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JOURNAL OF THE
SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP
ON
AERIAL PHENOMENA

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The skywatching season is upon us once again - and UFO researchers the length and breadth of the country will be maintaining all-night vigils on lonely hilltops, sweeping the skies with binoculars and telescopes, searching for the slightest sign of anything unusual.

But do skywatches have any intrinsic ufological value? Statistically, at any rate, the odds are heavily against a genuine UFO or flying-saucer being seen during the few hours duration of a skywatch; although some enthusiastic, but untrained, individuals will always insist that the satellite, high-flying aircraft or meteorological balloon they saw was really a saucer.

Ufologists seem to be divided into two distinct camps on the skywatch issue: those pro-skywatch, and those anti-skywatch. At one time I was very much pro-skywatch, but my views have been gradually hardening on the merits of sitting out in the cold all night, unless there is a strong possibility of a UFO being seen. At present I am sitting on the fence, swaying towards the "anti" side.

Skywatches are obviously justified in places such as Warminster, where sightings are continually reported. But do the run-of-the-mill skywatches really help ufology, apart from presenting an opportunity to train the uninitiated in how not to mistake a conventional object, or natural phenomena, for a flying-saucer? Would not the skywatch researchers be aiding ufology more by, for example, discussing ways in which investigation techniques could be improved, and analysing sighting reports made by other people?

Indeed, if it can be shown that skywatches do little to further the UFO movement in general, apart from the rare occasions when UFOs make several visits to one place, why not phase them out altogether? For UFO research is, unfortunately, becoming synonymous with skywatches. And we all know only too well that there is far more to ufological research than spending a night on top of a windswept hill. There is something else to consider too. Skywatches usually attract publicity - of the wrong kind. Consequently ufologists, in the eyes of many people, are starry-eyed cranks always gazing heavenwards. I think the merits and demerits of skywatches should be discussed much more frequently. For this reason I have decided to carry out a survey on this very issue. I urge members, consultants and non-members to complete the form sent out with each copy of this magazine and send it back to me as soon as possible. Results of the survey will be published in the next issue of "Pegasus". Letters and articles on skywatches will also be considered for publication.

- Ron Toft

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+ UFO LANDING AT WAR-TIME AERODROME +
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+ By Ron Toft +
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A man who tried to approach a UFO that had landed at a disused aerodrome, only to find himself held back by a mysterious invisible force, is the subject of an extremely interesting report recently unearthed from the files of the British UFO Research Association.

SIGAP Chairman Omar Fowler, newly appointed investigations co-ordinator for BUFORA, came across the case while sorting and cataloguing the reports in the association's files.

Although the incident in question took place back in 1957, I make no apologies for giving a full account of it, in view of the fact that it is a "hard-core" UFO case with physical effects involved.

The initial sighting occurred at 4.50 a.m. on one May morning. Tanker driver Mr. J. P. (he wishes to remain anonymous, although I have his full name, address, and other biographical details) had pulled onto the edge of a disused war-time aerodrome at Winkleigh, Devon, "to have my flask of coffee". After a few minutes Mr. J. P.'s attention was drawn to an object sitting on the end of the runway. "I noticed what appeared to be a submarine. My first thought was 'how did it get there?'" The lorry driver thought the object looked new. He continues: "I sat and watched this for some minutes. Then I thought I would take a closer look and got out of the cab and walked towards it".

After Mr. J. P. got to within "some 200 yards" of the UFO, he found it impossible to go any further. A forcefield, which he describes as "just like walking into a cushion", held him back. This was the first indication to Mr. J. P. that there was anything out of the ordinary. While held at bay by the forcefield, Mr. J. P. suddenly saw the "submarine" rise noiselessly into the sky. "This thing went straight up like an elevator for about 1,200 feet. Then it went off towards the North Devon coast. The speed was terrific".

Mr. J. P. who is married and lives in Yeovil, Somerset, says in the BUFORA sighting report form that the UFO was visible for "ten to fifteen minutes". When accelerating away, the object moved in front of trees and a low hill, establishing without a doubt that it was definitely a physical thing. The UFO made no sound at any time while under observation. Mr. J. P. said the metallic fluorescent blue UFO was "almost submarine shaped, apart from the tail fins". The edges of the UFO were sharply defined. He adds that when he first saw the object he was looking in a SW direction. When it moved off, it headed NW. The sky was clear at the time of the sighting. It was dry with a warm light breeze.

