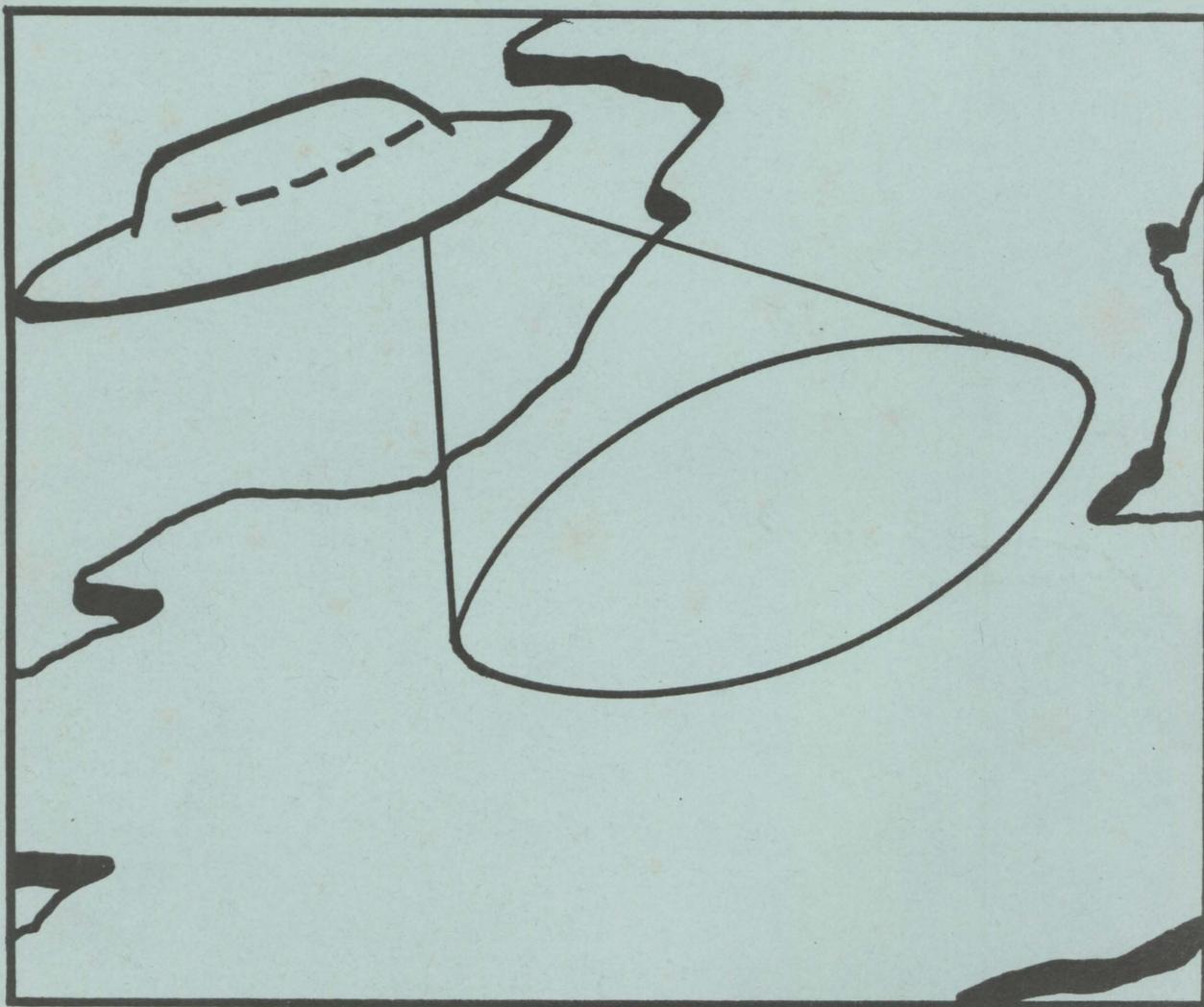


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NORTHERN UFO NEWS



NEWSLETTER of the NORTHERN UFO NETWORK (NUFON)

23 SUNNINGDALE DRIVE, IRLAM, LANCASHIRE, M30 6NJ

Edited by: Jenny Randles and Paul Whetnall.

