

SEE PAGES 7, 8 & 9 INSIDE THIS SPECIAL 'OPEN DOOR REPORT' ISSUE

Northern UFO News. is the monthly publication of the Northern UFO Network,

NUFON: Is a communications network for UFO investigation groups within the North of Britain. This newsletter is an open forum for their news, information and ideas. The views expressed herein DO NOT, necessarily, reflect those of the associate groups as a whole.

N O R T H E R N U F O N E T W O R K

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NUFON NEWS is published monthly. Copy date for the December issue is December 1st.

NUFON was formed eighteen months ago, with the intention of bringing the groups within the north into closer contact and instilled with a greater sense of co-operation. Our methods of working have changed and new ideas are being developed all the time, viz the important meeting planned for November. Some things have been more successful than others, but there is little doubt in most peoples minds that the basic idea for a co-ordinated, yet non-official, network of independent groups, has wonderful merit and potential.

Some people, including myself, would go even further and say that such a body as NUFON is ESSENTIAL if an integrated and scientific system of Ufology is to be achieved. We shall never attain such respect if we continue to exist as a series of local groups (called, not altogether unfairly, 'clubs' by some sceptics) working along our own little paths to no certain goal.

It is gratifying, therefore, to find the NUFON idea catching on. Our counterparts in the south are thinking in terms of a SUFON, being coordinated by BUFORAs liaison officer for the Region, Alan Fossey. It is known that two of the foremost names, SIGAP (Surrey) and WATSUP (Wessex) are in favour of the idea, which is a promising start.

In the Midlands IAPRO, the ambitious Leicester group, are working with MURO and the Nottingham UFO Society towards a similar aim. Initial consultations have already been taken, and it is hoped to take these further at the NUFON meeting. Such a network is a viable proposition because there are a number of groups in a reasonably confined geographical area. Coordination can be profitably arranged, therefore, and NUFON will certainly feel the benefit. Our ranks have swelled, as the associates list shows, and we are fast approaching the point where size becomes a detrimental factor to progress.

A fourth network is being contemplated in the East by Bryan Jeffry, of the Cambridge UFO Society. It is nice to record that he, with the others, have approached NUFON for advice and ideas. Once these other networks are active there is no doubt we shall learn from each other greatly.

It is obviously in everybody's best interests that these networks cooperate from the outset. It seems a very sensible policy, therefore, that a working committee be formed jointly by the networks, to meet periodically. Such features as a jointly produced magazine, of high standard, would then become a possibility.

The networks serve the UFO groups primarily. What of the independent researchers, who are not able or do not wish, to be part of a group? Since there is no such thing as a membership NUFON has no real facilities to encompass these. We do try to keep them involved, of course, and many play a very vital role by plugging the gaps where no groups exist.

Next we turn to BUFORA and CONTACT, the two major national associations. Fortunately they are working towards a joint policy between themselves, which is an obviously desirable thing. They must, however, fit into our overall scheme of things. Indeed they do have the majority of the independent researchers, and could attract many more of them but for the difficulties in creating a credible NATIONAL coverage. They do recognise the problem, and BUFORA has introduced liaison officers to act as regional representatives for those members who would otherwise feel left out. With new schemes, to increase research involvement it may be that they will be able to look after the independent worker, whilst the networks serve the groups.

All these various organisations must work together if a really comprehensive system of coordination is to be achieved. It is therefore of the greatest importance that an early meeting be arranged between representatives of the networks and the national bodies. Such gatherings would, hopefully, become regular.

It is NUFON'S intention to do all it can to achieve this idealistic situation, with the first step the organisation of such a meeting. In all these negotiations it will not be forgotten that NUFON exists to serve the interests of you, the local UFO groups.

JENNY RANDLES

SPECIAL NOTE:

You will no doubt have noted that the format of NUFON News has again been altered somewhat. This is in part with our constant policy of trying to produce the best possible type of monthly newsletter on the lowest possible budget. The whole question of publications will be considered at the November meeting, and it is not out of the question that IN ADDITION to this regular newsletter (on subscription) a more professionally printed magazine can be brought out at, say, quarterly intervals. Of course the success of this will depend on how many groups and their members take copies, since printing costs are high, but we feel it is worth striving towards.