Mr. J. P. did not report what he had seen to the press or police. "Who would believe me?" He said the UFO was about "as long as an airliner", and between 28 and 30 feet in height. Mr. J. P., who is a bulk liquid transport driver, has one disability - he is long-sighted. But in my opinion this is unlikely to have a serious effect on the accuracy of his report.

The BUFORA report form is accompanied by an evaluation sheet. On it Dr. John Cleary-Baker, BUFORA Evaluation Officer, says: "The narrative has a ring of truth and is a most fascinating one. I think it deserves careful study. It is perhaps one of the most significant BUFORA has received for a long time". Dr. Cleary-Baker adds that it is a pity so many years had to elapse before the case came to light. "I am in no doubt that the witness saw a grounded UFO, which took off when he approached it. The force-barrier around the object is a noteworthy feature". Mr. J. P. filled in the BUFORA form on November 21, 1966. Dr. Cleary-Baker wrote his report on June 21, 1968. In view of the fact that Dr. Cleary-Baker, also Editor of the BUFORA Journal, considers the case worthy of "careful study", it is a great shame, in fact a ufological sin, that no BUFORA representative followed it up. Recently I wrote to Mr. J. P., although I must admit I didn't really expect a reply. But a reply I did get, and a very interesting one at that.

Mr. J. P. says in his letter, dated April 23, that the forcefield "seemed to completely surround the object and on trying to walk towards it, the feeling was like walking into an invisible air cushion resisting your movement. You could actually lean on it". After the UFO had taken off, Mr. J. P. was "able to walk with no difficulty to where it had been. The only indication of its presence was a black powder circle, approximately 50 feet in diameter. This black circle was very faint and fine. It looked like burnt carbon. Naturally I didn't touch it to find out". Continues Mr. J. P.: "My personal feelings were one of intense relief at its departure. Mentally it felt as if a weight had been lifted from me, but physically I felt no pain, shock, tingling, loss of memory or any other ill effect". On the day of the sighting Mr. J. P. was driving a milk tanker from Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, to Torrington, Devon. He goes on to say in his letter that when he set out on the journey his watch had been correct. But when he arrived at the Torrington factory "my watch was 20 minutes slow". Watches have been similarly affected in other UFO cases.

Apart from the May, 1957, sighting, Mr. J. P. has never seen a UFO. "This subject interests me and I only wish one knew what and who they are. There were no little green men or sign of human or otherwise life. Please, I am not a crank. The silence of its flying operation for a thing so large, has never ceased to amaze me, as it appeared to be the size of a large submarine".

Mr. J. P. believes many people saw the UFO in the air. At least one other person saw it on the runway. The other witness, like Mr. J. P., does not want publicity, and is reluctant to come forward. It was Mr. J. P.'s wife who suggested her husband should

tell BUFORA of the sighting. "My wife rather forced the issue". After receiving the letter from Mr. J. P., I compiled a special questionnaire and sent it to him. He very kindly filled it in. Most of the questions concern small points not mentioned in his original report. Mr. J. P. estimates the UFO was 150 yards from his lorry when he first saw it. In answer to another question he says he was some 90 yards from the UFO when he came up against the forcefield, whereas in the BUFORA report form he gives the figure 200 yards. This is the only discrepancy I have come across. But I don't think we should let this worry us too much. Indeed, it is very fortunate Mr. J. P. manages to remember so many of the details.

SKETCH OF UFO SEEN BY TANKER DRIVER



SIDE VIEW



REAR VIEW

Mr. J. P. also says in his letter that at the time of the sighting the aerodrome was not used for anything. Now there is a saw mill, a fuel dump for a farmers' depot, and a go-cart track.

Winkleigh, where the UFO was seen, is a small Devon village straddling the B.3220 road. It is 23 miles from Exeter and approximately nine miles, as the crow flies, to Okehampton, where the "flying-crosses" of 1967 were seen.

HOW TO CATCH YOUR WITNESS AT HIS BRIGHTEST By Dan Butcher: Most of us are all too familiar with the distressing experience of a periodically fading memory. At one time we are able to remember something quite clearly, only to forget it later. UFO witnesses, we may be sure, are not exempt from this human failing. How often has a "follow-up" brought to light some new detail? How gratifying to the investigator if he could calculate the time of the witness' periodical recall of the incident? If only we knew....

