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EDITORIAL "Divide to unite"

On January 8th BUFORA staged what was intended to be a public relations exercise with northern ufologists. Unfortunately it did not quite work out that way. What was supposed to be a 'meet the people' affair failed because there was a) no people to meet and b) nobody to meet them!!

I do not here wish to enter into any critique of this particular affair, except to offer apologies to those who did attend (about twenty from five NUFON groups) on behalf of my absent BUFORA colleagues. It did present an interesting opportunity to hear some people's thoughts on the matter of where British ufology should go, and these were in pretty broad agreement. I shall put them down very basically here, and refer you to my article in issue one of Northern Ufology for additional detail. NUFON is considering publishing ALL the papers that were presented. (STOP PRESS: Work is now underway)

It appeared to be agreed that BUFORA was too broadly based, and that trying to do everything at once was its chief failing. Rather, I suggested, it should play to its strengths and concentrate on PUBLIC RELATIONS. This means holding public seminars, lectures, exhibitions, having excellent press liaison AND publishing a first class journal which would cultivate interest amongst a wide variety of members. Even if only 1% eventually prove useful to ufology then BUFORA fulfill a role. Already the criticism of this has come from BUFORA. It has been said I want them to be just a journal. The point has obviously been missed.

Investigation, in my opinion, should be organised around a network system. NUFON controls 99% of the work in the north ('control' is NOT used in an authoritative sense) and fully cooperates with BUFORA. If BUFORA sponsored a SUFON as an independent entity then the two could integrate ALL investigation from all sources, and everyone would benefit - including BUFORA, who would get more data, and the witnesses, who would not get several sets of investigators calling.

On a different level I believe we should also set up a team of EXPERIENCED investigators to deal exclusively with potentially high grade cases. They would attack such cases in a VERY detailed fashion producing a report which would do credit to the CIA. These case studies would be the basis for the scientific recognition of ufology. It will not come from a thousand LITS reports, as much of the material included in NUN, but from DETAILED studies of important cases by trained personnel. Again EVERYONE would benefit from this system. The ordinary investigator would still have work to do, and plenty of it, but he would have something to aim for. A standard to work towards. This scheme has been considered in some detail, and detailed plans for what is termed 'UK INVESTIGATORS AGENCY' will be presented on February 12th to NUFON.

Research, as I envisage it, would come about as a scientific institute (see my editorial in NUN December 76), utilising the products of both the above AGENCY and the network system, since both types of data will be needed.

It may appear to some - indeed it has been commented on - that this would be fragmentary and devisive. Yet I do not agree. Ufology requires specialisation, because concentration on specific aspects makes for better performance. It is also ESSENTIAL that we overcome the inbuilt divisiveness of ufology caused by the different kinds of people who are involved. Provided this scheme were worked on together by those who make up British ufology it would not be a division but a unification.

JENNY RANGLES

Contributors this month: Bryan Hartley, Bill Muir, Nigel Watson
 MUFORA, SPRING, Ufora Staffs, UFOSIS, WUFOS Thanks to John Rouse and CONTACT

NUFON: The Northern UFO Network is a communication and liaison medium for independent organisations and researchers in Northern Britain. The Northern UFO News is a monthly forum for news, views and ideas. The opinions expressed herein do not, necessarily, reflect those of the network as a whole.

NORTHERN UFO NEWS is available on a subscription of £2 per annum (UK postage) An irregular full scale magazine, NORTHERN UFOLOGY, is also produced and sold on a single issue basis (at reduced rates to NUFON associates and affiliates)

EDITOR: Miss Jenny Randles, 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Greater Manchester.