GROUP NEWS:

..... Most interesting, and perhaps important development this month is the formation of a new organisation UFOSIS. It aims to be an information service for Ufology. The files are being filled with material on groups and publications in this country and abroad. They have agreed to associate with NUFON, and we in turn offer every assistance for this valuable idea. If you wish to make any inquiries, though primarily they are there to serve those new to Ufology who know not where to turn, the address is given with all other associated bodies. Please send a stamped addressed envelope.

LAPRO, with their great asset of a central office in Leicester, set the ball rolling on a UFO hunt on Oct 24th. So far as is known it did not produce any immediate results but it does well illustrate the value of group co-operation. A circular object with flashing lights was spotted by one of the personnel on route to HQ. Within twenty minutes NUFON was contacted, and both NUFORA and WUFOS (in line of its possible path) were put on the alert at once. LAPRO, incidentally, have also decided a revolutionary idea for membership. They are discarding any fee, and relying on pure graft by its active members. It will, they believe, cut down on costs to look after members who do not 'pull their weight'. An interesting experiment. We must watch its progress.

SUFORS, who you may recall are working on a documentary filmed based on the NUFON groups and depicting British Ufology, will present more details at the November meeting. In the meantime they ask for groups to come along on that day with photographs, newsclippings and publications to illustrate the work of their group. It is hoped to be able to feature each group highlighting its most important contributions to the field.

Nigel Watson, SUFORS chairman, would also like to comment on the piece by WUFOS on publicity (Oct issue). He does not feel publicity should be FORCED onto the press. Over publicity, he says, is a bad thing since it tends to make the public feel, "Oh No! Not saucers again." He prefers to write his own articles for the press, thereby retaining some control over what is eventually published, though he does agree that if you are 'fair with them' then they will be 'fair with you'.

GENERAL NEWS:

..... The Open Door TV show has indeed brought response above our expectancy. Several new groups have been in touch, including PULSE (Preston Ufological & Leyographical Society & Expedition). New correspondants cum independent researchers have appeared in the hitherto untrod ground of Fylde and Morecambe. UFOSIS are also willing to undertake investigation work, and are, suprisingly, the only active group in the West Midlands. A new band of researchers in the north Cheshire area has also formed, though they are un-named and research orientated.

Outside the above new associated groups etc (which is a very pertinent reason for the editorial comments) the meagre numbers of organisations in Scotland and North Ireland are being invited to take a more active role in NUFON. Contact with the new Eastern Network has brought an appeal to help IDLN, the big French organisation, on several important projects. NUFON, of course, will lend its support. It is hoped that in the near future someone will take on sole responsibility for expanding NUFONs, international, contacts - on every groups behalf, of course.

The new BUFORA training scheme for investigators, mentioned last month, is being worked on. Trevor Whitaker (BUFORA Yorks) hopes to use postal correspondence course system. The next AGM is to be held in London on December 6th. If you cannot attend but would like any views mentioning please put them in writing and we shall do our best to represent you.

The Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph of September 12th carried an article called, "Something in the Air" which was based on an interview with BUFORAs Tony Pace, Research Director. A good deal of the text was taken up with the story of the Rainhill case (see August issue) with credit given to NAPRA. It was a very factual account. BUFORA Yorkshire have also been featured heavily in their local press following the new wave of mystery 'copter reports over the Pennines. Although fib reports have come from the West side MUFORA were asked to comment in the press and on Radio Manchester.

Stepping further into the media field Jenny Randles and Pete Warrington produced a fifteen minute feature for Sheffield's Cablevision, the only local TV station in the country. It came about when they were introduced at rehearsals for the Open Door programme, which were done at Sheffield Polytechnic. Total free-rein on the presentation of the spot, they just being pushed in front of the camera and told - 'Make a programme!'

OPEN DOOR - An Analysis and appraisal.

On Saturday, October 11th (repeated on the 18th) NUFON produced a ten minute nationally networked TV feature for BBC2. The following attempts to show some of its aims, the feelings about their success or otherwise and the more practical results of the publicity which ensued.