Well, early on in this century such periods were recognised and worked out. They turned out to be cycles of 28 days for women and 23 days for men; with lesser cycles of 18 hours for women and 23 hours for men. A man with borderline qualities has a period of 21 instead of 23 hours. Dr. Wilhelm Fliess put forward these observations working from a physiological standpoint, while Dr. Herman Swoboda noted psychological periodicities of similar duration. Dr. Rudolf von Urban utilised the cycles in his

psychiatric practice, being able to foretell for instance, the periods of his patients' compulsions. Von Urban tells us in his book "Beyond Human Knowledge", that periods of recollection and forgetfulness coincide with these cycles, and he recounts how Dr. Swoboda demonstrated this to him by getting him to memorise a poem which, of course, he subsequently almost wholly forgot, but which was brought into complete recall at the expected time, which had been worked out almost to the minute.

So then, it seems that all we have to do is to make a shrewd assessment of our witness' cycles.....

SIGAP's FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

SIGAP's fourth annual meeting was held on Tuesday, May 5, in the canteen of the Plastic Coatings Factory, Guildford. Unfortunately, attendance was low - only 15 or so people turning up, including officers!

The following officers were elected:

CHAIRMAN: Omar Fowler (re-elected).
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Peter Hill (new post).
SECRETARY: Dick Beet (re-elected).
TREASURER: Miss Majorie Dalley (Jean Fowler did not seek re-election).
MAGAZINE EDITOR: Ron Toft (re-elected).
LIBRARIAN: Dick Colborne.

SIGAP's Executive Committee consists of - as well as the above officers - Dan Butcher and Robert Skinner.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 1970:

RECEIPTS

Brought forward: £4 6s 2d.
Subscriptions: £50 5s 0d.
Miscellaneous: £7 14s 6d.
Magazine sales: £22 16s 3d.
Donations: £3 10s 0d.

TOTAL: £88 11s 11d.

Credits: £88 11s 11d.
Debits: £85 13s 9d.

BALANCE: £2 18s 2d.

PAYMENTS

Postage: £16 7s 6d.
Stationery: £45 14s 9d.
Research: £13 2s 5d.
Miscellaneous: £10 9s 1d.

TOTAL: £85 13s 9d.

Accounts were audited by
SIGAP Secretary Dick Beet.

The following are condensed versions of the reports given at the annual meeting by SIGAP Chairman Omar Fowler and SIGAP Secretary Dick Beet:

C H A I R M A N ' S R E P O R T

B y O m a r F o w l e r

The past year has been a quiet year, but far from uneventful. Pausing for a moment to reflect upon some of the happenings, we can recall that on April 25, 1969, there was widespread interest in the meteor that flew across the sky, finally breaking up over Ireland. We had many telephone calls on that night, but we were able to establish in a very short time that it certainly was not a UFO.

On May 12, 1969, we had one of the most significant UFO events of the year, when a red fiery ball of light was seen hovering over the Hampshire village of Yateley by two men on a nightshift at a nearby factory. It was also seen by a woman who got up to let her dog into the garden, a small schoolgirl, and another housewife. We also lost an old sky-watching friend - the giant balloon satellite ECHO II, on June 7, and well-known UFO contactee Barney Hill. SIGAP continued to grow in strength and in July we enrolled our 100th member, Mr. Alain Howard, of Elstead, Surrey. The group received a certain amount of criticism for attending the National Space and UFO Convention at Woburn Abbey in August. But we believed our attendance might help to create a stabilising influence and we have no regrets about attending the convention.

One of our most active members, Dan Butcher, again showed his talents by producing a booklet on UFO sounds - a real contribution to the ufology scene. Dan is already widely known in UFO circles because of his excellent UFO paintings. He recently agreed to start on a second series depicting the more up-to-date sightings. We will all eagerly look forward to seeing them.

Although there has been a rise in costs during the past year we were able to remain solvent by changing our magazine "Pegasus" to a bi-monthly production instead of a monthly. The problem of costs has been caused mainly by the rise in postage rates and not by the magazine itself. We have decided not to ask for the membership fee to be increased, but to carry on as we are for as long as possible. If the rumour of forthcoming changes in the postal rates is true, then we will have no alternative but to increase the membership fee at some future date. But for the moment, while we need not, we will not.

In spite of the adverse publicity given to UFO research by the Condon Report, I feel that the initial wide loss of interest has now come to an end. The report may have disheartened many investigators, but it has not affected the witnesses, one of whom was heard to say: "The Condon what?"

S E C R E T A R Y ' S R E P O R T

B y D i c k B e e t

During the past year, SIGAP has accepted a further 27 members. This meant that at the completion of the third year of the group's existence, we had 85 current members. The overall maintenance of SIGAP's membership is surprising, considering the lull in U.K. sighting reports last year, publication of the negative Condon Report, and the disbanding of Project Bluebook, the official USAF agency for receiving and evaluating UFO reports.