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NEWS:

- !! Several of the affiliated groups as noted on the Reference Data Sheet, dated January 1977 have NOT renewed subscriptions for 1977. It is thought that a number of these are in fact defunct as organisations. Copies of this issue will only be sent to those groups which have contributed to NUFON materially and would appear simply to have forgotten. A revised listing of affiliates will be published when the situation is known with regards some of them. It should be noted that NUFON is conscious of the importance of this outlet. Since it is now reaching many of the world renowned sources of ufo data, thanks to the efforts of Bryan Hartley in overseas liaison, efforts are being made to upgrade the standard of presentation. We are sure you would want your data presenting in the best possible format.
- !! It is sad to have to relate that SUFORS, the north Lincolnshire group, are now defunct. They have operated largely through the medium of Nigel Watson for the past two years. Nigel will continue as an individual investigator and correspondent for NUFON in the area. He asks me to mention two sale items he has:
A 3M Dry Photo-Copier £35 and A JANIK 4½" Reflector telescope £40 one
- !! Up and coming events: MUFORA open meetings at the Town Hall Hotel, Tib Lane, Central MANCHESTER Tuesdays February 15, March 15, April 12, May 10 (7.30pm) UFOSIS public exhibition in Birmingham April 23. Details from the group.

NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT THE NEXT NUFON REPRESENTATIVE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON: FEBRUARY 12th 1977 at IMPERIAL HOTEL, Temple St, Birmingham (close to New St Railway Station) 2pm

Items for discussion will include: NUFON 1977 Conference, 'UK Investigators Agency', contingency plans for projected Autumn 1977 'flap' (ie coordinated skywatch programme), Citizens band radio.

The meeting should be reasonably free and easy and it is hoped that it will facilitate much more time for informal communication and discussion amongst those present. You are cordially invited to bring along any members you wish.

OVERSEAS PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY

I am now in a position to give an initial listing of material which is on file with the NUFON library. It is known, however, that considerable additional material is being added all of the time and regular updates will be published in the U.N. Eventually a separate publication listing will be issued.

ARGENTINA (Mar & Jun 75 C.D.E.de F.A.I pub.) AUSTRALIA* UFOIC pub Sep 75,* Australian UFO Bulletin May, Aug 75, Feb 76, Proceedings of UFOCON 2 (ACOS 1976)
BELGIUM SOBEPS News * Jan, Mar, Jul, Sep 76, Inforespace Jun 75, Jan, Mar 76
GERMANY UFO Nachrichten Dec 74, Jun 75 HOLLAND Tijdschrift Voor Ufologie Sep/Oct 75 FRANCE Phenomenes Spatiaux Mar 72, Mar 75 ITALY Ufo notizario Dec 74, Gli Arcani Jul 75, Sep 75 JAPAN Space Phenomena Soc. pub May 75
NEW ZEALAND Spaceview No 65 SCANDINAVIA GICOFF 1974, UFO NYT Sep, Nov 75
Jan, Mar, May, Jul 76 SUFOI* 1975/1, 1976/1 USA* Gray Barkers Newsletter Jan, Mar, Apr 76, Mystifax Jun 76, Mundo Monitor Mar, Apr, May 76 (plus pub Doomsday Coming up, Nothing New Under sun, Concept of living, Living Electronics, FS Up-day) UFO Investigator (NICAP) Aug 75, Ohio Skywatcher Jun 76, CUFOS Bulletin Apr 75, Apro Bulletin Sep 73, Nov 73, Jan, Mar, May 74, Oct 75, Feb, Jun, Jul 76, Various bibliographies, publications (official US), press releases concerning the Bermuda Triangle.

OVERSEAS LIBRARY Cont...

It is known that these are but a sampling of what is available, and you are urged to contact the librarian if you have any material to offer. The service is available to NUFON associates and affiliates who are engaged in research. You are asked to notify your requirements, and reasons (since it would be impossible to operate a lending library service pure and simple). The librarian will almost certainly be able to give advice about publications, material available for research etc and you are urged to use this service in your work. Costs will be restricted to postage (approx 20p per item, 10p for smaller items). Lending regulations will be given by the librarian: (NB: * indicates in English)

BRYAN HARTLEY 23 HASTINGS RD, THORNTON-LE-FYLDE, LANCASHIRE

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PUBLICATIONS: BUFORA JOURNAL Jan/Feb 77 has an article based upon the NUFON 1975 report MUF0B Winter 76/77 as usual has several interesting para-ufological texts, including 'The Monster as Metaphor' COSMOLOGY NEWSLINK Spring 77 (it apparently comes early this year!) is full of chatty letters and little filler items. SKYLINK Jan 77 is the usual good offering from WUFOS (and it has an interesting article 'UFOs-A Manipulative phenomenon' - even though I did write it myself!). Outside our area look out for the ESSEX UFO STUDY GROUP JOURNAL. Jan 77 is even better than usual. One of the better local group publications.

