troubles began after he observed three stationary UFOs at close range one night while leaving the mine to relieve himself. In addition to the landed cigar-shaped craft with two smaller disc-like objects hovering close to it, he spotted several small beings moving around the landed object. It was clear that he was watching a so-called "soil gathering party" in progress, and he retreated to get the mine foreman as a back-up witness. As he returned with the foreman Merv Hannigan they both had time to watch the three craft slowly depart into the night. The following day, after traces were found and an oily substance discovered in the area, Cuneo and the foreman were subjected to a series of insults both from the mine management as well as from their co-workers. The ridicule was tolerable, but then Cuneo received a telephone call at home one day, which was not so easy to ignore/ According to Cuneo "the caller knew a lot about me personally and he seemed very up-tight about me telling the story around". The clincher came when the anonymous 'military-type' voice threatened injury to his family if he continued to discuss the case. The perplexed miner took it to be a hoax, but chose to keep quiet and get an unlisted phone number "just in case". The flow of weird calls then ceased, but Cuneo has never ceased to wonder about what kind of characters he was really dealing with on the phone. Were they capable of carrying out their threats? Those calls still haunt his memory. The dark-age mentality apparently still flourishes in the twentieth century; we still find self-professed witch hunters who have not come to grips with the times. If you still doubt that UFO reports don't arouse man's vilest emotions, consider the following cases of 'lynch mob' mentality.

The first case involves Jeff Greenhaw, another credible person thrown into an incredible set of circumstances. At 23 years old, Greenhaw was the police chief of Falkville, Alabama, with the distinction of being the youngest in the state. One night in October 1973 he received a call from an anonymous woman who claimed a space ship with blinking lights was landing in a pasture west of town. Greenhaw drove along a gravel road towards the site when, nearly two miles from the police station, he came face to face with a six-foot metallic creature standing in the middle of the road. "I got out of my car and said 'Howdy stranger', Greenhaw related, "He didn't say a word. I reached back, picked up my polaroid camera, and started taking pictures of him". Greenhaw took four polaroid colour prints. He then got back in his patrol car, and turned on the flashing police light. A Chase ensued, in which Greenhaw eventually 'spun out' at 45 mph on

intcat

AN INTERNATIONAL CATALOGUE OF TYPE I UFO RECORDS

Compiled by Peter Rogerson

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PART 16

- 722 24 October 1957 0230 hrs
SOUTH LEA (MARYLAND) Mrs Beverley Potter and her husband heard sounds outside their home and saw figures with lights. A cigar-shaped object ascended vertically. An area of matted grass was found. (Phillips, p.21 (679) - Radio WBRK Pittsburg + NICAP)
- 723 25 October 1957 Night
PETROPOLIS (BRASIL) In a letter purportedly written by a semi-literate servant, it is told that the daughter of the house was dying in great pain of stomach cancer, at a farm near Petropolis Her room was illuminated as by a searchlight. Through the window a not-very-large disc could be seen. The upper part of it was illuminated by a reddish-yellow light. A hatchway opened in the craft, and two small beings emerged and walked towards the house, whilst a third stayed silhouetted against the bright green light from the opening. The beings that entered the house were 1.2m tall, with shoulder-length hair, small green slanted eyes, and wore thick white gloves. Their clothes were all white; their chest, back and wrists glowed from some unknown source. One of the beings put its hand on the girl's father's forehead. The beings then illuminated the girl's stomach which made it transparent, revealing the ulcer, which was treated with some other instrument. Afterwards they gave the girl some capsules to take, to complete the treatment. The beings are said to have informed the father that they were Martians engaged on peaceful scientific pursuits. The girl was said to have recovered from her disease. Altogether there were seven witnesses. (FSR 13,5,p.5 - Olavo Fontes - Joao Martins - Letter from servant) THERE IS NO EVIDENCE AS TO THE EXISTENCE OF ANY OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED, AND A HOAX MUST BE SUSPECTED.
- 724 26 October 1957 1835 hrs
RIACHE DOCE (BRASIL) Two people climbed a mountain, after an object resembling two large superimposed saucers were observed in the area. They had jets coming from bulges above and below lower part dull silver-white, upper part bright. The witnesses flashed a light at the object and it approached, turning on a searchlight, and coming so close that the witnesses flung themselves to the ground. (UFO Critical Bulletin II, 2, p.18)
- 725 30 October 1957 2100 hrs
CASPER (WYOMING) Shirley Meyer and Hugh Pulju were driving 16km n. of Casper when they encountered a round shiny object in the road, 75m ahead. The object was the size of a house and had two pinto peaks, part of it was glowing. The witnesses were frightened and tried to turn the car around, but the engine kept stalling. At last they were successful and when they reached the main highway the engine began to function normally. (Michel II p.237 - Alex Mebane - Casper Tribune Herald, 5 Nov 57+ Cheyenne Wyoming Bugle, 6 Nov 57 :: LorIV, p.159 :: UFO Evidence, p.24 :: Maney and Hall, p.191)
- 726 31 October 1957 0005 hrs
LONGCHAUNOISE (FRANCE) A businessman and his wife saw a large lighted object with openings, which hovered, came to ground level and took off with a great increase in brightness, silently, at very high speed. (#416)
- 727 November 1957
BAGAN, SIAPU-PI (SUMATRA, INDONESIA) A Chinese fish trader, Tock Oun Seng, was approaching the Sumatran coast when an object resembling a triangle between two discs descended in front of his boat, causing the engine to stall and the lights go out. Smoke was coming from the three points of the triangle. (Brothers 1,2,p.37)
- 728 November 1957
CAMPINAS (BRASIL) Occupant report, no detail at present. (Les Extraterrestres, no.96 - Carrion, p.129)
- 729 Before November 8th, 1957 2300hrs
TABOLIERO DOS MARTINHOS (BRASIL) Dr Radralm Rego saw an object land near the '20th Army Hunters Battalion' and the 'Usmeiros' hospital. He was so afraid that he sat with his car lights off until the object had taken off again (UFO Critical Bulletin, II,2, p.18)
- 730 November 1957 2300hrs
PROVENCAL (LOUISIANA) Welder, Haskell Raper, Jr. was in the last kilometers of his drive to Provencal from his work in Shreveport. Despite the rain and wet road he was driving at 130kph, when over the crest of a hill, he saw an object with a light beaming from it, about 300m ahead in the road. Fearing that he was going to collide with a truck he braked. He was still speeding when the beam swung round on him, and a strong pressure decelerated the car rapidly, stopping it 4.5m from the machine. Despite the dazzling light, Raper could see that it was oval, 4.5m long, 2.7m high, with a fringe of drab 'army green' colour. On the machine he could see the letters UN followed by some numbers. Suddenly a wave of heat struck the car, and he dived out in panic as the engine caught fire. The machine then rose with a sound like a large diesel engine, soon vanishing into thin cloud. As Raper ran from the scene his petrol tank exploded; he ran home, and reported the incident. On investigation his 1956 Ford was completely destroyed. (#417 - Flying Saucers, Oct. 1958 :: Official UFO I,9, p.16 - Lou Farish + Dale Titler)

