

PEGASUS

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ON AERIAL PHENOMENA



In this issue:

Space expert denounces flying-saucer reports

An unusual sighting in Halifax, and what the crew of an aircraft saw over Spain

UFOs and astral projection - Dan Butcher

Concluding instalment of Professor James McDonald's article

Part one of an aerial phenomena guide, compiled by Dick Beet

AGM and Skywatch reports

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ONE facet of ufology which will never cease to amaze me, is the utter twaddle written about the subject by the so-called expert outsiders.

A report issued recently by the University of Birmingham's Institute for the Study of Worship and Religious Architecture, is a case in point.

Entitled: "Mobility and Religious Commitment," and written by Dr. Geoffrey Nelson and Mrs. Rosemary Clews, it claims that disillusionment with orthodox religion has led to more and more people turning for spiritual succour to "cults" such as the flying-saucer movement.

The report states: "The decline of institutional religion seems to have been offset by the growth of superstitions or non-Christian beliefs about the supernatural, or about the meaning of life, and by the rise of a large number of cults, such as spiritualism, theosophy, scientology, and the flying-saucer movement.

"Such movements arise to fill the gap left by the failure of the Christian churches to provide men with a system of meanings through which they can understand and interpret their lives. The Christian churches have lost their savour, but since men still need spiritual salt, they turn to non-Christian movements."

What poppycock! The study of UFOs, flying-saucers, call them what you will, arose simply because certain members of the public recognised that a phenomenon existed which science was deliberately ignoring.

Each researcher has his own set of private ufological beliefs, such as what the hard-core UFOs really are, and where they come from - that is, if he subscribes to the extraterrestrial hypothesis. And, it is true to say, that some buffs do see UFOs in a religious light. But the decline of institutional religion was not, and is not, the reason for the global interest in the subject. Anyone who suggests otherwise, is simply not aware of the facts.

The report referred to above is based on a religious survey carried out in Dawley, Shropshire. Although the residents questioned were asked if they believed in such controversial things as faith healing, fortune-telling, miracles, and life after death, their views were not sought - according to the report anyway - on UFOs. Indeed, after ploughing through the 84-page document several times, I can only find two references to flying-saucers.

The first is in Chapter I, where the researchers state: "In a complex and mobile society such as modern Britain, we encounter individuals who are committed to non-Christian, as well as Christian, religious groups - Jews, Sikhs, Moslems, Hindus, and Buddhists, as well as members of modern non-Christian cults such as spiritualists, theosophists, occultists, members of witchcraft covens, and flying-saucer clubs." The second reference, quoted on the previous page, is in the concluding chapter.

In view of the foregoing, it is quite plain that the comments made on flying-saucers have no factual basis, and are merely expressions of uninformed opinion.

This is particularly evident from the description of ufology as a.....non-Christian cult.

A person can still be a Christian, holding quite orthodox religious beliefs, as well as studying the UFO phenomenon. Also, it is completely inaccurate to describe ufology as a cult. The latter is a system of religious belief which is worshipped. Ufology is not run on religious lines, and worships nothing. It scientifically investigates a phenomenon as real as rain.

Elaborating on the report's ludicrous conclusions in the April 14 issue of the Sun newspaper, Dr. Nelson said: "The flying-saucer movement grew up from a fear of nuclear war. Many people believe that flying-saucers contain superior beings who are watching over us, ready to step in to save us from destroying ourselves. For them, God is a Martian."

There can be no denying that some researchers believe UFOs will be Man's salvation. I once subscribed to a variation of this hypothesis myself, but was forced to change my views by the evidence to the contrary. However, the flying-saucer movement did not come into existence through fear of the bomb. It was simply that sightings increased considerably in the post-war years, as did public interest.

One hopes that before Dr. Nelson goes into print again, he will check his facts. It is difficult enough as it is, trying to persuade both the layman and the scientist that a very real unexplained phenomenon exists, without having to contend with misleading and inaccurate statements about UFOs too.

RENOWNED physicist Professor James E. McDonald, one of the most outspoken scientists on UFOs, is dead.....

According to the latest issue of Flying Saucer Review, his body was found on June 13, in the desert near Tucson, Arizona. Professor McDonald had died from a gunshot wound to the head. A note was found alongside his body, he apparently having committed suicide. His tragic death is a tremendous blow to UFO research. The 51-year old scientist, who worked at the University of Arizona's Institute of Atmospheric Physics, repeatedly spoke out against the establishment's handling of the UFO enigma, and he considered it extremely likely that the genuine UFOs were the product of an advanced extraterrestrial civilisation. The world of ufology will be very much sadder, and a lot quieter, for his passing.

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** SPACE EXPERT DENOUNCES FLYING-SAUCERS **
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** By Ron Toft **
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THE voice of scientific arrogance and dogmatism has spoken once again.

Flying-saucers are dead, proclaimed novelist and science-writer Arthur C. Clarke on July 6, in a major London Daily Mail feature entitled: "Whatever Happened To Flying Saucers?"

With a stroke of his pen, he wrote off all UFOs as having a conventional explanation, and implied that people still investigating them were nothing more than a bunch of crackpots.