"NUFON is a liaison system for independant UFO organisations and researchers in Northern Britain. It acts as a co-ordination centre for investigation, research and general information".

March 1978

Issue 46

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 WUFOS,Ian Cresswell for this issue.

GUEST EDITORIAL: A UFO INVESTIGATORS' RESOURCES CENTRE Dr. Robert Morrell (NUFOIS)

There is an old tradition that at a certain point in time an individual or an institution 'comes of age'. It seems that after thirty years or so of active research it can be justly said that ufology has reached this point. However, in doing so we find it deficient in one vital respect. For all the research and all the interest there is no central facility which can provide serious ufologists with access to a comprehensive collection of printed material on the subject.

Casual interest in ufology is widespread, but serious ufology will always remain in the minority. Popular ufology inevitably obtains most publicity, and as this is usually superficial in character and depth the general opinion when such material comes before the scientific community is a combination of distrust and contempt. Science has long established methods, and published work is serious, detailed and thorough. To a large extent this is a direct outcome not simply of methodology, but because scientists have access to proper library facilities which are run specifically in their interests. All branches of science have their specialised libraries, but ufology, whilst claiming a status within various disciplines, has not even managed to provide itself with elementary research facilities of this type. Where, for example, can serious ufologists gain access to comprehensive files of the main ufological journals published in English over the past 15 years? Such a deficiency has unfortunate results such as a research worker publishing data that has already appeared in print, but of which he has no knowledge because he has not been able to get hold of the relevant literature.

There is then a very real need for a resources centre. This should house a most comprehensive collection of ufo literature, with holdings of all main journals, It should provide serious ufologists with access to this either by post or in person. It should also hold a comprehensive file of sightings reports national in scope (international if possible), as well as specific background material of relevance to ufology (eg ball lightning). Microfilm and xerox equipment should be available. Ideally it should be staffed by active ufologists and it is essential that it be run by an elected committee and have proper constitutional safeguards. As an educational organisation it ought to have charity status.

Of course it is easy to write about the need for such a centre. Words after all are cheap. The main question is whether serious ufologists will lend such a centre their support. Its value to them cannot be doubted, but will they be willing to help finance it and also establish it by supplying the basic materials essential. Adequate funds must enable purchase of all important works as published, new and out of date. The centre cannot rely on generosity of authors, publishers and societies although it might be feasible to publish a research journal to bring in other journals on exchange. These are some ideas. At the moment what we need are more ideas and positive offers of support. If it becomes apparent that there is not enough support we must lay the idea on one side. If, however, serious ufologists will support it then basic steps towards the establishment of a resources centre can be taken. It really is up to you to decide.

CENTRE TO SUPPORT:: David L Rees (MAPIT: Editor of Skywatch)

On February 4th 1978 I heard one of the most forward looking ideas that NUFON has ever been involved with. The location was the most recent meeting, hosted so ably by Crewe group FUFOR. Robert Morrell, Chairman of NUFON, proposed the viewpoint that we start to build a comprehensive centre for world ufo literature - a complete UFO archives in fact, housing reports as well as published material. This centre would make all this resource data available to the serious researcher. It is my opinion that something of this nature has been needed in Britain for many years and I hope it achieves the support it deserves. In Sweden they have a very successful UFO archives, so the idea is not totally new. What it requires is TOTAL co-operation from everyone. When one considers the amount of old material on bookshelves or in filing cabinets just gathering dust this centre can revitalise them all. It will then be available for all to use in their work, and not just the property of some selfish owner. Some of this old material is very hard to come across. For example the Condon Report published in 1969 as a near 1000 page report cost 70p to buy then. Now the same book is bringing £10.00 if you can find it! The same applies to some of the earliest issues of FSR from the mid fifties. These can easily cost you £10.00 a time. Obviously this is not on for most researchers.

I might like to add that since September 1975 MAPIT has made its reference library available to anyone. This offer still applies. One of our latest additions is the programme from the Manchester lecture given by George Adamski in 1959. A historic document whatever your views of this man. We can photocopy material at a very small cost to the researcher.

Rest assured MAPIT will support the centre will you?