- 731 2 November 1957 0330hrs
CANADIAN (TEXAS) 5km west of Canadian military and civilian witnesses reported a submarine shaped object, red and white, two or three times as long as a car and about 3m high, at ground level. A figure was seen near the object, and also something compared to a white flag. When a car stopped in the vicinity a flash of light from the object coincided with the sudden failure of the headlights. (#418 - Atic)
- 732 2 November 1957 2030 hrs
AMARILLO (TEXAS) A driver saw an unidentified object land on a road south of the city. Later a pilot reported an unidentified object to the air port control tower (Richard Heiden - UFO Evidence 74, 103 + Maney and Hall p.191)
- 733 2 November 1957 2030 hrs
SEMINOLE (TEXAS) As a driver neared lights on the road his motor stalled and headlights failed. The lights suddenly rose into the sky and sped away. (Heiden - UFO Evidence pp.74,151,163 + Maney & Hall p.191)
- 734 2 November 1957 2030 hrs
TIERRAS (CHILE) Landing report. No further details at present. (Petrowitsch - List of Chilean Landings)
- 735 2 November 1957 2250 hrs
LEVELLAND (TEXAS) Pedro Saucedo and Jose Salav (or Salas) were driving their truck on highway 116, 6.5km north west of the town, when they saw a flash of light in a field to their right which they first thought was lightning. They then realised it came from a torpedo-shaped machine 60m long with yellow, white, blue and green light. It took off and approached them, when their truck stalled and the lights went off. Saucedo got out and dived to the ground as the object passed overhead. There was a blast of hot air which made a thunderous noise and rocked the truck (Hynek Ib p.123 :: Vallee Ib p.136 - Hynek)
- 736 2 November 1957 2350 hrs
LEVELLAND (TEXAS) 6.5km east of the town, Jim Wheeler from Whitharral encountered a brilliant egg shaped machine about 60m long sitting in the road illuminating the whole area like a giant neon sign. As he approached his car headlights & motor failed. He got out of the car to investigate but as he did so the craft rose, switching off its lights, whereupon the car lights and engine worked. (Hynek Ib p.124 :: Vallee Ib p.136)
- 737 2 November 1957 2350 hrs
WHITHARRAL (TEXAS) Jose Alvarez reported that his car lights and engine failed as he encountered a glowing egg shaped object in the road. When it took off his engine and lights came on again. (Hynek Ib p.124 - Vallee Ib p.137)
- 738 3 November 1957 0005 hrs
LEVELLAND (TEXAS) College freshman Newell Wright Jr (19) was about 14km east of the town when his car engine began to misfire, then engine & headlights cut out. He examined the engine but found nothing, then noticed an oval object, flat underneath, on the road ahead. It seemed about

38m long, glowing bluish-green and to be made of an aluminium like material with no markings or details visible. Wright sat fearfully in his car until the object took off almost vertically, "in a split second". Engine and lights now functioned normally. (Hynek Ib p.124 :: Vallee Ib p.137 :: Official UFO I,5 p.23 - Don Berliner)

739 3 November 1957 0015 hrs
WHITHARRAL (TEXAS) Frank Williams was driving down a dirt road when he met an egg shaped machine on the ground, emitting steady pulses of light. His engine failed and his headlights went on and off so that each time the object lit up his light failed, to relight when the object darkened. Then the machine rose rapidly to 90m, its lights going off. The car now started without trouble. (Hynek Ib p.125 :: Vallee Ib p.137 :: Cramp II, p.213 :: Official UFO 1,5 p.23 - Berliner)

740 3 November 1957 0045 hrs
LEVELLAND (TEXAS) In the same location as the Saucedo encounter (735) truck driver Donald Martin saw a large orange luminous sphere almost 2km away. It approached and landed on the road 400m ahead. As it did, his engine and lights failed. In the minute it sat on the ground, covering the paved part of the road, it glowed brightly enough to illuminate the inside of the cab. When the object ascended the truck functioned normally. (Hynek Ib p.125 :: Official UFO 1,6 p.23 - Berliner)

741 3 November 1957 0115 hrs
LEVELLAND (TEXAS) While driving on the "Oklahoma Flat Road" approx. 8km NW of town James Long of Waco approached within 60m of an egg shaped machine glowing like a neon tube, about 60m long. His lights and engine failed. As he dismounted the object shot upwards with a roaring sound. (Hynek Ib p.126 :: Vallee Ib p.137 :: Official UFO 1,5 p.46 - Berliner)

742 3 November 1957 0300 hrs
WHITE SANDS (NEW MEXICO) At Stallion Site two military police, Cpl. Glenn H Toy and Pvt. James Wilbanks, on routine patrol observed a very bright object high in the sky descending to 45m above the A-bomb bunkers, the light going out. Moments later it reappeared, as bright as the sun as the object fell at an angle. It seemed to be egg shaped, 65-90m diam. and about 5km away. (Lor Ib p.92 :: Michel II p.238 - Alex Mebane - El Paso Times 6 Nov 57 + Albuquerque Journal 6 Nov 57 - Associated Press :: Mensel & Boyd p.180 :: UFO Evidence pp.30,136,164,169)

743 3 November 1957 1730 hrs
SCOTIA (NEBRASKA) Roger Groetzinger (10) was milking cows on the farm when he heard a buzzing sound like a helicopter, which was coming from an oblong object like an elongated balloon circling the farm at low altitude. He thought it was a plane about to land and went to watch. He suddenly found himself paralysed, and remained so until the machine gained altitude and moved away. The boy's mother arrived home to find him terrified. Heavy 'burning' fumes hung around the area where the object had hovered. (UFO Evidence p.98,164 :: #424 - ATIC (gives date as 5th) :: Beyond Condon)

744 3 November 1957 1800 hrs
CINCINNATI (OHIO) A round white object leaving a reddish trail was seen just above treetop level. It rose rapidly out of sight. (UFO Evidence p.164)

745 3 November 1957 2000 hrs
WHITE SANDS (NEW MEXICO) Specialist, Forest R Oakes, and SP/3 Barlow driving in the same area as the 0300 incident (742) saw a bright light about 15m above the old A-bomb bunker. The light took off at a 45° angle, blinking on and off. It disappeared into the sky. (Sources as case 742)