He says in the article: "The hysterical credulity of the late 40s has been replaced - except in the minds of the few surviving cultists - by a realisation of the fact that the heavens are full of extraordinary sights (astronomical, meteorological, and electrical) which the average man may encounter only once or twice in his lifetime."

No-one would deny there are many wierd and wonderful things to be seen in the skies. But, surely Mr. Clarke isn't seriously asking us to believe that a glowing, disc-shaped craft that hovers, performs maneuvres clearly impossible for any known terrestrial craft, and then shoots off at a fantastic speed, is a natural phenomenon? Grant us a little intelligence, please!

Here is yet another perfect example of someone writing about a subject completely out of his depth. A subject about which he obviously knows virtually nothing at all.

The easiest thing in the world is to reject something out of hand when one is blissfully ignorant of the facts.

Arthur C. Clarke and that other well-known debunker, Patrick Moore, quite plainly have something in common in this respect.

In his article, Mr. Clarke repeatedly speaks of UFOs in the past tense - as if a forgotten (perhaps he would like it to be) epoch in history. He says the public is no longer worried about them, and the subject has ceased to be of news value.

True, public interest has waned somewhat during the past couple of years. This is at least partly due to the fact that the layman has been brainwashed by politicians and scientists alike into believing there is nothing to the phenomenon. The man in the street is simply not aware of what is going on. And he will remain ignorant so long as good-quality, journalistically undistorted sighting reports are failing to get into the papers to any great extent. Nowadays the news media tends to "spike" reports it receives, unless

there is an opportunity to jibe UFO researchers.

Mr. Clarke, author of the best-selling novel "2001: A Space Odyssey," goes on to say in the nearly full-page article: "Perhaps what really killed the visitors-from-space concept of flying-saucers, was the International Geophysical Year. For 18 months, the skies of Earth were combed from pole to pole by thousands of observers with cameras, radar, and every conceivable type of scientific instrument. What they discovered filled whole libraries. But they never discovered a single flying-saucer."

In commenting upon this statement, I should like to point out first of all that the International Geophysical Year, commonly referred to as the IGY, did not last 18 months, as Mr. Clarke states, but 30 months.

During that time, some 30,000 scientists representing more than 70 countries, did their utmost to pluck as many gems of wisdom as possible from Earth's treasure-house of knowledge. What, if anything, those scientists discovered about the nature of UFOs, is a matter for conjecture.

Personally, I doubt that their run-of-the-mill investigations uncovered anything of real significance. Even if they had, you can bet your life it would have been hushed-up.

The IGY was the death-knell for the hypothesis that the genuine UFOs are extraterrestrial, or so Mr. Clarke is inclined to believe. He seems to attach great importance to the fact that the thousands of scientists scurrying around like ants, probing and prodding the Earth, apparently failed to come across anything that would back up the outer-space concept.

But what he is overlooking, is the fact that the IGY objective was not to track down UFOs, but to study a wide range of natural phenomena, the existence of which had either already been well-established, or at least suspected. If a UFO was seen by any of the 30,000 boffins, one of two things probably happened. It was either explained away as something perfectly ordinary, or became the subject of a secret report which never saw daylight.

Despite the IGY, and subsequent, ever-more sophisticated scientific research, Man still has a remarkably incomplete knowledge of the environment in which he lives, and the forces that shape it. The fact that he has not yet satisfactorily solved the UFO enigma, spotlights that paucity.

Mr. Clarke goes on in the article to claim in an authoritative manner that astronauts have never sighted flying-saucers. Really? What then, were the two bright, flashing objects which paced the moon-bound Apollo 12 spacecraft in November, 1969? What was the cylindrical object with "arms sticking out of it" reported by Jim McDivitt while on board Gemini 4, in June, 1965. And what was the

"bogey" Gemini 7 astronaut Frank Borman radioded ground-control about in December of that year. These two Gemini sightings, along with a third, are described in the Condon Report by Dr. Franklin Roach, as "a challenge to the analyst."

A number of other UFO sightings by astronauts are also known. Tight-lipped space and government officials probably know of a lot more.

No, it is quite apparent that Mr. Clarke, an expert though he may be on space matters in general, simply has not done his homework with regard to UFOs.

He goes on to state: "Today, nearby space is combed by the Ballistic Missile Warning Systems, watching every second of the night and day for a threat which we know exists.

"Their radar beams can, quite literally, detect single nuts and bolts, and broken fragments of satellites. Nothing bigger than a football moves for long over major areas of this planet without being detected. At this moment, about 500 orbiting objects are being tracked as they circle the Earth."

The basic aim of these warning systems is, as their name suggests, to detect rocket-borne nuclear threats from a foreign power. Once an object has been identified as something other than such a missile, defence officials are not particularly interested. If an object could not be identified as a satellite, or space-junk, it would probably be written-off as anomalous. And if a true "unknown" was detected, which had radar operators in a frenzy, again, the public would just not hear about it, unless there was a leakage.