Although "Pegasus" has now become a bi-monthly journal - a measure taken to reduce the colossal postage and stationery bill - the editorial content can be said to have raised it to a very high comparative position. The print order is 200 for each issue and many copies are sold at national meetings. I would ask that more contributions be sent to Ron Toft.

"A Reference Book of UFO Sounds" by Dan Butcher has proved a best seller. The stock of 100 copies is now getting low. Many favourable comments have been made about the publication and the work that went into it. Two further booklets are in the pipeline. Any member who feels he or she could write a booklet on some aspect of UFO research should contact one of the committee members.

Emphasis during the past year has been placed more on sighting investigation than actually watching for unusual aerial phenomena. However, the national skywatch held last June was more scientifically prepared than in previous years and was a great success. Sighting investigations have been carried out in greater detail than in the early days of the group and, consequently, have resulted in a higher percentage of positive results.

SIGAP representatives attended the BUFORA Bristol, Cambridge and Northern conferences during the course of the year. Chairman Omar Fowler was elected BUFORA Investigations Co-ordinator and "Pegasus" Editor Ron Toft was appointed to a board of editorial consultants in connection with the BUFORA Journal. Tim Childerhouse, our space consultant, was the main lecturer at the January BUFORA meeting and Omar Fowler gave a talk on SIGAP investigations at the following one.

The coming year will, I hope, prove that SIGAP is now capable of thorough and useful scientific investigations into the UFO phenomena.

UFOs MAY HAVE BEEN FLARES: SIGAP Investigator Dick Colborne has come to the conclusion that the two yellow elliptical masses of light seen circling a tree in Chobham, Surrey, one night in March this year, may have been Army flares. The lights were seen by 18-year old student Chris Hughes and his girlfriend. There are extensive Army ranges in the vicinity of Chobham and Bisley, and night activity is far from unusual.

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+ IS THERE LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS? +
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Investigation of the solar system will greatly enhance man's understanding of many of the mysteries surrounding his relationship to the Universe. What was the manner of formation of planets and satellites? Are solar systems a common occurrence in the Universe? Are there clues to the origin of life to be found on other planets? Does life exist elsewhere in the solar system? Is it a common phenomenon in the Universe?

Mankind has wondered about such fundamental questions for centuries. The possibility that some of them may be answered through space exploration excites broad interest. Positive results from a search for extraterrestrial life could have enormous impact on mankind. Aside from the incalculable psychological and philosophical effects, additional understanding could be gained of the fundamental qualities which distinguish the living system from the non-living environment, of the organisation of living systems, of essential molecular functions of terrestrial organisms, and perhaps of disease and the ageing process.

The history of man's understanding of himself and his relationship to the rest of his environment, both living and otherwise, has been marked by a number of major changes, as a result of scientific observation and experiment. Some of the more important are:

- (a) The Copernicus Revolution, which removed the concept of the earth as the centre of the Universe.
- (b) The Darwinian Revolution, which changed man's view of himself as the centre of the living terrestrial world.
- (c) The mid-Twentieth Century explosion of our molecular knowledge of living systems, with the consequent recognition of the fundamental unity of all terrestrial life in these terms.
- (d) The beginning of an understanding of the nature of the human consciousness, the storing and processing of information and the process of human communication.

Another revolution?

The discovery of any living system elsewhere may produce another such revolution in man's view of himself in relation to his Universe.

When Dr. Orr E. Reynolds, Director of Bioscience Programmes in NASA's Office of Space Science and Applications, outlined the space agency's exobiology programme, he had this to say about the possibilities of extraterrestrial life:

In 1975, the Viking mission will bring the first reports from the surface of Mars. These flight programmes give new urgency to the task of perfecting technology for detection of life, of signs of past life, and of conditions leading to the threshold of life. Scientists from 16 institutions have been selected to make biological analyses of lunar material released from quarantine at the Lunar Receiving Laboratory. The techniques to be used are the ones used in recent years to study ancient terrestrial sediments and meteoritic material. Preparations for planetary exploration have involved some of the most basic of studies in biology. The studies have been focused on the origin and the fundamental nature of life.