To add my support for this venture - something I have long viewed as necessary - I can but say that I hope that we will make the efforts to prove that this will not end up as one more important ufological idea on the scrapheap! We have a number of very distinct advantages to remember. Firstly we have the building already with scope for expansion of the Nottingham HQ. Secondly, accommodation facilities are already in force here. Thirdly, it hosts important repositories of ufo files already with approaching 1000 NUFON cases and the masses of detailed investigation work on the UFOIN high strangeness cases. Finally, we have the support of FSR - the worlds leading ufo publication. With this behind us we are half way there. Let us make sure that we go all the way.

JENNY RANGLES (NUFON & FSR)

AROUND THE GROUPS ...5) FAPURG and Bryan Hartley

FAPURG as a group revolves around one man... in deed if you ever get opportunity of visiting that man you might begin to think that the whole of NUFON or even British ufology revolves around him! That man is Bryan Hartley. Bryan has been involved in ufo interests since 1969 but did not become active until 1975 when he contacted Jenny Randles after seeing her on TV. He quickly became involved with NUFON, and his involvement has grown ever since.

Bryan is in the position of being able to devote all of his time to ufology. Although still only in his late twenties he has been unable to work for two years after a serious motorcycle accident in which he broke his back. After two years of hospitalisation he was left paralysed from the chest down and confined to a wheelchair. A sheet metal worker by trade Bryan entered collage and took a degree in Electronics. He then set up a massive short wave monitor station with his own aerial farm - a sight which is impressive to see indeed. With this he carries out research into sunspots, X-Rays and outer space disturbances. He has had one paper published by Keele University and is one of the few in this country who has done work for NASA.

AROUND THE GROUPS Cont...

With a background like this Bryan would be an asset to any ufo organisation, and NUFON is most fortunate that it is with us that he has seen fit to devote most of his seemingly limitless energies. Not only does he have an incredible overseas liaison system (see P.4) but he produces overseas supplements for NUFON, prints material for us and operates a comprehensive, and suprisingly little used, library of overseas reference material for NUFON (index list available from NUFON)

His interests range from Bigfoot to electromagnetic interference cases and he is also a UFOIN investigator (being involved with Jenny Randles on the New Elgin CE 3 case recently). He also does distribution work for BUFORA, thus maintaining some links between NUFON and BUFORA (a thing which is very good to have)

With a few colleagues in the Fylde area he investigates local cases, although the group is not active as such apart from this. Nonetheless Bryan's cheery personality is a spur to all who know him and he is a tremendous and invaluable member of the NUFON team.

FURTHER EXCURSIONS UP A BLIND ALLEY Peter Warrington (MUFORA)

It is generally regarded that the subject, as seen from the UK, has in recent years undergone a significant change in the way it presents itself to us. 'High strangeness', a term rarely used before, is now commonplace. There was a time when every ufo case that came to our attention was Medium Definition, requiring only scant investigation. This is not the only change. Today the subject appears more frequently in the media, and whether by intention or not high strangeness cases will appear before the whole populace in the near future. Whatever the nature of the subject we are studying some discussions are immaterial of this. One such discussion concerns the not unrelated points of credibility of investigation and our ethical responsibility to witnesses.

The witness to a high strangeness event is often understandably apprehensive about coming forward. Although we might be able to provide anonymity there is not much else we can offer. We pester for description after description, interview after interview. Although the witness may tolerate, and even welcome, these things, we have an ethical responsibility to make it clear that in cases involving study of a psychological nature our findings are little more than opinion. I believe a large percentage of witnesses believe our understanding of the subject is at least reasonably good, or worse still far in excess of what it actually is.

As an example I might cite recent investigations where experienced investigators have used a trained and experienced hypnotist to regress witnesses. Subsequently they used this technique for further rerecessions carried out themselves. I would make it clear that I am not implying incompetence of the investigators. I have every faith in their work and do not doubt that they might be able to hypnotise and regress people as successfully as any trained hypnotist. The point is that the value of hypnosis is a moot point even within psychology when done by fully trained doctors. Using it in ufology, and by untrained amateurs, is providing a grave danger of invalidation of their earlier - possibly totally valid - findings.