746 4 November 1957 0312 hrs
ELMWOOD PARK, CHICAGO (ILLINOIS) Patrolman Joseph Lukasek and Clifford Schau, with fireman Robt. Velt were out in a squad car investigating an open window when they noticed a bright, luminous orange-red egg shaped machine, 60m long, hovering over Elmwood Cemetery. It descended from 75m as if to land, as it did so it appeared to be 'folding into itself'. The officers turned their spotlight onto it, whereupon it shot up 60m, 'puffing itself out', and moved off to the west. Their spotlight almost went off when turned on to the object, and their lights kept flickering, as they pursued the object for over a kilometer at 105kph. At 0322 the object seemed to fold inwards and disappear but not before the station radio despatcher Sergeant Daniel DeGiovanni saw the object for himself. (Lor IV, p.159 :: Michel II p.239 - Hebata - Chicago Daily News 4 Nov 57 + Chicago Tribune 5 Nov 57 + Chicago Sun Times 5 Nov 57 :: UFO Evidence pp.64,136,168 :: FSR 4,1,p.3 - Paul Trent :: Hynek IIA, p.172)

747 4 November 1957 2200 hrs
MONROE (ILLINOIS) Two young couples were approaching Monroe from the east when a bright, gaseous object, about half the size of a car, rose up from near the ground into the sky. (Michel II, p.241 - Hebata - Monroe Morning World 5 Nov 57 :: Maney & Hall p.168 - AP 5 Nov 57 :: UFO Evidence p.164, gives date as 3rd November)

748 4 November 1957 2245 hrs
KIRTLAND AFB, ALBUQUERQUE (NEW MEXICO) At the Base two CAA control tower operators, R M Kaser and F G Brink, saw a lighted, upright egg shaped object descend to, and cross obliquely, the runway area. It hovered near the ground for between 20sec - 1min, then climbed at tremendous speed (c. Mach 1) into the overcast. On radar it was then followed south for several kilometers before returning to the airfield to follow an aircraft out bound from Kirtland. The machine was described as the size of a car on end, perhaps 5m vert. with no visible appendages save a single white light in its base. (FSR 16,5, p.16 + Sagan & Page xxiv, 115 - James McDonald)

749 5 November 1957 0430 hrs
NEW YORK (NEW YORK) In the north part of the city where Broadway follows the Van Cortlandt Park playing fields, rubbish disposal truck driver Frank C was talking to a bus driver when their attention was caught by a dull metallic disc

making a purring noise. It was surmounted by a motionless 'derby hat' dome with portholes. The object, about 400m away, was dark, hovering at the height of a five story building. Its diameter about half its alt. Suddenly it gave off a brilliant yellow light, lighting up the whole area, before taking off like a shooting star. The witness was a teetotaler of good reputation who sought no publicity for his story. He was so afraid that he refused to venture near the field again. (Michel II p.242 - Alex Mebane + CSI first hand)

750 5 November 1957 Evening
NEAR RINGWOOD (ILLINOIS) A car returning to Ringwood was followed for some time by a luminous round object bobbing up and down. According to one witness it made a swishing sound. At about the same time TV sets in the Ringwood area dimmed then lost picture and sound. (Heiden - UFO Evidence pp.74,165 + Maney & Hall p.192 - Aurora Beacon-News 5 Nov 57)

751 5 November 1957 1930 hrs
EL PASO (TEXAS) A border inspector (35) saw an egg shaped object giving off a blue light come towards his car after he had got out to investigate a sudden failure of engine and lights. It came from the southwest at a 35° angle, making a whirring sound like an artillery shell. It passed over his car at 30m alt. and moved off to the west, changing altitude at irregular intervals. The object lifted vertically when it reached the Franklin Mountains. The incident happened 5km SW of the International Airport. (Hynek IIA p.181 - ATIC)

752 5 November 1957 1940hrs
HORBS (NEW MEXICO) There were two separate reports on this day of a light buzzing a car, causing the lights and engines to fail. (Heiden - UFO Evidence - Maney & Hall - El Paso Times, 7 Nov 57)

753 5 November 1957 2015 hrs
JONESVILLE (VIRGINIA) Buford Seabelt was out hunting when he saw a landed object and two small beings who addressed him in English. His two hunting dogs reacted. A concave depression 1.20m and 7.20m long was found. (Phillips p.22 680 - NICAP, gives 6th :: FSR 9,2, p.12 - Schoenherr, gives 5th and mentions English speaking)

754 5 November 1957 Night
NEW CASTLE (INDIANA) 112km SW of Wabash, Mrs Jasper Barlow and her two children were driving SE from New Castle when an object like a 'big meat platter', about the size of a house came down to treetop height so close that it could have been hit by a BB gun. It had a large light on the bottom which flashed on and off, and focussed a light on the ground between Mrs Barlow's car and that of asst. baseball coach Marvin Winhart. Friends in other cars also saw it. It finally moved away, trailed by two smaller objects. (Michel II p.245 - Mebane - Goehen News, 6 Nov 57 + New Castle News Republican, 8 Nov 57)

755 5 November 1957 2130 hrs
SAN ANTONIO (TEXAS) As his radio cut, lights dimmed and engine failed a motorist saw an elliptical object hovering low over a field. It ascended rapidly, levelled off and sped away. (UFO Evidence pp.74,165 - San Antonio Light 6 Nov 57)

756 5 November 1957 Dusk
HELDLEY (TEXAS) A farmer saw a pulsating bluish-green object just above the ground at the same time as neighbours' TVs failed (Heiden - UFO Evidence pp 74,165 + Maney & Hall p.192 - Amarillo News, 7 Nov 57)

757 November 6, 1957 0010 hrs
SANTA FE (NEW MEXICO) Taxi owner Joe Martinez and driver Albert Gallegos saw an egg shaped machine which they feared would collide with their car. It was huge and brilliant. It lit up inside the car and made a distinct humming noise as it passed over slowly. The car engine stalled, and the car clock and Martinez's wristwatch stopped. The craft, which had red, green and yellow lights, lifted up then shot off to the SE. (Michel II, p.246 - Mebane - Santa Fe New Mexican 6 Nov 57 :: Lor Ib p.99 :: Craap II)

758 6 November 1957 0100 hrs
ATLANTA (GEORGIA) Three truck drivers coming into Atlanta from Macon independently reported a red, egg shaped machine like a rugby (American football) ball on the highway. Each reported that as their truck approached the object, the apparent size of the moon, it disappeared (Michel II p.247 - Mebane - Atlanta Constitution, 7 November 1957)

759 6 November 1957 0540 hrs
PLAYA DEL RAY (CALIFORNIA) General Telephone Co. employee Richard Kehoe was driving along the Vista del Mar when his engine stalled as did those of 3 other cars. The drivers reportedly saw an egg-shaped metallic object, of cream-tan colour, resting on two metal rings on the beach. It was surrounded by blue haze. From the craft emerged two men, 1.6m tall dressed in black leather trousers white belts and light coloured jerseys, with yellow green skins. They spoke to Kehoe and two other men (Ronald Burke of Redondo Beach and Joe Thomas of Torrance) in broken English, and asked such questions as "Where are you going", "What time is it" etc. Kehoe got the impression he was being invited on board the craft, but he and the other two made excuses. The two men returned to their craft, which took off. The car engines would now work. Efforts to find Thomas and Burke failed, and doubt was cast upon the story. (Humanoids p.56 - Coral Lorenzen + Michel II p.272 - Mebane - Los Angeles Mirror News 6 Nov 1957)