Since the time which NUFON was given was so small there was no way we could have attempted to prove the reality of the UFO phenomena. It was decided, therefore, to concentrate on other aims with the ATV UFO film being used as a thought provoker.

The aims selected were 1) to gain publicity for the subject and NUFON groups, thereby gaining sighting reports; 2) To show how group cooperation can work and to inspire thereby other Ufologists; and 3) To show that Ufology is a scientific and complex subject, in the manner of presentation and the use of graphs etc.

Naturally there have been post-mortems, since these are very important for future TV presentation of the subject. For example some have said it was too 'dry' and technical. This, of course, did help to bring over the last aim - as many congratulatory letters from 'serious' Ufologists show. It has also been said that the production was amateurish. This was only to be expected since we were under time and resource pressures, which added to the very real difficulties of appearing under studio conditions (its a little nerve racking to say the least).

It can be happily noted that most comments received on the feature have been favourable. The attempt to create an image must have worked since NOT ONE crank letter was received, and only a very few such calls. Only one serious sceptic came forward - admittedly a little shaken - and so we can at least feel that it did some service to Ufology by presenting it in a straightforward manner.

The feature was transmitted on October 7th, and the informality seemed to come over well. A plug was given for the new Sheffield group, and offers of more air time in the future were forthcoming. These stations are, hopefully, to be soon set up elsewhere.

To close still on TV. Try to watch the Second City Firsts play on BBC 2, November 29th. Its a down to earth tale of a UFO investigator. BUFORA saw the production, and say it is very realistic.

It is certainly true that the BBC tried to instill 'life' into the piece - though their idea of life, including the panel swooping down out of the sky as an introduction, did not tie in with our methodology. This fact was quickly realised and they did help us to maintain 'credibility'.

The first phone call was received whilst the caption was still on screen, and before this programme was over various witnesses had been interviewed by phone and one group (RIGAP) was already 'on a case'. About 100 calls were received in all, many sighting reports, keeping Pete Warrington busy.

Jenny Randles was also on the receiving end of 130 letters - and these are still coming in at the time of writing. From these the majority were appeals for information (answered by a letter putting them in touch with their nearest local group or BUFORS & Contact). There were, however, about 40 reports, with about a third from the north. These were distributed to the nearest group or BUFORA for investigation. Some were very interesting, and are detailed elsewhere in this issue.

Some of the letters propounded theories for UFOs, included an intriguing one that the earth is like a living thing with skin diseases (deserts), tummy rumblings (earthquakes) and illnesses which produce UFO phenomena.

We can be justified in thinking that some good has been done for Ufology. Perhaps things could have been done differently. It will be useful experience - next time - and we are (with BUFORA) engaged in convincing the BBC that the response warrants one

The existence of residual radiations on cases of alleged landings or near landings by the UFO phenomena are not rare, by any means. It would therefore be a most valuable asset to a UFO group to possess a monitor which will both visually and audibly detect these.

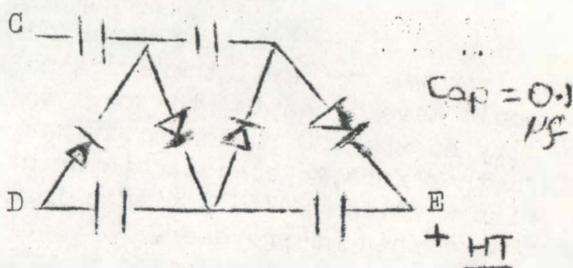
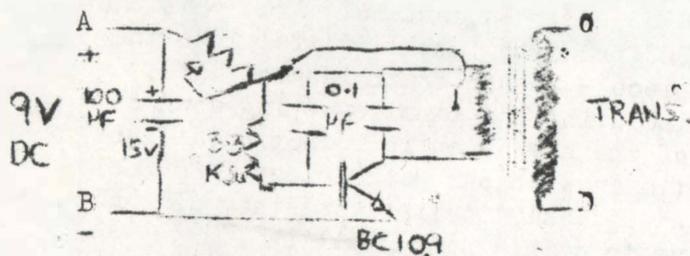
Dave Butterworth is NAPRA's scientific consultant, and will be a valued member of our evaluations team. The design below is admittedly complex, but should be understandable to those technical minded members all groups have tucked away somewhere.