In cases involving objective observations an experienced investigator may draw conclusions which could survive examination by a higher authority of the discipline concerned. In such cases the investigators assessment is undoubtedly of value. However, the changing facets of the subject indicate that an increasing number of close encounters are becoming known. Here the witness does not objectively observe an event but participates (albeit unwillingly). This participation may well prohibit the observer from making objective assessments. The event becomes an experience that can only be reported subjectively, and this in turn greatly complicates the task of the amateur investigator who is attempting to produce an objective evaluation.

FURTHER EXCURSIONS UP A BLIND ALLEY Cont...

I do not believe that an objective investigation can be made into a subjective experience by those without training in psychology or sociology. In high strangeness cases where investigation is restricted to one or two people there is a grave danger of unintentional bias. (I speak here from personal involvement with such a case). It is obvious that the only real escape is to involve trained psychologists in the original investigations, but as an interim measure I suggest exposure of the witness to a relatively large number of workers (perhaps six or seven) with a good cross section of experience and specialist interests in the field. This would provide a reasonable spectrum of opinion, and possibly some conflict, of viewpoint, which could only be helpful and allow for a better overall appraisal of the case.

It is not impossible that the phenomenon is like a cat playing with the mouse (this being the witnesses and ufoworkers). The toying leads us further and further up blind alleys. Even though in truth we might be lost and disorientated our efforts to improve our lot must be seen to be objective, scientific and soundly methodic. Our techniques may then be more credible even if our findings are not - bearing in mind that there is no reason to believe that these recent changes in direction are anything but another blind alley for us to follow.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND

What are you doing about Close Encounters of the third kind? The film that has swept the USA and arrives on release in the UK on March 26 will create an unrivalled chance for us to push the serious aspects of the subject. Find out where and when the film comes to your town - see the cinema manager - put on a display - hold a lecture or meeting in town to coincide - do all you can to press the true nature of ufology. The national press has been hammering away already with a four day series in the SUN (which gave NUFONs address and used a number of our cases) and an eight day series in the EXPRESS plus a serialisation of the book of the film. No doubt this is just the start - so don't miss out. (31 cases from the Sun already!)

NUFON is not missing out! A 16 page booklet CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE NORTHERN KIND has been produced by Jenny Randles. It is available from her at 40p (post inclusive) Published by NUFOIS Press it is a complete mini review of ufology in the region. If you are holding a display and want to sell some (with some profit to your group) or you want one for yourself write to NUFON.

NEWS ROUND-UP: Paul Whetnall

Last month's NUFON meeting in Crewe was well attended, with most of the Cheshire area groups and a few others being represented. BUFORA organised the meeting very well and there were two excellent talks. Peter Warrington's paper on photographic and radar evidence is to be published in PULSAR and Jenny Randles offering on Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind and regression hypnosis will be featured in UFO RESEARCH REVIEW. I hope that the rest of this years meetings cum conferences will be as good. The BUFORA conference is in Nottingham on April 15/16 (costs £6.75 though!) and SUFORs are staging this years NUFON Summer conference on June 24 at Scunthorpe. The theme is to be CLOSE ENCOUNTERS - probably 'New' ufology orientated knowing Nigel Watson! Talking of Close Encounters the Royal Film Premier of the film looms large (March 14). Jenny Randles and I have been invited to the preview screening in London on March 3 - so we will give you a review next month (Don't worry we will not spoil the story for those who don't want to know it before they see the film). BUFORA are busy planning a display in the forecourt of the Odeon where the film comes in late March (Star Wars is on there now). They are also planning an afternoon lecture session on the phenomenon for the public's benefit - and BUFORA's too no doubt! Jenny and I visited Bryan Hartley again recently. His work for NUFON never ceases to impress us. He tells us copies of Northern UFO News now go to every continent and thirty countries - including all major groups in the world! So you should thank Bryan to know where your work is going. NUFON now welcomes its first group from north of the border. No name yet - but a great asset no doubt: c/o Alan Price Bluehouses Hassington Kelso Roxburghshire Scotland

INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

6206 Early 1962 St Helens, Msyde (12.30) MED C WUFOS (S3)

Five very large and low domed discs were seen in formation travelling SW. They were viewed for three minutes passing over rooftops and looked to be white and metallic. They seemed to stop and hover before moving on. These sound very much like lenticular clouds although the witnesses (a man and wife) say that there was a larger mother ship and four others in the formation.