The first stage in the exobiology programme, as it is called, has been the investigation of chemical evolution, which is another way of saying prebiological evolution. We have been concerned with the steps that lead to the beginning of life. Our goal has been to find the original sources of the complicated molecules that are the modular components of living organisms. An aspect of research in chemical evolution is laboratory synthesis of organic molecules under conditions which, according to astronomical evidence, are similar to conditions on the primitive earth. Scientists have synthesised amino acids and the purine and pyrimidine compounds that make up nucleic acids using materials that probably comprised the primitive atmosphere of earth. Electric sparks and ultraviolet radiation have provided energy to tie simple substances together to make the long-chain molecules that characterise life.

Searching for clues

The second stage in research on the origin of life involves the analysis of ancient rocks and sediments of the earth for fossil evidence of the early steps in the development of life. Rocks ranging in age up to 3,400 million years are being studied for evidence of biological activity. There have been affirmative findings, but we are not yet certain which of the organic materials found in the rocks are of biological origin. We hope for satisfactory answers from a technique that utilises the fact that organic polymers rotate light beams in different directions according to their sources.

A third stage in our investigation into the origin of life is the study of strange, microscopically small cell-like structures that have some of the properties of living cells. Biologists call them microspheres, and they were first produced artificially in the laboratory. Very similar structures now have been found in ancient quartz, suspended in totally enclosed water droplets. Naturally occurring microspheres have not yet been chemically analysed precisely, but preliminary analyses indicate that they are composed of organic material. Microspheres display enough of the traits associated with

life that they might easily be confused with micro-organisms if they were encountered for the first time on a strange planet. However, we know from our study of artificial microspheres that their dynamism is a relatively simple interaction of physical and chemical factors. There is no evidence of the much more complex intelligence that serves to maintain the system of organisation of living things.

As a pragmatic test of biological theory, scientists are trying to assemble or reassemble living cells from cellular components. Already there has been success in the artificial production of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and of cytoplasmic components from cellular extracts. Complete cell assembly appears to be possible in the future.

Selective control

Until recently the capacity to modify existing organisms has been limited to the relatively crude techniques of hybridisation and of inducing random mutation. Studies in molecular biology, cellular biology and systems theory are making possible the alteration of the character of living things by synthesis of desired genes and the alteration or inactivation of harmful genes and viruses. New methods of chemotherapy and theoretical pharmacology can be based upon these studies. Indeed, precise selective control of heredity will be by far the most important achievement in biomedical history. Still another area of study in exobiology concerns the ability of earth organisms to adapt to environmental extremes. The fundamental utility of the information and control system associated with life is to make living things adaptable so they can survive and maintain their identity even though conditions change. Perhaps the most significant fact of life is that the organism with the more complex information system is more adaptive. Man stands at the top of the evolutionary tree because he is the most adaptive organism on earth.

Survival and growth of micro-organisms are studied in a simulated Martian environment. The reason is that present knowledge suggests that Mars is the most likely habitat for life away from earth in the solar system. Expeditions into the dry valleys of the Antarctic have produced information on life in a climate with many of the characteristics of the Martian surface. Not only are temperatures similar, there is a similar lack of available water for biological activity. Bacteria, fungi and algae were found in many soil samples from the Antarctic valleys. However, significant concentrations of carbon were found in samples from which no living organisms could be cultured. This paradox yielded to the power of newly gained techniques in organic geochemistry. The carbon was found to be of living origin. The carbon is the fossil residue of organisms that were alive millions of years ago when the region experienced a different climate. It is coal dust. In order to conduct a similar analytic process on Mars in 1975, we face the need to complete the development of automatic and miniaturised life detection equipment for the Viking missions. The automatic instruments will be capable of detecting bio-organic matter, metabolic activity and growth of organisms.

By heating samples to the gaseous state, biologically significant molecules can be identified on the basis of their peculiar affinities for an array of absorbent material. The heating process is called pyrolysis, and the differential absorption process is called chromatography. It is possible with these processes to identify all of the substances of major biological significance except the nucleic acids. When the gas chromatograph is coupled with a mass spectrometer, a chemical analyser of great power is produced. The combined instrument under development for the Mars missions nearly duplicates the capability of full-size manually operated laboratory instruments. An automated amino acid analyser is being miniaturised for potential use in planetary exploration. This analyser is capable not only of amino acid analysis but also nucleic acid identification. These and other life detection techniques must now be integrated and tested so that a payload can be assembled to achieve the bioscience objectives of the Viking missions.

(Credit: U.S. Information Service, London.)