Mr. Clarke states that 500 objects are being watched by radar as they orbit the globe. If this is correct, what about the other 2,000-odd circling overhead? For according to the June 30 issue of the Satellite Situation Report issued by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, there are no less than 2,425 objects in orbit. Of the total, 1,743 are of American origin, and 615 were sent up by the Russians. The remainder were launched by, or on behalf of, other countries, such as France and Japan. If, as Mr. Clarke says, only 500 objects are being tracked, there could be dozens of UFOs in orbit skulking amongst the other man-made craft not under the eagle eye of radar. I am not, however, saying that this IS the case. But it is a possibility.

Continues Mr. Clarke: "No, flying-saucers are dead. Yet, by a strange paradox, the idea associated with them has never been more alive than at this moment. Fifteen years ago, scarcely any reputable scientist cared to speculate about life on other worlds. Today, this is fast becoming one of the central problems of astronomy."

The remainder of the article is confined to more orthodox "life-in-space" discussions.

Mr. Clarke says in conclusion that Man should wait patiently until there is firm evidence for the existence of extraterrestrial life, "rather than get involved in any more of the half and wholly-baked speculations which, for the past 15 years, have hindered the serious scientific approach to the most important question that Man can ask of the Universe."

Suffice to say, that the approach to the UFO phenomenon by most governments, and government agencies, since the post-war years, has been anything but "serious," or "scientific."

REPORT FROM WARMINSTER

By Dick Colborne

WARMINSTER has long been regarded as an area rich in unknown phenomena. If this is indeed the case, then ufology could learn much from a thorough investigation there.

It is difficult to understand why no-one has previously organised a scientific survey of the area, and even harder to understand why so many who possess scientific knowledge, dare to condemn Warminster when often they have never undertaken any research there. Despite apathy, and other obstacles, Project Warminster (for full details, see last issue of Pegasus), devised and directed by Dr. John Cleary-Baker, is probing the Warminster enigma. The project investigators have already unearthed several new sightings. These are being studied along with some of the classic cases from Warminster's ufological past. Regular skywatches are held, not only in the hope of seeing a UFO, but to observe the conditions under which sightings are frequently made.

Also participating in the project, is the Bedfordshire UFO Society, whose mobile research unit is equipped with what must be some of the most advanced measuring and recording instruments yet to be employed on an investigation of this nature. It is anticipated that should any extraterrestrial vehicles (presuming the phenomenon is of an extraterrestrial nature) visit the area, they will register on the sensitive electronic devices and be recorded on a graph.

Project Warminster has already attracted much attention. Dr. Cleary-Baker and some of the project members have been interviewed by reporters from both TV networks, plus BBC radio, and national and western newspapers. It is hoped that this publicity, which was not sought by the project, may prompt valuable witnesses to come forward.

The project's findings will be analysed by Dr. Cleary-Baker and his staff, and conclusions duly published.

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O N a T i O n A l S k Y w A t C h O
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FREQUENT heavy rain showers dogged the handful of SIGAP members who gathered on Pewley Downs, Guildford, on Saturday, June 26, for the National Skywatch.

The "watch" officially began at 7 p.m., but no sooner had it got under way than the overcast sky opened up, and down came the rain. There was an instant exodus for our cars. Those who had no transport dived instead for the welcome cover of a small tent which SIGAP Investigations Co-ordinator Omar Fowler had thoughtfully brought along!

It was some time before the rain finally petered out and the watch could be resumed, although there was little blue sky to be seen.

The evening wore on with further intermittent showers. It wasn't until about 10 p.m. that the thick, black clouds had finally passed over to a large extent, leaving most of the sky clear. Jupiter and Mars shone brilliantly in the southern part of the heavens, resembling sparkling jewels set against a velvet background. The crescent Moon, and some of the constellations - notably Ursa Major and Cassiopeia - were also conspicuous.

At 10.45 p.m. we trained our binoculars and telescopes to the horizon in the direction of Hindhead, ten miles distant. No. We hadn't seen a UFO. It was just that Omar and Graham Raine, Chairman of the Berkshire Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, SIGAP's sister group, had gone there earlier in the evening to launch, at precisely 15 minutes before eleven o'clock, three medium-sized Guy Fawkes rockets. This was no jaunt to liven up an otherwise dull evening. There was a specific reason for this exercise. On a previous skywatch, a bright light was spotted in the Hindhead direction, which has never been positively identified. Although the light almost certainly had a conventional explanation, it was thought a good idea to try and reproduce its intensity and general appearance, hence the rocket experiment.

When zero hour came, two moderately bright specks of light were seen to flash briefly in the direction we were looking. (The third rocket suffered a launch pad failure!) A camera photographed them. But these lights were not as brilliant as the unknown source we were trying to emulate. Next year, we may try something brighter - such as a coastguard's flare.

A nippy breeze blew up around midnight, but the skywatchers' spirits were prevented from flagging by a virtually continuous supply of coffee and soup from the BUFORA Mobile Research Unit, temporarily turned into a cafeteria, admirably run by SIGAP Vice-Chairman Dick Beet.

Once or twice during the evening, members of the public turned up at the skywatch post and asked questions. One such visit, at about 1 a.m., was from a bunch of student-like characters who seemed to think the whole thing was a bit of a laugh.