* * * * *

Another person who wishes correspondance with British ufologists has written to me: Aduvoi Xenceti (that's his name) 1325 1/2 W. Jefferson, Los Angeles, California 90007

PEOPLE, COMMUNICATION & NAMES: Nigel Watson

British Ufology is administered by three amateur organisations; BUFORA, CONTACT and NUFON. Supporting these are the local ufo groups, investigators and general membership. All in all they constitute the main support of the pro-ufo movement.

In 1974 NUFON (then called UNO) was formed to cement relations between the many groups and individuals scattered throughout the north, and to facilitate better communication of ufo reports and data. Since BUFORA seemed to be something of a dead loss SUFORS, and myself, joined NUFON. Now more than two years later it seems a reasonable time to reflect on NUFON and the general future of British ufology.

One trend likely to be carried out more in future is the holding of conferences and lectures. Unfortunately I have yet to attend a conference which has achieved anything, mainly due to the fact that to afford such ventures the public has to be catered for. This means that silly men with charts and projectors get rapt attention and serious speakers are almost completely ignored. It is a pity that NUFON has yet to organise a conference solely for the discussing of northern ufo reports and general progress in investigation.

On the written communication of ufo reports things have been a lot better. After several false starts Northern UFO News is now a stable and reasonably informative publication. However, it is near impossible for NUFON associate groups to get hold of the reports sent to Peter Warrington. Since all material is, or should be, the collective property of the associates this situation is quite frankly absurd. Especially in view that FSR and BUFORA and a few others are kept with a rich flow of information.

Perhaps my qualms so far appear petty, and indeed they are when we consider the bureaucratic mess we are in. The best way to describe it is pretentious. Somehow we proliferate the use of titles and fine sounding names to cloak ufology in a cloak of respectability. I say 'we' because in many ways I was responsible for the founding of the Scunthorpe UFO Research Society, and what more glorious title than that can you have? Like a lot of groups SUFORS was a lot of fun in the first year, but we never did any real investigation and so the 'research' aspect was a misnomer. However, SUFORS began to lose whatever merit it had and slowly fade away. As from the end of 1976 it is no longer in existence, but as it has existed as a name only for the past two years this will have no material effect.

A look at the total picture of British Ufology clearly shows that it is nothing more than a disorganised rabble. The irony is that the more attempts there are to control and administer British ufology the worse things get. It should be realised that there is but a handful of people taking an active interest in ufology and that their activities and time available constantly change.

PEOPLE, COMMUNICATION & NAMES Cont...

Stripped of our pretentious and silly titles we remain AMATEUR INDIVIDUALS, interested in spending part of our lives on the subject of ufos. Whatever talent there is for future progress is being dissipated through the pursuit of wasteful and often irrelevant projects, and bad communications. The answer is that if we are to continue to have 'organisations' such as BUFORA etc, instead of merely publications such as FSR, MUFOB etc then simplicity should be employed rather than impressive, chaotic, bureaucratic, ineffective administration.

NUFON was at first in pursuit of this simplicity. It communicated directly with the north and for a short time formed an active entity, solely concerned with local events. NUFON is now nearly as pretentious as BUFORA and could even soon overtake it if five hour long committee meetings continue. So NUFON has changed - for the worse. The creator and driving force of NUFON is the only one who will eventually decide ON its future. So whatever names or titles, people in the end are the ones who count.

(COMMENT: It is unfortunate that Nigel does not define WHY NUFON has changed. Certainly to my mind we do still strive for simplicity, but simplicity which gives everyone a fair say - hence the need for representatives meetings. I am certain that NUFON has never had a five hour meeting, and I am sure we never shall. In addition, as has been pointed out in NUN and at meetings, the files ARE available on loan OR photocopy to associate groups who need them for research. Of course there are problems. You cannot send copies of 700 reports to every group - but it is a cornerstone of NUFON policy that the material not be hidden away, but that it be AVAILABLE. This, incidentally, is why such efforts are made to publicise material elsewhere and why NUN publishes details of ALL sightings which NUFON receives. This helps to alleviate the communication problem. I hope Nigel will elaborate at the Birmingham meeting on February 12th. Any comments? ED)