QUOTE from American astronomer Dr. J. Allen Hynek, formerly scientific consultant to the U.S. Air Force UFO investigation agency Project Bluebook (now disbanded): "Study of the UFO phenomenon will go on despite the ridicule barrier. It is unlikely, however, that government agencies can provide funding for such studies in the light of the Condon Report and the Air Force action. A serious, quiet, continuing investigation, sheltered from the glare of publicity and supported by private or foundation funds, is the likely answer. It should be conducted by dedicated physical and behavioural scientists who meet the requirements for scientists once set down by the famous physicist Schroedinger, father of quantum mechanics, who said: 'The first requirement of a scientist is that he be curious; he must be capable of being astonished and eager to find out'". That extract was taken from an article written by Dr. Hynek which appeared in the April 22, 1970, issue of "The Christian Science Monitor".

ANALYSIS OF SIGHTING REPORTS: Preliminary analysis has now been made of some of the many UFO reports received by the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) over the years. The first batch consists of 878 communications, some containing more than one report; concerning sightings between 1925 and 1967. Without a doubt, the peak year for sightings was 1967, when the "flying-crosses" were seen in the Okehampton district of Devon. The following is an initial breakdown of sightings, giving the number of UFOs seen during each year:

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|---------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| pre-1950 = 10 | 1954 = 10 | 1959 = 18 | 1964 = 19 |
| 1950 = 2 | 1955 = 9 | 1960 = 38 | 1965 = 72 |
| 1951 = 2 | 1956 = 11 | 1961 = 103 | 1966 = 121 |
| 1952 = 4 | 1957 = 22 | 1962 = 73 | 1967 = 310 |
| 1953 = 1 | 1958 = 17 | 1963 = 36 | |

(Credit: BUFORA Research Bulletin Vol. 3 No. 4).

NATIONAL SKYWATCH: This year National Skywatch Day has been set for June 27/28. Once again Pewley Down, Guildford, has been chosen as the British headquarters and SIGAP will be acting as hosts to BUFORA. The skywatch, following the pattern set in recent years, will begin at 7 p.m. It will continue through the short summer night, ending at 6 a.m. on June 28, unless anything unusual is seen of course! Volunteers are required for the following shifts:

Shift 1: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Shift 2: 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Shift 3: 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Shift 4: 1 a.m. to 3 a.m.
Shift 5: 3 a.m. to 5 a.m.
Shift 6: 5 a.m. to 6 a.m.

Observers should bring along a notepad, pencil, watch, torch, compass, and any optical equipment available, e.g. camera, telescope and binoculars. Those wanting to take part in the skywatch should write or telephone Secretary Dick Beet or Chairman Omar Fowler, saying which shifts they would prefer to observe on. Let's hope the weather keeps fine!

MEETINGS: The next two SIGAP meetings will be held on JULY 21 and SEPTEMBER 22. There will not be an August meeting, because of holidays. The guest speaker at the July meeting will be the REV. ALFRED BELLERBY, M.A., of Gatesbury, Wokingham, Surrey. Former games coach and form master at a public school, Mr. Bellerby will give a talk entitled: "UNSOLVED WORLD MYSTERIES". What happened to the crew of the Mary Celeste? Is there an Abominable Snowman and Loch Ness Monster? Are there Gadgets in the Sky? These are some of the topics Mr. Bellerby will talk about and suggest possible explanations. This should be a particularly interesting lecture. Make a note of the date in your diary now. Both July and September meetings will be held, as usual, in the canteen of the Plastic Coatings Factory, Guildford, starting at 8 p.m.

AMERICAN UFO EXPERT VISITS ENGLAND: American astronomer Dr. Allen Hynek, the man who handled thousands of UFO reports while civilian consultant to Project Bluebook, the now disbanded USAF UFO agency, is visiting England in August. The prime purpose of his visit is to attend the 14th General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), to be held in Brighton and the University of Sussex between August 18 and 27. The only previous IAU General Assembly to be held in the United Kingdom was the second, in 1925 at Cambridge. While over here, Dr. Hynek, who consults informally with SIGAP, will be meeting various UFO researchers. "Pegasus" Editor Ron Toft is one of those who have been invited to attend a private meeting with Dr. Hynek, to discuss various ufological matters. A date for the meeting has yet to be set, but it will probably be at the end of August, in London. A full report of the meeting will eventually appear in "Pegasus".