THE CIRCUIT DIAGRAM:

For ease of reference the following circuit is divided into four sections: HARTLEY OSCILLATOR, VOLTAGE QUADRUPLER, GEIGER-MULLER TUBE & AUDIO OUTPUT and METER OUTPUT. Brief explanations will follow of each component, which form part of ONE COMPLETE piece of equipment. The LARGE code letters (eg A, B, C etc) indicate the points of connection to each other of the various components. A key is given afterwards of the various electrical parts so that the ordinary person, can, if wished, purchase them.

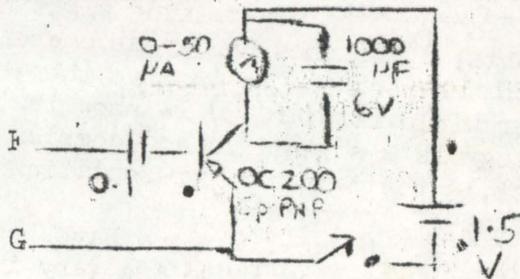
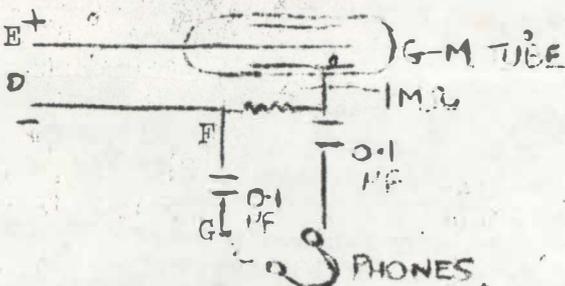
HARTLEY OSCILLATOR

VOLTAGE QUADRUPLER



G-M TUBE & AUDIO OUTPUT

METER OUTPUT



- KEY:-
- == CAPACITORS (ALL NON-ELECTROLYTIC EXCEPT the 100 µf in the Hartley Oscillator circuit which IS ELECTROLYTIC)
 - ▷ DIODES (ALL BY 100 or SIM)
 - ~ RESISTORS and RHEOSTATS.

All numbers are the powers of the various components and the voltage of batteries EXCEPT BC 109 and OC 200 sp PNP - which are part numbers.

NOTES:

The Hartley Oscillator is free-running and is built to drive the small transformer at C,D. This is a miniature mains 4-0-4 transformer designed to give a 60 volt AC output from an input of only 1 volt. NB a 9 VOLT DC battery recommended. The Voltage Quadrupler doubles the voltage on each half cycle and the output can be as high as 1200 volts (with a low apage). BEWARE HOWEVER: DO NOT TOUCH AT E (there is high tension there). Both outputs are self explanatory. The Audio head phones give a click and the meter reading can be calibrated by altering the large capacitor across the meter itself.

If you would like more information or assistance in developing this equipment OR if you have comments or suggestions for modification and improvement contact:-
DAVE BUTTERWORTH c/o 60 Tildsley Crescent Weston Village RUNCORN

SIGHTING REPORT SECTION:

The reports which follow on this page all came directly from the Open Door TV programme. A good majority of those reported were not within the confines of the north, and these will not be revealed herein since there are too many and it is not specifically the task of NUFON News to feature such reports. They will all in due course be featured in the BUFORA Journal. There are more sightings to be related than those featured below, but reasons of space have precluded publication of some. These will be published in due course, along with more detailed surveys of some of the following, after investigations are completed by the groups. It is hoped, sincerely, that they will cooperate by submitting such full reports.