760 6 November 1957 0630 hrs
THOMPSON (OHIO) Mrs E A Markell saw a low round object so brilliant that it blurred her vision sitting on the ledges north of Thompson. It was larger than a plane, with an 'odd' colour. After a few minutes it took off without a trail or noise. (Michel II p.263 - Mebane - Geauga Record 21 Nov 57 :: #428 - Atic)

761 6 November 1957 0630 hrs
DANTE (TENNESSEE) Everett Clark got up to let his dog Frisky out, when he saw an object 90 mts away across the road. Still sleepy he ignored it until he went to collect Frisky 20mins later. He saw the elongated egg-shaped machine was still there, surrounded by Frisky and other neighbourhood dogs. Two men and two women of normal appearance were standing near the object, talking in guttural tones. One of the men tried to grab Frisky and another dog, but the beasts resisted. The man then beckoned to Everett to follow him, but the terrified boy refused. The four then entered the craft, apparently through the solid surface. When his parents arrived home they found the boy hysterical. Reporters found an elliptical imprint 1.5m wide and 7.2m long (Michel II p.271 - Mebane - + Humanoids p.56 - Coral Lorenzen - Knoxville News-Sentinel 6 Nov 57)

762 6 November 1957 Morning
SEOUL (REPUBLIC OF KOREA) North of Seoul a barrel object, bluish white and luminous, was seen close to the ground, reflected in a pool of water. It rose and vanished "like a light switched off". (#426 - Atic = Vallee Ib p.138 - Keyhoe)

763 6 November 1957 Evening
EVERITTS TOWN (NEW JERSEY) About dusk John Trasco went out to feed King his 6 year old Belgian police dog, while his wife was looking on. They heard the dog bark furiously and saw a bright light in front of a barn about 20m from the house. It was an egg shaped object about 3m long, oscillating just above the ground. Trasco went behind some shrubbery where he encountered a being 75-90 cm tall dressed in a green suit, a tan o-shanter like hat and gloves. It had a putty coloured face with prominent nose and chin, and large protruding frog-like eyes. It spoke in a "sharp, scary, broken voice: "We are peaceful people, we don't want no trouble, we just want your dog". Trasco swore at the being and tried to grab it, getting some green powder on his hands. It re-entered the craft, though no opening was visible, which rose up making a slight sound. Mrs Trasco heard the voice, and the dog was frothing with terror. (Michel II p.273 - Alex Mabane + [Humanoids p56 - Coral Lorenzen - CST Bulletin Dec 57] - Delaware Valley News, 15 Nov 57 :: Lor VI p77)

764 6 November 1957 1800 hrs
BOERNE (TEXAS) A civilian reported an oval object, about 5 metres long, hovering about 4 metres above the ground. It was of bright orange colour, similar to glowing coals. The witness went off to call his family, but the object had disappeared by the time they returned. (#431 - Atic)

A French language edition of INTCAT is published in UFO-INFO in Belgium, and an Italian version will shortly appear in the magazine CLYPEUS.

the gravel road, claiming that the creature actually outran the car

After he related his story and presented his photos on NBC-TV news, he began receiving anonymous threatening phone calls. A man telephoned Mrs Greenhaw stating, "I'm going to get your husband for taking my picture!" More threats rolled in day after day. Three days after the incident, Greenhaw's car 'blew up'. Two weeks after that an arsonist set fire to the family's house-trailer and completely destroyed it. To make things worse his wife decided she had 'had enough', left him and sued for divorce. Shortly after that Greenhaw resigned as Police Chief under pressure from the City Council. Before being literally 'driven out of town', the young lawman, a graduate of the Alabama Police Academy, stated bitterly to pursuing reporters: "I've been harrassed ever since I photographed that thing. I don't see how much worse my luck can get!"

Actually, 'luck' played no part in these events. Greenhaw's problems were created; instigated and carried out by the very people he once protected in his line of duty. The emotionally rooted biases of an entire town had won over an entire town had won over and destroyed a man whose only crime was to photograph an "alien entity". As to the authenticity of the incident, a UFO investigator who followed the case closely stated: "Anybody who attempted such a hoax would have been foolhardy to try and frighten a (armed) policeman". But authentic or not, it is clear that the very idea of an extraterrestrial being spotted near their town completely transformed normally rational townspeople into terrorists with an axe to grind. Time after time it is proved that ignorance breeds fear.

In the following case the aftermath was even more dramatic, and the witness was plagued by "seven years of rotten luck". But, again, luck seems to have had nothing to do with it, rather a lack of education and emotional instability. Herb Schirmer, like Jeff Greenhaw, also held the distinction of being the youngest police chief in his state. In 1967 he held this rank in the town of Ashland in Nebraska. One December night when on patrol he came upon a massive "saucer-shaped" craft at the side of the highway. Thinking at first he may have been coming upon a truck accident, it soon became clear that he had stumbled upon a "flying saucer". He then saw a glowing humanoid figure moving towards his car, and attempted to draw his gun. At this point he found himself immobilised, although his senses were still with him. He claims that the creature applied an instrument to the back of his neck, leaving an unusual welt, which remains on his neck. He then blacked out.

Later he came to his senses and raced back to town. When he reported the bizarre incident, it became obvious that there was a length of time which he could not account for. In the course of investigations Dr Leo Sprinkle put Schirmer under regressive hypnosis, whereupon Schirmer reported that he had been taken on board the craft and had

communicated with the 'alien' he had met. A wealth of information was obtained through many hypnotic sessions, but as researchers know only too well, the data obtained is difficult to evaluate, since 'alien communications' over the years have been invariably misleading and confusing. Physical traces were found at the site; a piece of 'shiny metal' disappeared into the hands of military investigators; the tape of Schirmer's emergency radio transmission to HQ vanished, and the familiar pattern of controversy began.

There was the usual barrage of threatening phone calls, followed by the dynamiting of his car, culminating in the hanging and burning of an effigy of the police chief in the centre of the town. Remember, this was 1967, not 1967!.

Schirmer's wife eventually succumbed to the campaign of terror and divorced him. Like a rerun of the Greenhaw affair, the Ashland Town Council also fired him from his prestigious job. Years of 'bad luck' then followed him around as he moved from state to state trying to establish new roots and forget about his experience with the UFO. As fate would have it, his picture and story were well publicised at the time, and he was constantly recognised as "that UFO nut from Nebraska". At one point he had saved enough money from menial jobs to form a business partnership in the state of Washington, until one day his partner came across a news cutting of the events in Nebraska and absconded with all the funds. For some UFO witnesses there seems no escape from the harrassment and degradation.