GHOSTLY FOOTSTEPS IN WARMINSTER: Warminster, scene of many a wierd happening in recent years, is now plagued by ghostly footsteps. Mr. William Stock, of 22 Centre Drive, Epping, Essex, and four friends heard them at about 1 a.m. on the night of Friday, May 8. After parking a mini-van, two of the group started to walk towards the copse on Cradle Hill, Warminster, a UFO vantage point. Mr. Stock said in a tape-recorded interview with SIGAP Chairman Omar Fowler:

"We heard very strange footsteps. Very heavy and slow as if someone very large was walking on gravel. They were walking towards us down the hill. We stood and listened for a while, and then started to cower, running back to the car. We heard the footsteps coming towards us still. When they were in full range of the head-lamps, I turned them on. But there was nothing there. It's all very strange".

Continued Mr. Stock: "About an hour later four young chaps came up. They're quite regular up here I think. They said they had heard exactly the same thing a couple of weeks previous. The footsteps had come down the road and actually walked around their car - for about an hour they estimated, although they didn't see a thing. They kept turning on their lamps when it moved in front of them".

ANCIENT UFOs: A conference on "UFOs in Antiquity and Pre-History", organised by the British Flying Saucer Bureau, was held at Shirehampton Public Hall, Bristol, on Saturday, May 16. SIGAP Chairman Omar Fowler and other representatives from our group attended it. Here is Omar's report:

The conference began with an address of welcome by the President, Capt. E. L. Plunkett and then moved quickly on to a discussion on "biblical evidence", during which a number of selected passages were read and analysed. The following talk on archaeological evidence was partly dampened by the fact that because of the brilliant sunshine streaming into the hall, many of the colourful slides were unable to be shown. However, Bureau Secretary and Treasurer Mr. Graham Knewstub gave a most interesting talk on the subject and Mr. L. G. May spoke in great detail on modern methods of analysis, such as carbon-dating etc. Later during the programme I gave a talk on the number of British UFO sightings reported so far this year and how careful analytical investigation has shown that many reports could be explained away as aircraft, meteors and natural phenomena. A map of the U.K. showed the paths of UFOs and meteors. The meeting closed after an "open forum" discussion, during which many views were put forward and more than one person became a little hot under the collar. All lively debating however, and one of the more enlightening features of the conference. Dr. John Cleary-Baker was a prominent speaker and together with Capt. Ivar Mackay, gave the audience plenty to think about. Bureau Chairman Mr. H. L. Cobley kept the meeting on course, but was unable to keep his loudly squeaking tape-recorder under control. All in all, an enjoyable meeting, and rounded off by the SIGAP members by having a mini skywatch on Cradle Hill, Warminster, all well fortified for the night by the excellent buffet laid on at the conference.



SIGAP Chairman Omar Fowler (left) and Group Members Mrs. Rosemary Hick and Dick Colborne pictured above at the British Flying Saucer Research Bureau Conference held at Bristol on May 16. In the background is SIGAP'S Stand.



B.U.F.O.R.A. Chairman Capt. Ivar Mackay points out an area of recent J.F.O. activity to Arnold West (left) and Dr. John Cleary-Baker (centre)

NEW UFO GROUP: SIGAP member Graham Raine has started a UFO group in Berkshire. Graham recently moved from Mytchett to Bracknell, where the new group is based. It is called the Berkshire Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena (BIGAP) and has about a dozen members at present. The group's inaugural meeting was held recently at the Waycom Factory in Bracknell, where Graham is a production planner. SIGAP Chairman Omar Fowler was guest speaker at the meeting. He illustrated his talk with colour slides of Dan Butcher's UFO paintings. BIGAP is to hold monthly meetings. Graham Raine is the group chairman. SIGAP will be maintaining close contact with its sister group BIGAP. For further details about the new group, write to BIGAP Secretary John Roberts, of Harewood Cottage, Battle Bridge, Warfield, Berkshire. (Tel. Bracknell 5449).

MINI-SKYWATCHES: SIGAP member Dick Colborne is considering holding a series of mini-skywatches at various locations in Surrey during the coming months. Anyone interested in taking part in any of these skywatches should write to Dick at 38 Oriental Road, Woking, Surrey.

NEW MEMBER: Capt. Ivar Mackay, Chairman of the British UFO Research Association, has become a member of SIGAP.

BOOKLET READY SOON: Dan Butcher's latest booklet: "Water and its Symbolism in UFO Encounters", should be published at the end of June, price 2s 6d per issue (3s by post). The demand is sure to be great, so reserve your copy now with SIGAP Secretary Dick Beet.