FROM THE PAST:

1 SEP 1963 Broughton Fell, Cumb.

A woman and her sister ask for an explanation to their sighting a few miles south of Calder Hall Atomic Power Station. It was of a whitish disc with two fuzzy gray discs, of smaller size, by the side. They stopped on the hillside to give exercise to a dog and saw it as high as a jet aircraft, but motionless for ten minutes. It then moved out to sea, against a light wind and blended into the distance within ten minutes. It was subsequently explained officially as a weather balloon, but the direction of motion and its solid appearance rule this out, the witnesses believe. BUFORA INVESTIGATING

15 JUL 1974 Whiston, Lancs.

A young woman was in Whiston Hospital and had just been awakened at 6am to prepare for breakfast. She saw through the window a metallic cylinder, reflecting the sun, in a vertical position. It hovered, apparently over in the Warrington direction, for between 30 seconds and 1 minute. The sky was very clear with high, wispy clouds, and the ward was very quiet, of course, but there was no detectable sound. The object then separated into two pieces, the larger one maintaining a cylindrical shape and streaking upwards at an incredible speed. The smaller piece was of an indistinct shape, and it moved away to the NW at a downwards angle. It moved at the speed of a jet and left a vapour trail (unlike an aircraft's however in subtle details). It was visible for several minutes and she did not see it move out of view since she was forced to look away to eat breakfast. She tried to interest others in the object, but they did not seem concerned. It is hoped that a full report and the subsequent investigation will be published soon. NAPRA INVESTIGATING

FROM THE PRESENT:

23 JUL 1975 Northampton

Whilst not being directly investigated this is an odd case. At 10pm the witness heard a dull thud in the garden. He ignored it, but later when emptying the bin heard a strange rotary noise. Various things were seen: a brown ball, a sausage shape and golden lights. Dog ran around trying to cover ears up. Neighbours and police heard the noise. He TAPE RECORDED it as it continued unabated for over two hours. This tape was 'allegedly' lent to ISTRG for analysis but then vanished. Police have given up trying to trace it. IAFRO are of the belief that this was the misinterpretation of a kite. As for the noise - well it 'sounded' like a hair dryer.

JUL/AUG 1975 Poston, Nr York

A woman and daughter reported a gold ball moving slowly W-E. It was very big and moved 'up and down'. It grew small and turned white before vanishing. BUFORA YORKSHIRE INVESTIGATING

AUG 25 1975 Middlesborough

A youngster alleges he saw a silver disc with a tail of light streak into a cloud at 8.45pm. It was silent. It also was seen on subsequent nights, and sounds like an aircraft. BUFORA YORKSHIRE INVESTIGATING

SEP 27 1975 Smethwick, W. Midlands

The witness coming out of shops at 9pm saw an orange light moving low between clouds. (Heavy cover). It moved very fast seemed ghost like and in the 5 or 6 secs visible an illuminated dome was seen. It 'blinked' out. BUFORA INVESTIGATING

OCT 11 1975 Burnley

This report came in as the programme was going out. The three red and white lights were still there when the witness was talking on the phone. They hardly moved, in a box-like manner and faded in and out. They were there between 11 and 11-30pm. Stars? RIGAP INVESTIGATING

Full analysis of this case is still pending an investigation of the negative by Kodak Ltd. A brief synopsis of the sighting will, however, be given.

It concerns Bob Bland (name is a pseudonym), a well respected official in the Rochdale area. He is an accomplished amateur photographer and was in his bedroom with his equipment at 9pm on JULY 11th 1975. It was a fine night with scattered cloud at 2500', an 8 knot breeze from the West, and the sun setting

The object appeared in the viewfinder as he was holding the camera. It streaked across view from E-W and was gone in seconds. He took a quick shot. The developed photo shows very clearly a domed disc, reflecting sunlight. On superficial examination it appears to obey photometric laws. There are, however, ample calibration points for expert analysis.



Flare - like UFO Photographed over Preston:
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MUFORA REPORT
.....

On Friday, October 17 1975 Mr & Mrs Felton, a young married couple, were in their living room sat by a window. The time was 6pm. Mr F brought his wife's attention to an object in the western sky and the subsequent observation involved the taking of a series of about 12 photographs on Boots Colourslide film. The exposures were f3.5 for 1/125 and 1/60 seconds.