A noted psychiatrist involved in the study of UFO witnesses, Dr Berthold Schwarz, has said that: "anybody who's been in the field for a long time and studied the people part of the UFO equation has got involved in the thing with his own emotions. He's been ripped up himself". A well known contactee of the early fifties, Howard Menger, gave an emotional speech in 1967 to sum up his alleged experiences. To the Congress of Scientific Ufologists he stated:

"I often wonder what would happen to those people who say, well what proof do you have? If I could see a flying saucer or someone step out of a craft, boy, I would make sure people knew about it. Well, I just wonder about that. If you realise what people go through when this happens to them. If you really think you have guts enough to come out and tell people. Of course nowadays it may be a little easier, but in the early fifties it was very, very rough, especially when you are in business and you are trying to act like a reputable citizen and bring up a family, and, you know, things like this in your community".

Time and time again, people who see UFOs and their occupants at short range are victimised. Who can they turn to? The sad answer is nobody. UFO organisations around the world are concerned to elicit information from the witness, to "sort the wheat from the chaff", and offer a certain degree of consolation. But they are not equipped to deal with the psychological problems that

notes and quotes

About forty people attended the NUFON Conference at Scunthorpe Film Theatre on June 24th. The morning session opened with a showing of Project Bluebook's collection of alleged UFO films. Most of them were, to say the least, unconvincing, and in some cases it was hard to see exactly which feature of the film constituted the UFO! These were followed by two NASA films on exobiology; a subject which, although of interest is only dubiously relevant to ufology.

The afternoon opened with the presentation by Peter Rogerson of a tape by John Rimmer entitled "Is your new ufology really necessary?" explaining some of the basic ideas behind the New Ufologies. Jenny Randles gave a talk entitled "The Exotic UFO - fact or fiction?" in which she proposed a new classification system based upon the degree of strangeness and physical evidence involved in the sighting, and emphasised that the overwhelming majority of cases were based on simple misidentifications. John Hind of Belfast spoke on "The sociologist and the UFO", and among several interesting observations pointed out that once the extra-terrestrial hypothesis is abandoned UFO sightings dissolve into several categories some of which there is no need to link with others. (eg. LITS and close encounters) Roger Sandell concluded the afternoon session with a talk on "The roots of UFO cultism" and discussed similarities between UFO cults and other irrational movements that have emerged at times of social crisis.

Continued from page 13

develop from harassment by misguided people. To make matters worse, the military establishment and law enforcement agencies, whom the public should be able to turn to in this kind of crisis has itself become a symbol of distrust in UFO related matters. Those individuals who desparately turned to the armed services or the Air Force in the past, soon came away realising that they would rather face the 'public nuisances'!

The crux of the matter lies in mankind's complex belief structures; frames of reference that are aquired through human experience, and actions that have always been based in this stimulus. And with his dual nature the actions have been both positive and negative.

To the close encounter UFO witness who is prepared to come forward with his experience for us to study, we can offer our thanks... and our condolences.

The tone of the talks did not appear to be to the taste of some of the audience, who seemed to expect the speakers to be talking in terms of space-ships from other planets. However, an interesting exchange of views might have ensued had not question time been dominated by one member of the audience who berated the speakers for their inability to provide THE PROOF (of what, was unclear) and favoured the meeting with his opinion on various other subjects such as Jews and psychology (He did not seem to like either).

The evening session consisted of an illustrated lecture on "Science-fiction and the cinema", by TV film presenter Phillip Jenkinson. This seemed to attract a rather different audience, since some of those present earlier did not attend, but were replaced by those more specifically interested in SF and the cinema. Although Mr Jenkinson did not specifically mention ufology in his lecture it turned out to be very relevant to the subject, since some of the film clips he showed illustrated very clearly the status of the UFO as part of twentieth century folklore. In particular on 1950's B-picture shown, anticipated many of the details of the abduction and medical examination reports that did not become current until a decade later.

Nigel Watson and the Scunthorpe UFO Research Society are to be congratulated on the organisation of the conference. The venue was excellent, and the inclusion of the Phillip Jenkinson talk in particular was a very imaginative idea.

However it was unfortunate that some of the audience seemed to think a UFO meeting should be in the nature of a religious service, where believers commune and strengthen their faith, rather than a place where differing ideas can be rationally discussed.

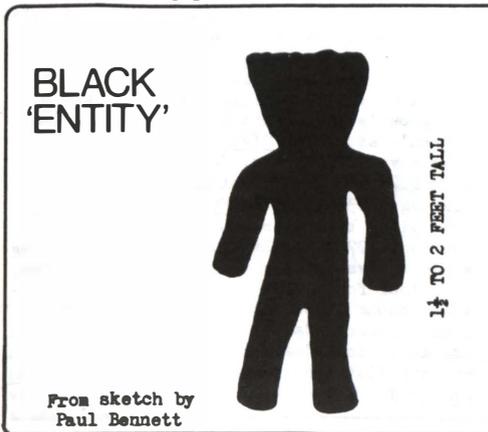
One last feature worth noting was the book-stall run by Peter Hamerton of 'Space Centre', 485 London Road, Heeley, Sheffield. If Mr Hamerton's stall is an accurate reflection of his shop the Space Centre stocks a very large range of books, posters and other material concerned with UFOs, astronomy and related topics; including second hand copies of rare items from the 1950's. We recommend this to all MUFOB readers in the area.

- Roger Sandell

In all the years of speculation about 'where UFOs come from' it's not often that we have been given an address! However, the Liverpool Echo records that UFOs seen over Merseyside on the 16th and 17th August this year were flares, stolen from the Dock Road. It reports that orange fire-balls, described by one worthy as 'like something out of Star Wars' were in fact launched from Gloucester Road, Huyton, and Lower Lane, Norris Green. But that we always had such precision!

Please remember to inform us as soon as possible of changes of address. Wrongly addressed MUFOBs reach you later, and cost us more! Thanks.

Continued from page 6



hardly sleep because of the incident.

"The humanoid had no face or hands what I could notice. Almost a year and a half earlier John Tilleard witnessed the same experience. He is always telling the story of a small black man about two feet tall with no face, walking towards him. He told me about this about eight months before I saw the humanoid. But John admits if he had had my incident, 'I'd have been damn terrified'. This is still my best case, only with the exception of the robot."

Ilkley Moor

Andrew Callaghan, John Tilleard and Paul visited one of the stone circles on Ilkley Moor on the 19th February 1977. They managed to move one of the stones a few inches and whilst doing this they all felt a mild electric shock. Paul also obtained a few chippings off one of the stones so that he might do some tests on it.

Three weeks after their visit Paul received a UFO report from Darryl Tate. According to this story a Mr T and three other witnesses who are members of a 'military group' in the Bradford area (this was in fact the Observer Corps), saw a UFO hovering directly above the stone circle on Ilkley Moor. Apparently the UFO, which was observed by Mr T. through binoculars for three minutes fortyone seconds, was seen on Wednesday 23rd February 1977, at 10.30 pm. It was described as disc-shaped, metallic grey in colour and was estimated as being fifty feet in diameter. The three 'military men' claimed that the UFO was tracked by radar, but they refused to reveal their names and said that the case should not be released.