QUOTE from the "Awake" magazine, one of the two journals of the Jehovah's Witnesses religious sect: "The fact is that the flying-saucer episode was mainly a psychological affair, which took root and flourished in the soil of man's deep-felt insecurity in these critical days. It offered a temporary diversion and escape from the real problems that overwhelm mankind. But now it is clear that the flying-saucers present neither a threat of annihilation nor a messianic hope for salvation".

HOLIDAY: SIGAP Chairman Omar Fowler will be on holiday from July 25-August 8. While he is away all inquiries should be addressed to Secretary Dick Beet.

QUOTE from Professor Carl Sagan, a leading American astronomer and exobiologist: "In physics, as in much of science, there are no permanent truths. There is a set of approximations, getting closer and closer, and people must always be ready to revise what in the past has been thought to be the absolute, gospel truth".

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+ THE SPACE SCENE +
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MERCURY REVEALS IT SECRETS: The veil of secrecy is at last beginning to fall from the planet Mercury, one of the most enigmatic objects in the solar-system. Mercury is the smallest planet known to astronomers and also the closest to the sun. Rotating on its axis once every 59 days, Mercury has an extremely eccentric orbit, its distance from the sun varying from 28-45 million miles. Although Mercury was known to the ancients, little more than dusky markings have ever been seen on its surface. But now several large, almost continent-sized rough spots have been discovered on the 3,100 mile diameter planet by radar astronomers at the Goldstone Tracking Station of the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). The topographic features seem to lie along an 800-mile east-west stretch near Mercury's equator, according to Dr. Richard M. Goldstein, head of JPL's Communications Research Section. "The rough features of Mercury seem similar to the ones we have observed earlier on Venus", said Dr. Goldstein. "Except they are larger, relative to the size of the disc, and have much less contrast to the surrounding areas. Part of this reduction in contrast can be attributed to the generally smoother surface of Venus. The rough features of both Mercury and Venus seem to share an affinity for middle latitudes". The JPL observations are among the most definitive yet made of Mercury. Roughly 55 million miles from Earth at the time of observation, Mercury presents in Dr. Goldstein's words: "A very difficult target, having about the radar effectiveness of a dime at 10,000 miles". At present there is no way of determining whether the rough spots are mountains, boulder fields, or craters, but further radar studies may be made before the planned 1973 Venus-Mercury spacecraft fly-by. This project will be the first to study and take pictures of two planets.

GERM SURVIVES ON THE MOON: A micro-organism that hitched a ride to the moon in April, 1967, on board the American soft-landing robot craft Surveyor III, and was brought back by the Apollo 12 astronauts last November, is still alive and thriving. This discovery has astounded scientists. For it has always been thought that the lack of water or any atmosphere on the moon, plus the constant bombardment by lethal radiation, would have long ago killed off any Earth germ that accidentally found its way to the lunar surface. This discovery, made by Capt. Fred Mitchell at the Lunar Receiving Laboratory in Houston, Texas, is almost certain to bring into the open again the much debated question: "Is there life on the moon?" Life, it seems, is much hardier than scientists had ever envisaged. The micro-organism, STRETOCOCCUS MITIS, survived for 950 days on the moon on Surveyor III's camera array and was discovered when the camera was brought back to earth for examination. The germ is of the type that causes mild respiratory infections.

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Journal

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EDITOR: Ron Toft, 14 Buckhurst Road, Frimley Green, CAMBERLEY, Surrey.

Articles for publication in "Pegasus", be they long or short, are extremely welcome. They should be sent to the Editor. Views expressed in "Pegasus" are not necessarily those of the SIGAP Executive Committee. Extracts may be taken from the magazine provided they are in context and full credits given. Individual copies of "Pegasus" are obtainable from the Secretary at 2s each. (By post, 6d extra).

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Special display rates are available to members.

SIGAP CHAIRMAN: Omar Fowler, 149 Mytchett Road, Mytchett, CAMBERLEY, Surrey. Tel. Farnborough 41012.
" SECRETARY: Dick Beet, 23 Coatham Place, CRANLEIGH, Surrey. Tel. Cranleigh 4420.
" TREASURER: Miss Marjorie Dalley, Lawrence Farm, Buckland, BETCHWORTH, Surrey.

Committee members: Omar Fowler, Dick Beet, Miss Marjorie Dalley, Peter Hill (vice-chairman), Ron Toft, Dick Colborne (librarian), Dan Butcher and Robert Skinner.

All membership and other general inquiries to the Secretary. UFO reports to the Chairman. Ordinary membership: 15s per year. Junior membership (14-16 years) 7s 6d.

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