The watch was abandoned at about 2 a.m., after the weather closed in again. As had been expected, nothing unusual was spotted during the seven hours duration of the skywatch. The showery weather though did produce one attraction - an exceptionally vivid rainbow in the early part of the evening.

This year's skywatch was organised nationally by Lincoln Richford. There were about a dozen posts dotted around the country, ranging from Halifax to Warminster.

Three guests were present at the Guildford skywatch: Edgar Hatvany, responsible for organising previous national watches, former BUFORA Chairman Ivar Mackay, and a reporter from the London Guardian.

Ivar Mackay showed SIGAP members an excellent UFO photograph, snapped last summer, which, I understand, is to be the basis of a forthcoming article in Flying Saucer Review.

Christopher Ford, the journalist, spent several hours with us, gathering information for a feature he was writing on the national skywatch. A very fair and lengthy report appeared in the Guardian on Monday, June 28, under the headline "Spirits and the Sky."

Mr. Ford pointed out to readers: "One needs a very closed mind not to feel that, just possibly, there's something happening in our atmosphere not covered by the text-books." He wrote that the "oddest thing" about the ufologists was that we were "rather pointedly orthodox people, often with a scientific bent."

In conclusion, Mr. Ford said: "Laugh them all away if you are bold and sure enough. After half the night on Pewley Downs, I am not.

'Don't criticise what you can't understand': Bob Dylan isn't yet in the standard dictionaries of quotations, but perhaps he ought to be."

- Ron Toft.

SURVEY: A Harris Poll survey carried out earlier this year for the London Daily Express, showed that nearly half of those questioned doubted that there is life elsewhere in the Universe. But youngsters and the highly educated were less sceptical. Said the Express on April 15: "About a third of those questioned positively believed that there is intelligent life out there. And, despite all the official denials that flying saucers exist, about 30 per cent still believe in them."

* SIGAP's FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING *

FOR the first time since SIGAP's inception in May, 1967, there has been a major reshuffle amongst the group's officers.

At the fifth annual meeting, held on Tuesday, May 18, in the canteen of the Plastic Coatings factory, Guildford, Omar Fowler announced his intention to stand down as chairman, having held the post since the group was formed. He proposed that Pegasus Editor Ron Toft take his place. This was seconded, and unanimously agreed.

Dick Beet then said he wanted to relinquish the post of secretary, which he has held throughout the four years existence of SIGAP. Indeed, Dick and Omar were the joint founders of the group. Under their leadership, SIGAP has gone from strength to strength. It was proposed by Ron Toft that scientific civil servant Mike Prewett, of 20 Loman Road, Mytchett, Camberley, be elected secretary in Dick's place. This received the full backing of the meeting.

After further discussion, it was decided to amalgamate the posts of secretary and treasurer. Miss Marjorie Dalley, existing treasurer, supported the move, and did not seek re-election. Mike Prewett expressed his willingness to take on the job of managing the group's finances too. This was also wholeheartedly agreed.

Omar Fowler, though no longer wishing to be group chairman, stated his desire to still be actively involved in SIGAP. Accordingly, a new group post was created - that of Investigations Co-ordinator - which Omar agreed to fill. He is already Investigations Co-ordinator for the British UFO Research Association, but will be retiring from this position shortly.

Dick Beet was made group vice-chairman at the annual meeting. In view of recent UFO activity at Warminster, and the setting-up of an independent research project to deal with sightings in that part of Wiltshire, it was agreed to make Dick Colborne SIGAP's official observer in the town. Dick, formerly of Woking, now lives and works in Warminster. Reports from him will appear regularly in Pegasus. You can read his first despatch in this issue. Living outside Surrey, Dick was required to give up, on grounds of practicability, the post of group librarian. Omar Fowler agreed to look after the books, magazines and tapes.

The position of magazine editor is no longer one for annual election.

Dan Butcher was made SIGAP's first honorary life member as a measure of thanks for his stirring work. Dan has been responsible for a series of excellent UFO paintings, three UFO booklets (the third to be published in the near future), plus many articles for Pegasus

and superb magazine cover designs.

SIGAP's executive committee was formally wound-up at the meeting, it being agreed after some discussion that it no longer served any useful purpose. For some time now, decisions have been taken on behalf of the group by the officers. This has worked very satisfactorily. At least, there have been no complaints as yet! Committee meetings were held extremely infrequently, owing to the general lack of business and the fact that committee members lived so far apart. As a safeguard, in view of the decision at the annual meeting, it will be written into the group's constitution that an extraordinary meeting will be held if at least six paid-up members request one - provided they have a legitimate reason.

It was also agreed at the meeting that owing to the present lull in UFO activity locally, coupled with the drop in membership and difficulty in getting speakers, meetings would be held quarterly in future. The next meeting has been called for Tuesday, September 14, usual time, usual place. However, the venue will almost certainly have to be changed in the very near future. Inquiries are being made at present with a view to finding a new meeting-place. When one is found, members will either be notified in Pegasus, or by letter.

It was reluctantly decided at the AGM that SIGAP's membership fee would have to be raised - from 75p to £1, effective from June 1. This has been made necessary by the drop in the number of members, and increasing costs.