Writing up the incident in his note-book Paul asks:

"Was the UFO moving the stone back into place, or was it just homing in on the ley lines?"

Invisible Walkers

Wood Lane house, just off Kings Road, Bradford, is a favourite haunt of Paul's. The house is partly inhabited (4) but it has one or two derelict outbuildings and waste land surrounding it. I asked Paul what made him visit there in the first place:

PB: Well, I had a report from somebody, somebody had seen a ghost up here. So I came up for a little look around to see if I could see or hear anything, and first of all I heard the invisible walker so I came back the next night to see if I could get anything else, nowt then, came back the next night, still nowt. So once or twice a week I kept coming back looking for things.

Apparently two of Paul's friends, Brian Lawson and Richard Hale have heard an invisible walker in the vicinity of what Paul and his friends now call "The House". Also an anonymous witness has heard the walker.

Paul Bennett and Paul Davis went up to the house on 22nd February. As they got near they saw a flashing light in one of the windows, then they both heard footsteps.

NW: Where were the invisible walkers?

PB: Well, it was just footsteps we heard on the other side of the bushes and trees. We were stood there just looking at the house, and walked around corner to see if there were any ghosts... Then we came back round and we heard somebody walking, just footsteps walking. First of all we saw flashing, a light flashing in the house... it wasn't like an ordinary bulb-light...

As the footsteps approached them the nearby bushes rustled and they parted. Still the two Pauls could see nothing that might be causing the footsteps or rustling, and there was no wind that might have been responsible.

Paul wrote: "If it was an animal, it must have been very flat, but have massive feet, and it would need long but very thin arms."

THE GHOST

On the 27th March 1977, Paul and John Tilleard visited The House. They approached the place at 7.45pm when the sun had just set, so they waited around until it had got darker. The House is supposed to be haunted by a dead woman. First of all they heard loud squeaking noises which finally went away (rats - Ed.). Paul crept up to the part allegedly frequented by the ghosts, but he saw nothing. However, as they walked away from the house they both turned round and saw a head bob quickly behind a wall. Paul returned to the house for another look - but more slowly this time - and they both saw the outline of a middle aged woman, with dead skin, reflected against a window. Paul climbed the wall to have a better look into the window. The roof of an outbuilding slopes down towards this wall, and this outbuilding

ding is supposed to be haunted. John shouted "Ay, Bennett, I've just heard something on the roof, have a look in that hole up there",

Paul narrates: "I looked up. Up there, looking into the sky was a transparent figure. As I looked up at it, it looked down at me. To my horror the person had no eyes. This must have been the ghost that everyone had seen and heard about. I saw the ghost for about two seconds only because when I looked up at it, and it showed its face, I had no second thoughts, and I instantly reacted by climbing down an eight foot wall in a split-second, almost breaking my leg in the process. The ghost was of a middle-aged woman, but with dead skin. I only got a brief look at it, but what I saw was horrific. The worst aspect of the ghost was that it had no eyes at all (5). As I clambered up to look in the hole in the roof, I saw the ghost staring into the sky... as well as having no visible eyes, it only had one shoulder, the other half of the body was not there.

"The most mysterious thing about the ghost was that it was moving a large stone, on about as large as a shoe box.(6)

"When I got home and told my parents they burst out with laughter at my story, later that night I had two nightmares about it".

Other Things

During our first interview with Paul the phone rang, and when he returned from answering it Paul claimed that a heavy breather had phoned him. This same type of caller had plagued him before, usually when he was alone in the house. On this occasion there was only Roger Hebb, myself and Paul present. The caller did not seem to worry Paul, and he took the calls as a piece of nonsense.

On my second visit Paul mentioned that on Thursday 6th October 1977, he and his friends had a shock when going to school. The weather was foggy, and in the fog they saw a couple of eyes staring at them. This apparition scared them considerably until they discovered it was a horse!

Also Paul told me that he and his friends had been sitting on the steps of the Idle Hill Reservoir when they saw a UFO. Paul shouted, "Look, a UFO", and ran up the steps for a better view, meanwhile all his friends ran down the steps in fear of the UFO! They then discovered it was Venus... Better men have been deceived!

In his bedroom Paul has heard tappings above the roof, which he describes as being 'scary'.

REFERENCES

1. A reproduction of this photograph may be found in Le Poer Trench's *Flying Saucer Story*.
2. This is a very bright magnitude indeed, when we consider that Sirius has a magnitude of -1.6.
3. At present their membership consists of about

4. eight school friends.
4. According to Paul the house in occupied, with the exception of the three rooms which are claimed to be haunted.
5. When we interviewed Paul on 5 Sep. 1977 he said the eyes looked like the blackness of the ghost's mouth in a BBC film of Charles Dicken's story *The Signalman*. "It was a bit like a void, you know, just a stove-in... a void... absolutely nothing at all..."
6. See pages 43-44 of the *Folklore of Prehistoric Sites* by Leslie V Grinsell (David and Charles, 1976) for legends of stone-carrying women who were reputed to have created cairns, and other forms of rock monuments. Interestingly enough these stories travelled from Ireland, North Wales, and then to northern England, along "established routes". (Also see the distribution map, page 41, fig. 5, *op cit.*)

Part Two of the Paul Bennett story, and some later developments will appear in the next issue of MUFOB.

ads

WANTED

UFO researcher requires copies of the following: Leonard Cramp: 'Space, Gravity and the Flying Saucer'. Werne Laurie, 1954.

Jimmy Gineus 'Flying Saucers come from another world'. Hutchinson, 1956.

Good quality prints of the José Bonilla (Zacatecas, August 1883) photograph; and the second Stephen Darbyshire photograph (not the one reproduced in most UFO books).

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A NEWSPAPER LOOKS AT THE AIRSHIP

PAUL SCREETON

Paul Screepton is a sub-editor with *The Mail* Hartlepool, the paper which, as the *Northern Daily Mail* in the period concerned, published a variety of reports which have been assessed for this article.

An elusive airship was attracting attention in early 1909; and after a period of arrant scepticism, belief was gaining ground that the rumours had substance.

In addition to a news item listing places in the south-east where the phantom dirigible had been sighted, there was a leading article on May 14th entitled:

AN ARIEL DARK HORSE

A theory has been advanced to me in explanation of the mysterious airship which has been seen flying in the neighbourhood of Peterborough. It is that the War Office has succeeded in constructing a really efficient airship and is experimenting with it in the dark to keep its existence and capacity secret.

The next day a Berlin correspondent of the *Daily Express* reported that German expert opinion held that it was ascending from a German warship in the North Sea, upon which it landed again after each flight. Another report in that issue notes that during movement of troops in Gyppeswy Park, Ipswich, "the other night", it was seen frequently. It was said to be oblong, making a noise like a motor car, moving at great speed and carrying a searchlight. So far only one farmer had seen it in daylight, but its nocturnal activity was considerable.

On May 17th the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire had investigated a PC's report and decided it was "a balloon carrying lighted Chinese lanterns", ie. a hoax.