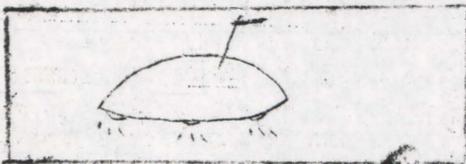
77/234 January 16 1977 St Helens, Msyde (00.00) MED C WUFOS (S4)

A housewife went to the front door and saw a strange object over rooftops ahead of her. It was shaped like a huge white diamond, the size of a 50p piece at arms length. In fact it was very much like the object seen by the two policemen in January 78 from Rainhill (see last NUN). It pulsed as if taking photographs. She went back inside, came out again and it was still there (duration 20 seconds). She then closed the door with it still in view.



77/235 May 11 1977 Thurmaston, Leics (20.45) CE 1 EM A UAPROL (S6)

Several witnesses from an estate observed a strange humming object in the sky as it circled an aircraft and then shot off into the sky, disappearing within seconds

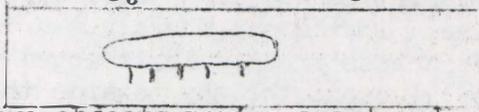


It hovered low over some boys on a cricket field and they were able to give a very accurate description. They claim that when the object flew round the aircraft it stopped in mid air, but checks with the airport were

not productive of any detail of the aircraft involved. The object was silvery with a strange aerial from the back. Underneath were red lights. Size was estimated as 30 feet. The object came from the SSE.

77/236 May 20 1977 Crank, Msyde (21.20) MED C WUFOS (S4)

The two witnesses are a supervisor of a community home and an ex war time pilot. They saw an object in the NNW the size of a small cigar at arms length. It was shaped like an elongated jellyfish, with lines trailing underneath. It remained stationary for some while and then it vanished. Shortly afterwards it reappeared as two objects moving apart and disappearing into the evening mist. A few minutes later it appeared again as one object and was seen for a total of thirty five minutes until it went dark.



77/237 June 21 1977 Nelson, Lancs (13.00) MED C FAPURG (S5)

A man was taking three young girls to look at their grandfathers grave. Whilst at the cemetery they saw a strange light in the sky. It hovered about 40 feet above



the nearby church and was seen clearly as a silver cigar with a small dome on top. A plate was underneath and strange elongated portholes or bumps on the side. From the front

a silvery spike protruded and on the back was a bright blue flashing light. The four witnesses stared in amazement for three minutes as the object hovered. Then it shot off vertically into clouds within seconds and never reappeared.

77/238 June 23 1977 Nelson, Lancs (23.00) LOW C FAPURG (s2)

A young couple observed a series of white lights over the course of two hours (some of which were undoubtedly satellites). However, one white light passed between two 'stars', which then moved along with it and all three LITS darted about for a time before disappearing over the horizon.

77/239 August 14 1977 Burnley, Lancs (23.40) MED C BUFORA (S3)

A brilliant object coloured yellow orange and shaped like a saucer was seen by two boys on a motorcycle. It was spotted briefly descending behind trees and making a humming noise. It seemed to be landing. On return later there was no trace.

Reports 77/240 & 241 relate to a series of strange encounters from Cheshire & Clwyd involving one family in late August. Paul Whetnall and Peter Warrington are following these up (including a most interesting close encounter with EM effects

77/248 September 3 1977 Sandbach, Cheshire (24.00) MED or A FUFOR (S5)
CE 1 Phys

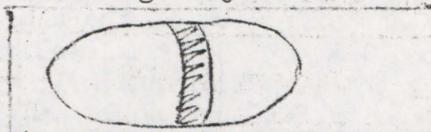
This report is one of a series received from FUFOR just as we went to press (the rest will be featured next month). It is included owing to its relevance to the next case. A young couple were parked on a lonely road by a nature reserve. The UFO was first seen in the N at 5/10 degree elevation moving side to side erratically but basically stationary. It was very bright and the size of a 2p at arms length, although it did not seem solid. It was brighter in the centre. The witnesses were puzzled by the unusual stillness that suddenly overcame the area. The man also says that his ears started ringing as if he had been listening to a noisy pop group. These seem classic indications of untrasonic sounds. In fear they drove away but found the object hovering over a nearby lake, quite low. They stopped at the first habitation, after seeing the UFO for about five minutes. Their aim was to get some cooperation - but as they did so the UFO moved away E, still keeping low.