In addition to the election of officers and other routine, administrative business, two films were shown at the May 18 meeting. The first was a colour summary of the Apollo 12 moon mission, and the second a short one on the UFO seen on August 11, 1970, by Mr. W. H. Huntington while driving along the A1 between Grantham and Newark. (Flying Saucer Review Case Histories, Supplement Two, December, 1970.)

Retiring Chairman Omar Fowler, and retiring Secretary Dick Beet, both gave brief reports at the annual meeting on the group's activities during the past year. The statement of accounts was presented by Miss Marjorie Dalley, who stepped down as treasurer. At the time of writing, SIGAP's bank balance stands at £28 - the healthiest it has been for many a month.

- Ron Toft

DONATION: Mrs. B. S. Blundell, of 2 Tekels Court, Tekels Park, Camberley, has very kindly donated £4 to SIGAP's funds.

MEMBERS: SIGAP now has 58 members. The two newest members are: Philip Sholl, of 8 Pewley Hill, Guildford, and T. W. Cox, of "Ashram," Redmoor, Bodmin, Cornwall.

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** SOME PENNSYLVANIA UFO CASES AND THEIR **
** BEARING ON THE CONDON REPORT **
**
** By Professor James McDonald **
** Institute of Atmospheric Physics **
** University of Arizona **
**
** PART II **
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This is the second and concluding part of an article based on a lecture Prof. McDonald gave on May 15, 1969 at Mansfield State College, Mansfield, Pennsylvania - EDITOR.

LET's examine another case quite similar in nature to both of those just considered - a curious case-report from Pennsylvania.

3. Lansdale, Pennsylvania, October, 1958. Dr. J. V. Hales, at General Electric's Valley Forge Space Technology Centre, near Philadelphia, heard of this incident from his former secretary. Confidence in her reliability led him to have her telephone me to recount an event that had occurred about nine years earlier.

Miss Carol Loburak, then aged 16, was sitting outside her house with a brother, Daniel, aged 14, and two other teenage boys - Lee Kellner, 15, and Rudy Usic, 14. (There is a noticeable skewing of UFO witness-ages to low values. More youngsters are outside, on the average, than adults.) The time she recalls as about 10 p.m. (Night observations of UFOs predominate, part of this may be due to easier detection of a glowing object at night, as here.)

Lee noticed a flash of light from the backyard and on going back to investigate, they saw a disc about 15-20 feet in diameter, with a transparent bubble on top, hovering just above the phone lines over their backyard. Miss Loburak said that the only sound audible was a "faint buzzing noise" emitted as it hovered motionlessly for an estimated several minutes.

Curious to get a better look at its rounded bottom, the boys walked cautiously under it, and were looking up at the base when a bright shaft of light came on, illuminating them and a circular area 10-15 feet in diameter. Nothing further happened. No other lights came on besides the one in the base (which they assumed had been responsible for the glow that initially attracted their attention). After a minute or two longer, it went off horizontally, accelerating somewhat as it went, but not attaining any unusual speed, she recalled.

They never heard of any other neighbours who had seen the object, but Miss Loburak remarked that behind their house were only fields and woods for some distance. The four teenagers discussed the incident among themselves immediately, and decided that no-one would believe them if they did report it. They decided that even their parents would not believe it - so, to Miss Loburak's knowledge, none of the

four ever mentioned it to any parents. (The parents of the three teenage girls cited just above in the Las Vegas sighting of 1962 did not take seriously the account given them by their daughters, I was told. I believe that this response would vary in individual cases, dependent upon a number of familiar patterns.)

Remarks: Miss Loburak said that she and her brother Daniel seldom discussed the incident thereafter, and she does not recall ever talking to the other boys about it again. Dr. Hales was the first person to whom she had ever described the event, and she did so primarily because she felt that perhaps his knowledge of atmospheric physics might suggest some natural explanation.

If that seems difficult to accept, let me mention an incident in Gary, Indiana, in which a husband and wife happened to see a UFO from different parts of their home (one outside, one indoors) and for a week neither mentioned it to a daughter who told the father. His remark: "Oh, did mother see that thing too?" finally opened mutual discussion of something neither had quite been willing to believe, while thinking he was a sole witness.

All investigators of UFO reports seem to have the same experience of stumbling on unreported UFO sightings, more or less in the round-about way in which I heard of the foregoing case. Indeed, one of the findings of the Condon Project that I regard as interesting and relevant (in contrast to much I have to put in other categories) came from an opinion poll on this very point. The poll indicated that only about 10 per cent of the public would report a UFO sighting to any official agency. The other nine-tenths of the respondents felt that they'd probably only tell close friends or members of their immediate families. My own experience would tend to confirm some such factor of about ten in the ratio of significant sightings to official reports thereof. This pattern appears to hold in other countries of the world too, judging from discussions of foreign investigators on this bothersome point. Ridicule operates as a powerful suppressor of reports of unconventional events, I have come to appreciate.