'An Irish Vision' was the headline for the report of an airship seen over Belfast moving towards the Irish Sea - and interestingly a brilliant light was observed in the sky shortly afterwards. Such phenomena never exist in isolation, and an editorial column on May 19th linked two seemingly disparate mysterious activities:

A FEARSOME PROSPECT

While some of us have been wasting our time

and emotions over phantom airships and elusive airplanes, a method of invasion more sure and deadly is, perhaps, going on under our feet. A letter arrived today stating thus: While crossing from Hamburg on Saturday night, my interest and suspicions were aroused by hearing sounds of what I judged to be subterranean excavation while passing over one of the shallows to the north-west of the Dutch coast. The sounds were quite like running drills and were very audible, as the sea was quiet and calm. This information I volunteer in order the Government may make inquiries into the matter.

That same day the paper reported a night sighting of a broad cigar-shape, making a whistling sound and lit by two lights, over Cardiff.

This incident's developments were reported the next day in the famous Caerphilly Mountain incident, involving Mr Lethbridge and the fur-coated 'foreigners'. The *Northern Daily Mail's* account of the incident concludes, "He was frightened, and so seemingly were the foreigners, for they jabbered loudly, jumped into the scareship (sic) and sailed off."

A journalist was taken to the encounter site and marks were found on the ground. Slips of newspapers found on the spit show that almost all contained references to airships of the German Army. There was also a red label with instructions written in French, and a military term on it is called a "sinister touch" by the correspondent, noting that it would have been more impressive had it been in German.

Yet looking back retrospectively over almost seventy years a number of aspects are worth comment here:

- Another Lethbridge, T C Lethbridge, was to involve himself in authorship of books on unorthodox subjects for an academic: ancient religion, dowsing, ESP, and even the ancient astronaut hypothesis.

- In 1909 Mr Lethbridge of Wales was a Punch and Judy showman just as today Britain's most controversial monster-hunter Tony 'Doc' Shields, is a stage magician and puppeteer.

- More significantly, just as at the Scorrilton, Devon, landing involving Arthur Bryant and 'Yasaki', baffling material appeared (and at other CEIII sites). And note the stronger French, rather than German connection.

- The 'foreigners' were working on their machine and mechanical repairs have been a feature of many UFO incidents, perhaps to suggest a nuts and bolts function.

- Another part of the account repeats the likelihood of the object being released from a steamer in the Bristol Channel, so paralleling the later notion of flying saucers coming from motherhips.

- In addition to tales of other sightings in that day's paper there was a note of War Office action and its impounding of an object - an airship fender supposedly - found the day after an airship flew over Great Clacton. Here we have the shadow of military intervention with witnesses and removal of an artifact.

After such massive publicity, May 21st was no disappointment to readers either. A football shaped object speedily crossed Dublin Bay despite no wind, and a cyclist reported that near Dublin he saw a cigar-shaped object with two lights in front.

At which point enter Percival Spencer's theory. He owned a company manufacturing airships. Within the past year he could trace two five-man airships sold to a firm in the eastern counties, and another to a man in Cardiff (where the publicised sightings were made. Conveniently or not, Mr Spencer took the opportunity to broadcast that for £250 he could provide more such machines.

More dampening followed with the announcement by the Admiralty that the 'airship fender' was one of their gun targets, used in practice, which had become detached.

Credibility took another knock with a piece from the Cowes (IOW) correspondent of the Daily Chronicle:

I have interviewed today a prominent official of the Isle of Wight county asylum who expressed the opinion that the mysterious airship was a myth of supposed eyewitnesses who were bordering on 'aviation insanity'. It is a nightly occurrence that the inmates insist they see airships racing around the asylum and will describe their appearance in graphic terms. They are always accompanied by lights and a whirring sound.

At which point the 'sinister' label takes a knock: The red label bearing an instruction in French which might have referred to the use of a motor tyre valve has been recognised by the Michelin company as a label attached to a brass pin which is affixed to the inner tube of their motor car tyres. The word 'obus' which is French for shrapnel also means valve plug. This disposes of the supposed significance of the discoveries made on the spot where the airship was seen.

Nevertheless reports were made that day of a Monmouthshire sighting, and for several nights residents of Small Heath Birmingham had seen an airship, believing a local inventor was making trial trips.

Starting with the words "A sensation was created in the neighbourhood of Dunstable..." a report tells us on May 26th that a bamboo framework, powerful lamps and other wreckage was found plus a document stating that any finder would be paid £5. Upon sending a telegram the airship wreckage was removed, and the airship was said to belong to the British agents of a continental motor company and used for advertising purposes.

But the same issue of the Northern Daily Mail includes a piece entitled "Wearside Resident's Story". It seems to echo the phenomenon of wished for occurrences happening to meet a psychological need:

Sunderland people have of late had grievance because of the absence of airships which would insist on hovering over their district.

This feeling of injury has, however, now been removed since that section known as Southwick had yesterday an airship story of its own to gossip about. But in no jocular spirit are those who swear they saw the flying machine.

This light in the sky had illumination radiating, and it chose to project it on a new Roman Catholic church above which it manoeuvred for three to four minutes before speeding off at tremendous speed. The stewardess of Southwick Club and others corroborated the account and said the noisy object was an airship with car.

On June 5th an account of an airship over Jarrow Slake, on Tyneside, recorded "at times the object would be motionless and at others would dart in different directions" (hardly dirigible behaviour).

By June 14th the paper was disclaiming the mystery of the Tyneside appearance, and said that a company was making experimental flights with the airship. True to form, someone came up with an all-encompassing bid to nix the tale and take personal credit.

A Dr M B Boyd claimed that he had spent eight years perfecting his airship, though it had only been built for one year. The report however fails to answer most points, some of the discrepancies being:

- Average speed 32 mph, so no fast disappearance.
- Oval, rather than cigar shaped
- No car suspended
- It had wheels so that on the ground it could be driven like a motor car
- Although the arclight had been invented in the 19th century, searchlights of the type required extremely heavy equipment, and the only lights that could be used on an airship were dim, incandescent ones incapable of creating the extent of illumination claimed.

Dr Boyd's claims are reminiscent of the self-proclaimed inventor from Worcester, Massachusetts, who became the focus of many press stories on the 1909 US flap, described in John Keel's Operation Trojan Horse. Tillinghast boasted of taking his invention at least 300 miles non-stop at 120 mph. An early investigative reporter found fourteen men working at a secret shed near Worcester, Mass. but he was unable to confirm or deny the presence of an airship. Keel propounds an ingenious explanation involving an encounter between Tillinghast and ultraterrestrials. I prefer not to comment on this, but merely note the interesting comparison between the parallel mystery inventor tales documented by newspapers on both sides of the Atlantic.

All we know is that something was going on, and being reported as faithfully as the journalists of their day knew how.