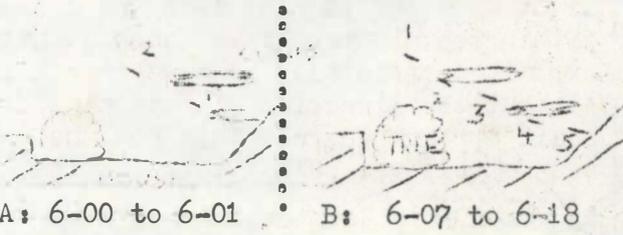
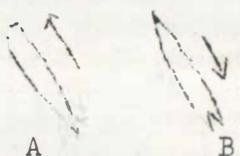
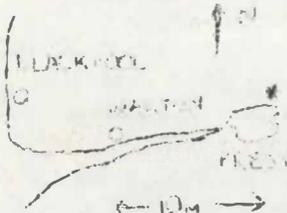
It reappeared at 6-07 and was in view 11 minutes moving very slowly between B 1 and B 5. At B2, 3, 4 it appeared to hover briefly. On this occasion it varied in length (about 5pc) and there seemed to be a split in the blunt leading edge. The angle of elevation varied from 10-15 degrees. The UFO was not solid in shape, but 'distinct'.

THE LOCATION:
.....

The Feltons live just to the north of Preston. Their window faces West, on a bearing of 255°. The object was seen on this bearing at an undetermined distance. It moved first south, then north, on slightly upwards and downwards paths respectively. The area is used quite frequently for test flights by BAC at Warton, and Blackpool aerodrome is in line of sight. OS REF: 565318

THE REPORT:
.....

The object was described separately, in detail, by the two witnesses. Their descriptions agree very well. It was a white streak of light, like an aircraft vapour trail. Mrs F, felt it was yellow. It did not stay in the sky as a normal vapour trail does. On the first observation (A) it was as shown, and moved slowly between A 1 and A 2. After 30-45 secs it vanished, almost instantaneously. Mr F secured his camera, and Mrs F a pair of binoculars, and they searched the sky for the object once more.



THE INVESTIGATION:
.....

Both prints and negatives have been made available for analysis. The object, in its various phases of motion, does show but is very small and far away. It remains to be seen if 'blow-ups' will reveal more detail. The Sun was just setting at the time, and it seems probable that the slight colouration was due to reflection of its rays. It was warm and clear, with scattered cloud. There was a light breeze, but since the object moved in opposing directions it was almost certainly powered in some way. Mr F phoned Blackpool airport immediately after the sighting, but they could offer no solution. Warton, in a written statement to MUFORA, say they had no operational activity. The Lancashire Evening Post of Oct 25 carried a story of a white flare out to sea seen by many on the west coast. Police, coast guards and the press were unable to discover anything further, except that it was 'explained' as a meteorite. The object in this case was certainly NOT.

NUFON GROUP REPORTS:

Mid May 1973 Runcorn

A 23 year old storeman reported a white star like light seen stationary for 3 mins. It then descended and moved off slowly to the SE.

NAPRA REPORT

JUN 22 1974 Helsby

This ties in with a big flap of reports NUFON dealt with at this time. Several members of the public were witness to it in this case. It involved two white balls the size of sixpences following each other very fast out of sight to the N

NAPRA REPORT

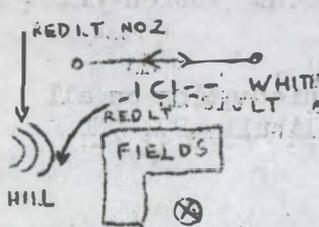
JUN 16 1975 Huyton

This report comes from two people, who saw a white 'disc' moving N-W at a slow speed. It was in view 1 minute. The time was 23-10 and it seems very likely that this was Skylab.

NAPRA REPORT

JUL 20 1975 Runcorn

This sighting involved Mr Ashton, his wife, and two young children. The first observation was at 23-30 when a white light moved W-E and vanished into cloud. This was possibly a satellite. A minute later a red flashing light appeared and descended slowly behind some hills. This was followed by a second similar light from the south heading to the same point. Mr Ashton searched the area and found nothing, but Mrs Ashton saw the white light move back on its original path.