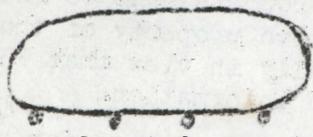
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED CASES

Report 76/107 has been followed up in full detail by Bill Muir and the sighting of the second witness seems most interesting. He is a former army officer and was able to take accurate bearings of the silver circular object. There is a time discrepancy, in that his observation was at 15.04 (two hours earlier than the other witness). He first saw the object at 10° elevation at bearing 085. It moved slowly SE, then S, dropping approximately 3 degrees in elevation. It then shot away SE at a speed far in excess of a jet aircraft. It was in view 3 minutes and in size was the equivalent of a 12" circle at 300mm. (For other report see NUN Jan 22) DATE: November 25th 1976 LOCATION: High Spen, Tyne & Wear

CURRENT SIGHTING REPORTS

REPORT 7119 Ranton, Staffs January 19 1971 UFORA Staffs

Mrs Harris, a woman in her twenties, recalls this frightening experience which she had at 03.00 one morning. She was awakened by a flood of whitish/yellow light coming into her bedroom. Outside she saw a disc, larger in apparent size than a rugby ball, hovering in the SE. It remained still for ten minutes and then the light went out, yet four smaller lights on the underside replaced it. Two were blue and two were whitish. It then made several manoeuvres from side to side, and after a total observation time of about twenty minutes accelerated away to the NE. The tiny village of Ranton is the scene of the famous Roestenberg entity case.



SERIES OF LITS REPORTS FROM WUFOS (Merseyside and West Cheshire)

- 75/142 Runcorn late Sept 1975 22.30 White star, flashing on and off (Satellite?)
- 75/143 Runcorn Oct 21 1975 19.30 White flashing star seen to disappear and reappear several times before streaking off towards Liverpool.
- 76/108 Bebbington ? ? 1976 20.30 White ellipse seen moving towards Liverpool shot out two red objects which moved away in opposite direction.
- 76/109 Eastham ? ? 1976 19.00 Two teenagers saw a metallic cigar shape moving from Liverpool over the Mersy. There were flickering red lights on each end, possibly reflected sunlight. The motion was erratic and slow.
- 76/110 St Helens Jul 16 1976 21.45 Green ball sprouting green flame, burst into orange and then disintegrated. In view two seconds. Probably a meteor.
- 76/111 Bromborough ? Aug 1976 03.00 Two white lights moving W-E and N-S. (Satellites)

Report 76/112 Hopwas Wood, Nr Tamworth, Staffs August 27 1976 UFOSIS

Mr Kan, who was at the time a soldier, was with a party on fire damping patrol in the woods (OS REF 175055). It was about midnight. They had seen several meteors and were looking at the sky. They saw a white star move rapidly across, in view just a few seconds. This was followed moments later by another one going in the opposite direction. They passed these off as meteors and continued their work. A minute or two later they saw a large oval object. It was dazzling white, but cloudy, and the apparant size of a tennis ball. It seemed to be much lower and a definite shape was made out. In the centre was a flashing blue light. The object appeared to be rotating clockwise. After four minutes it just went out.

Report 76/114 St Helens, Merseyside November 29 1976 WUFOS

The same fireman (six this time) as per report 76/106 reported a red and white flashing light low over the town at 17.40. It hovered and then started to move away south westwards. They opened the window but heard no sound despite its proximity. They thought at first that it was a helicopter, which remains a possibility. The object was in view about three minutes.

Report 7701 Greater Manchester January 27 1977 MUFORA

Between 17.00 and 22.00 on this night there were several calls to MUFORA concerning ufos described as blue flashes seen streaking across the skies. They mostly came from the northern part of the county. Connected with these there was severe electrical disturbance in households, with room lights dimming on several occasions in some areas (this occurred three times to myself in Irlam - ED). It was subsequently confirmed that there were faults in the grid system, and it seems probable that the blue flashes were related to this.