Quite frankly, I would never have guessed how potent fear of ridicule is among the general public in situations of this type. Maybe it's well to recall that Edward Jenner, discoverer of vaccination, was so concerned over ridicule by medical and scientific colleagues, that his first revelation of his vaccination technique was solely to a close friend whom he swore to secrecy lest his ideas draw devastating criticism. Other such instances from the history of science could be cited. Laymen are not alone in this regard, as many a scientist could tell you. Nor is the current scientific scorn of the UFO problem anything so unusual in the history of science, though to cite examples from past history would be to prejudge that my own

serious concern for the subject will prove well-based. (With that necessary proviso inserted, I might recall that Roentgen's discovery of X-rays was greeted with ridicule from many sides, and the eminent 19th century physicist, Lord Kelvin, actually thought the announcement was an elaborate hoax. By contrast, J. J. Thomson's opposite reaction, treating quite seriously Roentgen's reports, aided greatly in getting wider scientific scrutiny of X-ray phenomena.)

4. Springfield (Delaware County) Pennsylvania, April 24, 1962.

Multiple-witness urban-area sightings of UFOs take on special interest in that many uninformed persons are under the misimpression that UFOs are never seen except in rural areas by lone witnesses. Near 8 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 1962, a number of persons in different parts of greater Philadelphia observed a slow-moving disc-shaped object with flashing lights. NICAP files gave basic information on the background to this case, but I have been in direct contact with one of the principal witnesses, Mr. Joseph A. Gasslein, near whose home two separate sightings within a 20-minute period occurred. Gasslein, who is with Boeing's Vertol Division at Morton, Pa., was working in his basement when his wife called him out excitedly to see an object moving low over their neighbourhood, at about 7.45 p.m. His wife, Mrs. Alice W. Gasslein, had been driving her mother, Mrs. Estelle W. Wilkinson, to her near-by home when the two of them observed the object, and hastened back to alert Mr. Gasslein.

By the time Gasslein got outside to look, the object had passed to a distance from his house (148 Schuyler Road, Springfield) which he estimated at about a quarter-of-a-mile, "but nevertheless clearly defined as to configuration." His summary states:

"I saw it as an object smaller at the top than at the base, seemingly suspended in the air at an angle of about 45° from my position, and giving off coloured lights. I know that the object was not any kind of conventional aircraft or balloon."

It may be relevant to note here that Gasslein is a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve and his work brings him in contact with helicopter equipment.

His wife and mother-in-law had seen it from very much closer than he, while it was moving in a westerly direction at only about 50 feet above street level before it turned northward. The description given by Mrs. Gasslein included the following points:

"The UFO appeared to be about the size of one of the Cape Cod houses over which it passed, which would make it approximately 30 feet in diameter, and about the same dimension in height. It was circular (in plan-form) surmounted by a dome giving off flashes of green light. The centre section (had a rotating) series of square-shaped 'windows,' each giving off a brilliant white light. The base section was somewhat saucer-shaped, curved upward. Shafts of white light were directed downward from the base."

Clearly, we are not here dealing with a report readily equatable to any of the commonly proposed meteorological or astronomical explanations of UFOs. No sound was ever heard, so an aircraft explanation is inadequate. The shape, seen clearly, was quite unlike an airship.

When the UFO departed, Gasslein returned inside and Mrs. Gasslein took her mother to her nearby home. On returning, she had just parked the car when a neighbour, Miss Barbara Berryman (now Mrs. Richard McClure) called "in a tone of astonishment" to direct Mrs. Gasslein's attention to a nearby wooded park area, from which was emerging an object of the same description as cited above.

"Moving easterly at low level - not over 50 feet above the ground level, as judged by trees in that area - the UFO proceeded slowly, and without sound. It was approaching the rear of our home and adjacent properties," Gasslein recounts his wife's description.

His wife again called him out from the basement, and by the time he got outside, "the object was proceeding parallel to the backs of the houses in the same line as ours. It was then perhaps 150-200 yards distant. My observations of the characteristics of the UFO tallied with my wife's and the young lady's. Each of them independently made a pencil sketch within a few minutes after the sighting, and the sketches were substantially alike."

Gasslein enclosed a copy-sketch in his January 6, 1969 letter to me. It is so unlike any conventional airborne device or natural phenomenon that one would be obliged to discount the testimony of evidently credible witnesses to assimilate it to any conventional object.

Through the assistance of Dr. Charles P. Olivier of the University of Pennsylvania's Flower Observatory, NICAP secured reports of a number of others in the south-west sector of Philadelphia who had reported basically similar sightings at about that same time. Mr. Paul T. Scattergood, living about a mile west of the Gasslein residence, was out walking his dog near 8 p.m. when he saw to his south-east "a brilliantly lighted object low in the southern sky." At first he supposed it to be a jet, but its slow speed, lack of engine noise, and peculiar blink pattern of the row of lights did not match that explanation, he stressed.

Two other observers, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. King, contacted Dr. Olivier, describing an unusual object with flashing lights similar in features to that seen at close range by the four persons involved in the two sightings at the Gasslein's. Three students at St. Joseph's College, about six miles to the north-east, also reported seeing an unidentified object move over the college area that evening, and other witnesses that night reported unidentified aerial objects, but details are sparse in the latter instances.