77/242 September 4 1977 Wrinehill, Cheshire (03.30) MED A UFORA (S3)

A university lecturer and his wife had just returned from holiday when they saw a strange white diffuse light moving NNW towards Crewe. It was in view 20 seconds at a very low elevation (10 degrees). The witnesses are well familiar with aircraft and say this was nothing like one. It may well be connected with the encounter previous, just a few miles distant and three hours earlier.

77/243 October 4 1977 Gisburn, Lancs (08.00) MED C FAPURG (S2)

A woman, her daughter and schoolfriend observed the strange object from their back garden. It looked like an oval, glinting silvery in the sun. There was a darker band across the middle. It moved very slowly across the sky towards the village and was in view five minutes. It made no sound. It may have been a weather balloon

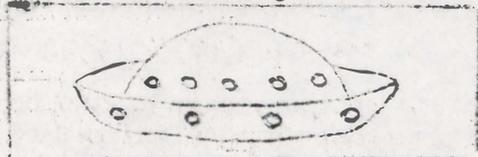


77/244 October 11 1977 Heanor, Derbyshire (02.25) MED A NUFOIS (S5)

A man awoke in the middle of the night hearing an oppressive sound like a whining electric drill. He looked outside but saw nothing. He went downstairs to investigate and found the noise decreased except on the same side of the house as his bedroom. Going back upstairs the noise remained and looking out he saw a circle of white light, six inches in diameter at arms length. Thinking the bomb had been dropped he went back to bed and hid under the covers. He fell asleep. There was no moon that night

77/245 October 21 1977 Bodorgan, Anglesey (00.50) MED C BUFORA (S6)

A most lucid report from a policeman and his wife appeared in the latest BUFORA Journal, although it sadly does not seem to have had an on the spot investigation. The woman saw the object first as a long thin flame coloured light, stationary but



wavering. It then resolved into a domed disc with a rim and portholes, hovering in the SSW. After watching it for over five minutes and drawing an outline in lipstick on the window through which she was watching it, her husband came home and watched it for a further one and half minutes before it seemed to recede and fade from view. In size it was twice the diameter of the sun.

77/246 December 14 1977 Winsford, Cheshire (18.25) LOW D TRACE (S2)

Trace are a group of enthusiasts in the Winsford area (scene of a high ufo flap rate over recent years). One of their members here reports a brilliant blue light flashing at one second intervals and moving east-west. It was in view four minutes

77/247 December 27 1977 Winsford, Cheshire (19.55) LOW D TRACE (S1)

Another Trace report - this time of a white light, with a pinkish tinge, moving south-north. In view twenty seconds. One feels that with the number of aircraft in the area surrounding Manchester and Liverpool airports these observations may well have fairly natural explanations (red and white navigation lights seen at a distance may easily merge into a pinkish colour).

BACK UP REPORT TO THE RAINFORD HUMANOID? DIGAP 7806 (S5)

A possible cooperative UFO sighting to tie in with the Rainford entity (see the February NUN) comes from the day previous - January 1 1978 - at 01.45. There were several witnesses, having stayed up late for New Years Eve celebrations. These come independantly from Shevington, Greater Manchester, and nearby Orrell (both just 3 or 4 miles north east of Rainford). The object seen was reported to the police heading SSW - towards the spot where the entity was seen the next night. The object was like a very large sphere (10" at arms length) and bright red on top, lighter red underneath. There was a metallic blue tinge giving an overall purple effect. The UFO was travelling very slow (at least as slow as a helicopter) and was very low (treetop height). It was within 50 yards of the main group of witnesses (four people at Shevington) but was totally silent. They saw it for 3 minutes and when it passed behind houses the glow could still be seen above those. It vanished suddenly. Witnesses at Orrell, between Shevington and Rainford, saw it as an elongated oval or cylinder - probably due to perspective effects.