NOTIFICATION CARDS

76/113 Woolaton, Notts November 8 1976 19.30 Orange LITS with tail. (SPRING)
76/115 Nottingham December 13 1976 19.30 White LITS seen from car (SPRING)

DETAILED REPORTS: THE STAFFORDSHIRE FLAP Ufora Staffs

During December the North Midlands seems to have been deluged by a series of reports which can only be termed a 'flap' of fairly major proportions. This does NOT appear to have been mirrored in any other part of the north. Indeed some areas have seen decidedly low levels of activity. For example, the normally active Greater Manchester region saw nothing of note during November, December and January. Our thanks are due to Derek James and his colleagues at Ufora who were involved in a considerable amount of work in following through the reports and also had a good deal of radio, TV and press coverage during the spell.

The events appear to have begun on December 9th 1976 (REPORT 76/116). At 19.45 two young women were driving through Wetley Rocks, near Stoke, on a frosty night. Ahead of them they saw a mass of lights hovering low down over a field. At first they took it to be a helicopter, but then it was realised that this was not possible as the area consisted of open fields with high tension pylons. Moving a little closer the car was stopped and the window lowered. There was no sound and the object hovered for two to three minutes, flashing orange, white and blue lights. They were in a rectangular formation, about the apparant size of a tennis ball at arms length, in width, and of a golf ball in height. Suddenly the lights just went out, and there was no further trace.

Following on from this a most interesting series of events seems to have occurred on December 13th and 14th. This is particularly interesting in view of the very similar incidents which occurred at Swinton, Greater Manchester on December 12th and 13th 1975. (See N.U.N. Jan 76 and Detailed Case Report No 3 Feb 76) You are asked to compare these two groups of reports carefully. The similarity in date AND time is remarkable. You will note from BUFORA JOURNAL Jan/Feb 77 that these dates in 1975 were significant throughout the north. Do we have a further example of a 'flap date' which will repeat from year to year? There are other examples, for example August 15th - though none as recently striking as this, in view of the similarities of what is actually being reported.

On December 13th at approximately 17.20 (REPORT 76/117) a woman art teacher who lives at Dunkirk (OS REF SJ 814526), a little village outside Audley, was coming out of the house next door when she saw an object in the NNW at an elevation of 45 degrees. It was hovering, quite silently, with two tiers of bright lights surrounded by a yellow/orange glow shaped like an oval with a

THE STAFFORDSHIRE FLAP Cont...

flat bottom. It was shining fiercely out of a black sky with swirling fog all around it. Apparently it was over a small electricity pylon. After two to three minutes the object seemed to recede, pulsating and fading until only a glow was left. This then became a shallow band of elliptical light before it too disappeared. A few moments after this a male neighbour rode up on his bicycle and exclaimed, 'What was it!' He said that he had seen a big orange object in the sky as he had pedalled home. In apparent size it was larger than an apple held at arms length. The witness immediately drew the object, and was interviewed within 1½ hours.

At almost exactly the same time, just a mile to the east Mrs Dean was also witness to something strange in the fog. (REPORT 76/118). She was at Kids Grove Bank (OS SJ 848540) when at 014 degrees she saw a brilliant white light coming from behind an electricity sub-station. At first she thought it was a car headlamp but then it became clear that it was in fact light shining through windows on a greyish object shaped like an oyster shell. There was additionally a beam of light pointing up into the sky, and a fluorescent glow surrounding the windows themselves. The object hovered in the sky for two minutes or more and she became very frightened, walking quickly away down the road (in such a haste that she fell over something!) When she looked back the object had gone. Visibility was 100-300'.

It is not known for certain whether there is in fact any relation between these sightings, but their similarity is quite amazing, as is their comparison with the events of 1975. Note also that in all three of the above cases some form of electricity pylon or sub station was involved.

If all of this is beginning to sound incredible then we have not finished yet by a long way. On the following day, December 24th, at (would you believe) 17.15 (REPORT 76/119) Mrs Bebbington, at Alsager, was driving her car when she saw a brown/gold semicircular object in the north east. Again it had two tiers of white lights, and was hovering over some rooftops. At the base of the object, a greyish vapour-like cloud was swirling. The object was huge - estimated at the interview as that of a two inch circle held at arms length. Upon seeing it the witness swerved the car and nearly mounted the pavement. She drove on past leaving it still there. Alsager is a couple of miles north of Dunkirk, just over the Cheshire border. Quite coincidentally Mrs Bebbington is a teacher, just as the witness of the previous day, and very similar to her in physical appearance. Neither were known to one another, and there was no publicity for any of the incidents until December 16th. These sightings were not correlated until afterwards.