In the next issue of MUFOP Roger Sandell will be looking at the social and political background to the early twentieth century airship waves, and their reporting in the newspapers.

book reviews

The Editors have had no success in persuading overseas (ie USA) publishers to send us review copies, so we must beg readers to help by sending on new UFO and Fortean material. We are trying to work out the practicalities of a book exchange system, and hope to have more about this in the near future.

CLARKE, Jerome, and Loren COLEMAN. Creatures of the Outer Edge. Warner/New English Library, 1978. 85p.

The authors of The Unidentified, a book which received only a fraction of the attention it deserved, turn their attention to reports of mystery animals such as the American sasquatch and the Surrey puma. Their data indicates that as in the UFO field, the believers are in many cases just as selective in their treatment of evidence as the sceptics. While the UFO believer is in many cases not interested in anything which does not point to extraterrestrial intelligence; those who hunt for unknown animals ignore reports of creatures appearing in thickly populated areas, creatures that make no zoological sense (such as moths, apes with cat-like faces etc.) or whose appearances coincide with other paranormal phenomena such as UFOs and poltergeists.

Clark and Coleman record many cases of this nature, and conclude with a chapter which analyses their data and suggests that the mystery animal is an apparition, which in the collective unconscious reminds us of the non-rational side of the human psyche and of the natural world, the preservation of which is becoming a subject of increasingly general concern.

This is a book which can be highly recommended. Incidentally, it has a further reading list which not only mentions MUFOP, but unlike similar lists we have seen in UFO books seems to have not one inaccurate address in it!

(RS)

BUFORA. Proceedings of the 2nd National Research & Investigation Conference, Birmingham, 5-7 November 1976. BUFORA, 1978. £3.40

BLOECHER, Ted. Close Encounters of the Third Kind (Ed. C Lockwood & A Pace) BUFORA, 1978. 60p

I shall review each paper in the Proceedings IN TURN, bearing in mind that one of the aims of the Conference was "to act as a signal to the scientific community, the media and the general public that ufology is worth of study".

I can only apologise for my own paper, written after the main conference, and under the stress of a family bereavement. Due to my careless handwriting it contains several minor and

one set of major errors. Page four, para. three of my article should read, from line 2: "This suggests that UFO experiences should be related to such 'edge of reality' experiences as out of the body experiences, lucid dreams and apparitions. Celia Green and Charles McCreery of the Institute of Psychophysical Research, Oxford University, have labelled such experiences collectively as metachoric experiences..." The major error was in placing Green and McCreery at the 'Psychological Unit of Cambridge University'.

Paper two, 'The Alphabet of UFO Reports' by Jack Webber is a perfect example of obsession with trivia. It shows how to plot the direction of UFOs with home-made instruments and sounds as though it was meant for a Boy Scouts group rather than a scientific gathering.

Paper Three, 'The Prediction of UFO Waves', by Bernard Delair at least provides data. What he appears to be able to demonstrate is that there are peaks on a 10-year cycle, 1947, 57, 67 and as predicted, 1977 in records in large UFO catalogs such as UFOCAT. But his attempts to argue a 10-year cycle before 1947 are less successful. There is no evidence I can see of major UFO waves in 1937, 27, 17, etc. with the exception of 1897. Delair also argues more complicated cycles, arguments for which seem strained. If as he suggests UFO waves are somehow related to the sunspot cycle it suggests they are triggered by poorly understood physical phenomena.

Ted Bloecher's paper, which is also published as a separate pamphlet, is an excellent piece of work and well illustrates the strange erratic quality of the UFO experience, and how it might be explored. He points out the 'staged' quality of many CE3s.

The fifth paper, by Tony Pace on the Vehicle Interference Effect describes a BUFORA catalogue of 400 such cases, highlighting the Carl Farlow case of November 1967. This paper is also of a high standard, although playing down the stranger qualities of the UFO experience to some extent.

Robert Digby's paper on photographic evidence clearly loses a lot by not having any of the photographs reproduced. Digby proposed five basic categories of evaluation of the incident, but fails to list the most important point: was the event 'public', in that several unrelated witnesses saw the incident and the photograph being taken, and that subsequent treatment of the photograph was also 'public'. I do not share Digby's euphoria with GSW's computer enhancement techniques, which were highly praised by ufologists when they seemed to support their favorite photographs, but were rejected when it suggested other dearly-loved ones were fake!

The seventh paper, by Tim O'Brien, an attempt to prove the ETH, is one of the very weakest; it is a credulous compilation of ancient astronaut and UFOs in the Bible cliches, displaying an ignorance of anthropology, archaeology etc. O'Brien is planning a book, which with luck will be buried under an avalanche of rejection slips.

Roy Dutton's paper is of such a technical nature that I cannot comment in detail. However

I think it demonstrates the danger of building a large hypothesis on inadequate data. He uses my 1947 section of INTCAT as a base at one point - but that published section was hopelessly inadequate, omitting all the data from Bloecher's study, which was added later.

Mark Stenhoff's contribution is a comparison between UFO phenomena and ball lightning. The idea is worth pursuing, although I suspect it would be unwise to regard such a poorly understood physical phenomena as acting as much more than a psychological trigger.

The final paper by Tom Grant is another long rambling piece trying to prove the ETH. Again a book is threatened. Again roll on rejection slips!

The volume is closed off with a contribution from J A Hynek, basically another plug for CUFOs

The general impression one gets of the papers presented in this volume is mixed. I cannot recommend it to any but hard-core ufologists. The separate Bloecher pamphlet is of much greater general interest. The presence of S'Brien and Grant's papers will discourage the scientific community from further study. (PR)

HAINING, Peter. The Legend and Bizarre Crimes of Spring Heel Jack. Muller, 1977. £4.75

In the cold January of 1838 an extraordinary social panic seized large sections of London society. Various parts of the city, particularly Peckham, had been visited by a fantastic criminal

with staring eyes, wearing a flowing cloak, who had made several indecent assaults on local servant girls. But what distinguished him from just another 'dirty old man' was his alleged ability to make huge leaps, which earned him the epithet 'Spring Heel Jack'.

Whether or not there was an original Spring Heel Jack (and Haining argues there was) the myth gained ground in both rumour and popular literature, and persisted through the nineteenth century. He became a 'trickster' figure in the popular imagination, making a buffoon of authority, righting wrongs, and rescuing poor maidens from evil old aristocrats!

It is hardly surprising that recently Spring Heel Jack has been seen as a precursor of modern UFO entities - some of whom seem to have equally strange behavioural problems! Perhaps both emerge from the same areas of the subconscious to deflate the pompous and authoritarian. As a documentary Haining's book has serious defects. Many of the stories presented are clearly fictionalised, and no precise references are given. This forces one to be agnostic about the author's conclusion that the original SHJ was a real man, the Marquis of Waterford, supplemented by a host of imitators, or whether he had a mere psychological existence. This seems more likely for the later cases, some of which appear in INTCAT and were the subject of an article in FSR 17,1 by Roger Sandell. Haining gives more details on these, but again no sources are given. (PR)

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