Remarks: In answer to a number of queries on this case, Gasslein wrote me and provided helpful clarification. He states that the observer-to-object distance was approximately 50 feet at one part of his wife's sighting on the object's second return. Since no sound was ever heard, and since the clues to distance were here much better than average (trees, backyard fences, etc.) it is difficult to propose any routine explanation, or even any unusual natural or technological explanation to account for this sighting.

This incident was not reported to any official agency, though much effort was expended by the Gasslein's to contact other witnesses and discuss the event with astronomer Olivier. Mrs. Gasslein contacted a friend on the staff of the Philadelphia Inquirer to indicate that their account might be of public interest, but the paper did not follow through, and no press account was published.

This is reminiscent of the February 4, 1968 sighting over Redlands, California, where a total of at least 30 residents saw a hovering disc, estimated at a height above street level of a few hundred feet. A two-inch story in the local paper, commenting on a single witness' account, would have been the entire coverage had not professors at Redlands University become interested and undertaken an investigation. The Air Force did not witness interviewing. Since I have interviewed a half-dozen of those main witnesses, I can say that I regard it as a quite significant UFO sighting. The Colorado Project also investigated it, yet not a word about that Redlands case appears in the Condon Report - for reasons I fail to understand.

The Gasslein sightings and related sightings near Philadelphia on April 24, 1962, are paralleled by a very substantial number of other urban-area sightings, often involving close-range observations, such as the April 22, 1966 Beverly, Massachusetts, case that appears incompletely reported in the Condon Report.

It is true that more reports exist for non-urban areas than for urban areas, but it is incorrect to assume that UFOs are never within major cities. What are they doing there? The answer is simply that no-one knows, because UFOs are regarded as a nonsense problem, hence the kind of intensive surveillance that would be required to begin to shed light on such highly relevant questions is not now in progress.

To examine UFO cases in the Condon Report bearing at least general resemblance to the foregoing case, Study Case 6, Page 266 (Beverly, Mass.), Case 8, Page 273 (Donnybrook, North Dakota), Case 12, Page 282 (New Richmond, Michigan), Case 13, Page 285 (Granville, Mass.), Case 14a, Page 287 (Joplin, Missouri), and Case 31, Page 342 (Winchester, Connecticut). All six of those cases end up in the unidentified category in the Condon Report! If you next ask how Condon could conclude that the UFO problem holds nothing of scientific interest with a half-dozen cases of just this general

category in his own Report left unexplained, you are asking a highly relevant question. I cannot understand it, frankly. But there are many other still more interesting unidentified cases in that curious Report. Indeed, of the roughly 90 cases considered, about one-third are unidentified! Yet Condon recommends that he sees so little of significance in all this that he feels even Air Force Project Bluebook can be dispensed with.

I think that only a project director who did no field investigation, who would not interview (even by phone) any of the hundreds of airline pilots, military pilots, law enforcement officers, and other highly credible witnesses who have contributed the truly baffling UFO cases of the past 20 years, but who was whimsically intrigued by the nuts and crackpots, would come up with Condon's negative conclusions - the same conclusions he explicitly stated at Corning, New York, a few months after his Project was formed.

5. Auburn, Pennsylvania, March 10, 1967. When I set about assembling a few Pennsylvania UFO cases that I thought might give you some feeling for the truly perplexing nature of the problem, I had a number of others in mind. But since I wish to keep the length of this summary limited, I shall have to cut back at this point.

As one more Pennsylvania UFO case, I had intended to summarise one of the classic cases of the last decade, the so-called Killian case of February 24, 1959. A good account of it can be found in Hall's UFO Evidence, published by NICAP, one of the most useful and reliable extant books on the UFO problem.

When Condon, in his recommendations, urges that "teachers refrain from giving students credit for school work based on their reading of the presently available UFO books and magazine articles," R. H. Hall's valuable book is only one of a number of substantial contributions to the UFO literature which Condon unfairly lumps in with the crackpot literature, whose devotees he seemed so interested in studying. I heartily dispute such blanket proscription of all existing UFO books. That he is pushing this point to almost irrational extremes can be seen in the text of Condon's still more recent presentation of April 26, 1969 before the American Philosophical Society, where he lumps UFO studies in with a list of "pseudosciences" and then urges that "publishers who publish or teachers who teach any of the pseudosciences as established truth should, on being found guilty, be publicly horsewhipped, and forever banned from further activity in these usually honourable professions."

Curious fervour. I would not wish to see R. H. Hall publicly horsewhipped for having published the UFO Evidence and for discussing clearly and fairly, cases like the famous Killian case and 750 others. The Killian case took place in Mansfield, as Capt. Killian's American Airlines DC-6 flew over north-central Pennsylvania towards

Detroit. The luminous airborne object seen by Killian and his crew was also seen by at least four other airline crews, under circumstances that clearly rule out the "night refuelling" explanation that is still attached to that case in Air Force files.

I have interviewed Killian and other airline pilots and crewmen involved in the case, and it would be an appropriate case to discuss here. But the total case is very complex and its full interest is only appreciated against more background material than I can now bring together here.