Our next report (REPORT 76/120) from December 15th is almost certainly an aircraft. It concerns a light hovering in the distance, and moving slowly away flashing. The place of observation was Bignall End, time 22,30.

By now the locale knew that a flap was on, so this must be borne in mind with all subsequent reports. On December 21st at 18.00 an engineer at Bignall End reported seeing a silvery sphere from his car (REPORT 76/121). It hovered for two to three minutes and then dulled to orange, fragmented into irregular angular pieces and then disappeared. It was in the SSW, apparent size of a grapefruit.

At 02.30 on December 25th an elderly lady at Hanley received an unwelcome Christmas present (REPORT 76/122) In the east she saw a halo of light above three green lights. It was moving slowly WNW for about ten minutes before fading.

The next incident appears to be even more significant. It concerns Darryl Smith, age 26, who was driving his van between Kingsley Holt and Cheadle at 19.30 on December 28th (REPORT 76/123) He saw a strange red light. It appeared to hover in the north over some woods. As he drove along a little he saw it move. He stopped the car and wound the window down and watched it silently glide along, split into two and then rejoin. It was in view eight minutes, moving very slowly. He then drove on to his brothers at a nearby house, but within ten minutes was back on the lookout for the object. He saw it - descending into a field. It was shaped like a bullet, red on top and white below, and was within a hundred yards. The size was estimated as 6' high and 4' wide. He tried two different vantage points, stopping the car and getting out, but could not see over the hedge into the field. Immediately he contacted the police. They were very helpful in UFORA's investigations, sending a police car to the witness and taking him to the site. They promised that if they found any traces they would cordon off the site and give priority of investigation to UFORA! Unfortunately they found none.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE FIAP Cont...

WETLEY ROCKS 76/116
December 9th



DUNKIRK 76/117
December 13th



KIDSGROVE 76/118
December 13th



ALSAGER
December 14th



HANLEY 76/122
December 25th



CHEADLE 76/123
December 28th



BIGNALL END 76/124
December 31st



Finally (but by no means least) we come to the event which caused a real stir of publicity. This is the Richardson case - and it began with a bang - literally. On December 31st Mrs Nellie Richardson, aged 65, was in her bed at Bignall End (OS SJ 809521) (REPORT 76/124). This overlooks the Cheshire plain to the north, towards Crewe 12 miles away. At approximately 02.42 she was awoken by a loud bang. (This was later confirmed by the next door neighbour, who SAW nothing because her room faces the wrong way). Mrs Richardson saw a brilliant glow flooding into her room. It was caused by a huge oval object outside her window. Elevation was 10 degrees, bearing 290 degrees. The size (confirmed at interview twelve hours after the event) was that of a 9" dinner plate at 10° distance! At first she was very frightened, but as she calmed it became clear that the object was not moving. Her alarm clock had apparently stopped so she went downstairs to find the time. On setting her clock right she returned upstairs and found the object still there and filling a quarter of the window, being larger than the full moon. It had moved slightly, and as she watched it moved towards her and darkened to an orange colour. It was observed for 1½ hours at least. During this time it moved only to bearing 320 degrees. It also moved further away, and at this point two small figures were seen silhouetted against the bright object. They were like 'toy soldiers' moving to and fro. They disappeared and the object continued to move away. At this point her son John, aged 31, returned from a restaurant. He ran upstairs to his distraught mother and explained that he had seen a big orange ball over the plain. It was still in view through the window and he watched it until 04.15, moving into the distance. One other point to note is that their cat (which is normally NEVER disturbed during the night) was on the window ledge downstairs staring at the object. In the follow through no explanation was found. The moon was discounted as a source, having set before the sighting. This was confirmed on BBC TV when Dr Ron Maddison of Keele University discussed the case with Derek James of UFORA. Manchester Airport and Cheshire Police had no suggestions.

NUFON thanks UFORA, especially Derek James, Chris Boyrne and Tony Pace, for the extensive documentation supplied. This is filed under the references quoted.