7807 January 4 1978 Abram, Greater Manchester (19.30) LOW C MUFORA (S2)

A 55 year old man from an upstairs window viewed a flash of light streak across the sky leaving a trail. It disappeared after about fifteen seconds in a bluish flash. Moving SW to E at about 30 degree elevation. Almost certainly a fireball.

7808 January 5 1978 Fenton, Staffs (19.55) LOW C UFORA (S2)

A woman returning by car with her husband noticed a strange white/orange light stationary in the ENE. It was the apparant size of a tennis ball at elevation 30 degrees and remained in view about 3 minutes until the car changed direction and it was lost.

7809 January 6 1978 Lye, West Midlands (19.35) MED C UFORA (S3)

Four teenagers observed a peculiar object in the sky for over half an hour. It was still there when they left. Basically it was stationary, but it moved about from side to side a little. It was oval with fuzzy edges and was principally red although it had white and purple lights on it. The investigators suspect that this is a misinterpretation of some natural event.

NOTES ON THE CLASSIFICATION OF REPORTS IN NORTHERN UFO NEWS

The code number shown first represents the NUFON file number (cases stored at the Nottingham HQ)

LOW, MED, CE1 etc represents the Randles/Warrington modification of the Hynek system (see Dec 77 issue, p.4, for full description)

A, B, C, D, E represent level of investigation (A, on site, to E press cutting)

S1 to S9 is a subjective STRANGENESS value (S9 high) to give you some idea what cases to look at first. (Many don't like reading page after page of sightings)

A Lancaster nurse describes a strange sighting which Ian is following up for us. At first she thought the white light she saw moving across the sky was a meteor but another one blinked on below it and these travelled parallel. Then a red light appeared in front flashing on and off, giving a triangle in all. After about two minutes the formation disappeared behind trees.

7811 January 17 1978 Congleton, Cheshire (07.40) MED C UFORA (S5)

A young man coming out of his house in open country saw a strange star over some nearby woods. It was very large, the size of a golfball at arms length, and golden white in colour. It was in the NW at 15 degree elevation and apparently very low. It seemed to be spinning around and he watched dumfounded for at least three minutes trying to find some logical explanation. Then suddenly it began to move away at an incredible speed, growing smaller and smaller within seconds and vanishing in the direction of Macclesfield. Investigators found the man to be a very lucid and frightened witness.

7812 January 23 1978 Hollins Green, Cheshire (21.40) LOW A MUFORA (S5)

A man who is an aircraft worker and private pilot had parked a car at a pub in this village on the Cheshire/Greater Manchester border. His girlfriend looked up at the moon and observed a strange light source. Both watched for two minutes as this moved from the SE. They were bright white lights side by side to give a dumb-bell shape. The girl thought there was a golden hue to them. Being familiar with aircraft lights the man quickly eliminated this possibility and timed the objects as an oval shaped but tight maneuver was carried out. This occurred when they slowed down and began to waver from side to side and up and down. The lights then climbed from their previous elevation of 40 degrees heading almost vertical and accelerating until out of sight.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND For real this time!

Next month we hope to be able to bring you two CE 3 reports from what seems like a mini-flap during January 1978 (Note the Rainford CE3 and other high strangeness cases).

Nigel Watson of SUFORS is investigating a report from mid January of a round UFO that landed on the roof of a school near Hull, North Humberside and disgorged three tiny figures in golden suits, attached to the UFO by tubes.

Paul Whetnall for WUFOS is following up a claim from three poachers in Frodsham, Cheshire. They claim that on January 27 1978 they were by Devils Garden on the banks of the River Weaver when they spotted a strange balloon shaped object in the undergrowth. It had flashing lights on it. From out of this craft came three figures in 'spacesuits'. They looked around the area and discovered a field of cows. Returning to the UFO they came out with a cage like piece of equipment and proceeded to take measurements on the cows! At this point - not suprisingly - the men began to panic and fled the scene right away.

There does seem to be some interesting similarities here (three entities in each case) and detailed reports on these incidents should prove of great interest.

DON'T FORGET - ANY ARTICLES FOR NORTHERN UFOLOGY ISSUE FOUR SHOULD BE SENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:-

David Rees 92 Hillcrest Rd Offerton Stockport Greater Manchester SK2 5SE

PS: The reports from the Sun series are pouring in! We should all be kept busy.