NAPRA REPORT

JUL 27 1975 Runcorn

The witness was out in the garden gathering washing when at 23-57 two golden ovals appeared at about 15-20,000'. They were dull and moved slower than an aircraft. They seemed to nudge each other in motion.

NAPRA REPORT

JUL 29 1975 Huyton

Standing at a bus stop at 22-30 the witness saw a white star moving W-E. After two minutes it suddenly shot upwards and vanished.

NAPRA REPORT

AUG 3 1975 Rainhill

Several members of one family reported two white stars moving NW-SE and N-S. They moved slowly and were in view for five minutes.

NAPRA REPORT

AUG 17 1975 Crewe

The witness was at the railway station at 05-40 when he saw a cloud glowing colours. A bright yellow cross then emerged and was followed by a cigar, 30' in length. It is felt that this report may be a hoax.

WUFOS REPORT

SEP 28 1975 Ashton-U-Lyne

Amidst a flap of sightings in the ever popular Oldham/Ashton area comes this one of a yellowish light. It moved slowly to the SW. Time 20-50.

MUFORA REPORT

OCT 7 1975

We have three reports for this date. The earliest is being investigated by SUFORS at Normanby Park Steel Works at 04-00. A shunter reported seeing a light rise above the horizon and hover there for a while. At 20-00 a second sighting was reported to this group. This was in Riddings, Scunthorpe where a flashing light was seen moving SW-SE. Interestingly a case investigated initially by Mike Dean, and being forwarded to BUFORA YORKS for completion occurs at the same time on this date, 20-00. This was at Emley, Huddersfield, and was described as a flashing white light moving E-S and too slow to be an aircraft.

THE MYSTERY COPTER

As you will have noted none of the above reports can be classed as of great interest. However, it is NUFON policy to publish details of ALL reported UFO activity so we make no excuse for filling a page with such information.

Indeed it seems that we are at the time of year when LITS reports seem to barrage us. It is also the time of year (since 1973 at least) when the mystery helicopter begins to make its appearance over the moorland regions of the Pennines

Sightings began in mid September and have so far mostly been concentrated on the Eastern side. BUFORA Yorkshire have been heavily involved in investigation work, as last month's issue shows. The majority are nothing odd, but there have been a couple of 'puzzlers'.

A MOON MIRAGE?

Readers may recall from the June issue a MUFORA report of a yellow half moon. BUFORA YORKS had a very similar case just a month later, June 17, at Halifax. The moon was in a very similar position in the sky, and oddly there had been a recent fire - as with the MUFORA case. Could this be some strange type of optical mirage?

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Holloway Circus BIRMINGHAM 1

WANTED!!
.....

For Research work, Old TVs (working or not), Transistor
Radios, Tape Recorders, Transformers, Coils, Capacitors, Valves,
Plugs, sockets, Electronic Mags., ANYTHING Electronic or Optical. Also
Ideas (No matter how daft!!) DC c/o NAPRA 60 Tildsley Crescent Worsley Village

WRITER REQUIRES INFO:
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Writer researching for book requires information on all
'crank' or hoax investigations. Ian Grant 16 Eastfield Dr Solihull B92 9ND

MEETING DATES (Groups are asked to use this column to advertise all meetings)

- NOVEMBER 14 DICAP & MUFORA - Joint Public Meeting
7-45pm Friends Meeting House (Opp Central Library), MANCHESTER
- NOVEMBER 15 NUFON Discussion/Meeting for representatives of Northern groups
2pm Good Companions Inn Manchester Rd Warrington
- JANUARY 14 NAPRA & WUFOS - Talk to the Marseyside Paraphysical Society.

COMING NEXT MONTH!!!

REVIEW OF THE NUFON DISCUSSION/MEETING

TWO MORE PHOTOGRAPHIC CASES (From Tyldsley & Sheffield)

LAPRO & MUFORA EXPERIENCE MINI FIAP IN LATE OCTOBER

TOPICAL REPORTS NEWS AND ARTICLES

STOP PRESS..... See P.9 The location of the Jun 22 1974 sighting is DURHAM