THE FENCEHOUSES OCCUPANT ENCOUNTER

Report 7699 September 3 1976 Time 21.00 Investigated by John Rouse (CONTACT)

It is unfortunate that the reporting witness to this case is an elderly lady (age 63) who was very frightened and wishes no publicity. There was an 18 year old witness with her, but she has not so far been traced. However, the investigator for NUFON, John Rouse, believes the case to be genuine.

Mrs A and Miss B were returning from a visit to some relatives. They were walking past a waste area in the little village of Fencehouses, county Durham. The area has in fact since been levelled for building, and is littered with disused mine shafts.

They saw a strange object upon a mound of earth. It was very small, and exact measurements proved possible owing to the events to be described. It was 5" long and 3-3½" high - roughly oval in shape with a large glass like compartment in the centre and a bright orange dome on top. It was resting on sledge-like runners, which appeared to be made of chrome or steel.

The witnesses were not afraid, but appeared to be attracted towards the object in almost a hypnotic fashion. As they approached closer they noticed an odd effect. There had been a moderate wind and scattered cloud in the twilight sky, but the wind seemed to suddenly stop. The trees appeared to stop swaying and the traffic on the nearby road seemed to just disappear. The witnesses watches stopped at this point - although they worked normally afterwards. It was almost as if they were suspended in time.

THE FENCEHOUSES OCCUPANT ENCOUNTER Cont...

Mrs A was now right up to the craft and she was able to run her hand along the side of it. It was very smooth and glass like, and felt warm. This was the point where she was able to really take in the details of size and shape.

Suddenly two entities appeared by the side of the object. They were the size of dolls (which we take to mean about 1' tall). Basically they were humanoid in shape with long white hair parted down the middle. They had large eyes and claw like fingers. They appeared to be frightened by the witnesses and put both hands up to their faces.

THE OBJECT



THE ENTITY



At this point the story becomes somewhat confused. The witness was not sure what happened to the beings and became a little confused and disorientated, particularly as to time. It is possible that there was a time discrepancy of about half an hour, but there is by no means any certainty about this.

The object was seen to take off at great speed, making a humming noise at the time.

There was possibly a subsequent physiological effect. The next day Mrs A was trying to plug in a vacuum cleaner at home. She found that she could not put the plug into the socket. It was as if some force were pushing her hands back (remember she had touched the object). In the end her daughter had to do this job for her.

Samples of soil and of vegetation are to be analysed and a radiation reading to be taken, although it is unlikely that they will show anything so long after the event.

Bearing in mind the distress of the witness we were very fortunate to find out about the incident. This was indirectly and simply because she wanted to get the affair off her chest. There has been no publicity, although it is obvious in consideration of the publicity given to the Winchester entity case of November 14th that she could have easily achieved this had it been her aim. It does appear a reasonably logical reaction to now wish to forget the whole affair, although attempts are still being made to investigate matters in complete confidence. She is very worried about the consequences of the press getting hold of the story.

One can make comparisons with other cases quite readily. The parallel with the story of Mrs Lanchbury (see FOR 22-3) is interesting. She claimed visits from beings from Pluto, seen in a similar trance like situation, and subsequently she reacted in a very similar manner - telling the story and then deciding she had said enough. She was of a very similar age.

The prevalence of these type of cases, which I refer to as 'psychic contactee experiences' is remarkable. Think of Mr L from West Yorkshire (August 76 NUN) and Mrs H from Belfast (Northern Ufology no 1). There has to be a common link factor here as to why these subjective experiences are being inflicted in greater number upon witnesses. There will probably be no trace of the object - almost as if it were not there. There was no trace of the Winchester object (also an orange oval), and it had elements of the unreal about it. Yet because the event appears to be subjective does not mean we should ignore it. There is the possibility that whatever causes the ufo phenomenon has the ability to make us see just what it wants us to see - or what WE want to see.

The trance like condition of time suspension is another familiar aspect of close encounters, although the extreme small size of the entities is most unusual - but not unprecedented.

Let us hope that we are able to find out more about this case - and in particular that we receive the cooperative story of the 18 year old girl. That would turn an intriguing case into a potentially classic encounter.