I could also have described a case of repeated UFO sightings over a power plant on the Delaware River, near Uhlerstown. This is a case called to my attention by a colleague in the Department of Physics at my university, a physicist who knows well and has high regard for one of the main witnesses. Sightings near power facilities seem to warrant special concern. Also, I had intended to summarise the main features of an incident near Jonestown, Pa., on April 5, 1967, in which mass-displacement of an automobile reportedly occurred as a hovering UFO suddenly accelerated in departure. Such mass-displacement cases have been reported in about a half-dozen instances that I have investigated. How two-ton cars can be moved several feet by nearby UFOs, which is what this category of reports appears to indicate, is indeed an interesting scientific question - one more that Condon ignores. Probably he is unaware of the evidence.

I shall now compress into a limited space, a summary of a daytime sighting by several persons in Auburn, Pa., in the middle of the afternoon on March 10, 1967. I have interviewed three of the principal witnesses.

Mrs. George Binner was driving back to her Auburn home from Pottsville, had neared the edge of town on Rt. 895, and had slowed down a bit for bumps in the road, she explained to me, when suddenly she spotted a fast-moving object coming northward across her path at about tree-top level, not over a half-block ahead. Her first thought was that it must be an airplane, but in the seconds it was in sight, she saw that its shape was somewhat like a discus, light-green in colour, and had a bright, narrow band of some sort around its middle. It seemed to be circular in plan-form, and its side profile resembled a football's. No wings, or tail, no flame, exhaust, or smoke were present, and no sound (audible over her car's engine noise) marked its rapid passage.

Another Auburn resident whom I interviewed; Mrs. Russel Koch, works in the Auburn post-office. Near 2 p.m. on March 10, 1967, just at the time of Mrs. Binner's sighting, she happened to be looking out the front window of the post-office towards the same part of town where Mrs. Binner was then driving. Suddenly, coming rapidly from south to north, a bright green, but not glowing, object shot across her field of vision, near the tops of buildings and trees in the

middle distance. She called out to others inside the post-office, but before they could turn, the object was hidden from their view. The object appeared to pass a few blocks away, in accord with the location which Mrs. Binner was able to pin down rather closely. Several schoolchildren also saw it, and I interviewed the parents of one.

Puzzling, wouldn't you agree? Warrants further careful scientific attention, don't you think? I commend the UFO problem to your serious attention.

POSSIBLE PATTERN FOR ORIGIN OF LIFE

RESEARCH carried out under the auspices of NASA, the American space-agency, has led to the discovery of a remarkable coincidence which may show a basic pattern for the process of chemical evolution believed to lead to the origin of life.

The discovery was made by a team of scientists, headed by Dr. Cyril Ponnampereuma, at the Ames Research Centre, Mountain View, California.

The research team has found in a second meteorite, exactly the same 18 amino-acids, plus two pyrimidines (compounds vital to nucleic acids), that were discovered last December in the Murchison meteorite. The newly-analysed meteorite, known as Murray, fell in Kentucky in 1950. The Murchison meteorite fell near Murchison, Victoria, Australia, in September, 1969.

Describing the new findings, Dr. Ponnampereuma said: "We can only speculate at this stage, but the findings of this identical complex pattern of amino-acids and pyrimidines in two meteorites, could mean that this is a basic phase in the chemical process leading to life. This basic sequence in the formation of organic molecules could be determined by the inherent chemical characteristics of the material of the universe. Starting with these 18 amino-acids, it would be theoretically possible to build up a living organism."

The recent discovery of amino-acids (building-blocks of proteins) in the Murchison meteorite, appears to be the first conclusive proof of extraterrestrial chemical evolution, the chemical process most scientists believe led to the origin of life on Earth. Finding these life materials in a second meteorite, strengthens the case for the chemical evolution theory, and increases the likelihood of life elsewhere in the universe - created by chemical evolution.

(For full details of the Murchison meteorite findings, see PEGASUS, Vol 2, No. 5.)

* F A C T O R F O L K L O R E ? *
* B y D a n B u t c h e r *

ESKIMO legends of a phantom boat may point to UFO encounters by these people in the past. The stories fall into two classes: tales of meetings with strange kayaks, the small, one-man fishing canoes of the Eskimos, and reports of mysterious umiariaks, the big family boats holding a number of people. The following story is in the latter category, and is taken from Dr. H. Rink's 'Tales and Traditions of the Eskimos' (Blackwood, 1875).

One night a servant girl was passing behind her master's tent when she suddenly perceived something bright glittering out at sea. At the same time she detected a boat that seemed to grow in size as it approached and, upon taking a closer look, she was horrified to discover that it was the supernatural umiariak. She wanted to run, but was not able to stir. She tried to call out, but could not utter a sound!

The next thing she saw was a number of people landing, all carrying glittering swords. These figures walked straight up to the tent and thrust their weapons into it from all sides. Loud cries were heard coming from the occupants of the tent, and the strangers rushed back to their uncanny craft. The girl then noticed that the water was foaming, and that a multitude of seals were moving out to sea. She was not able to move until they were quite out of sight, and she then went to the tent, only to discover that all the inmates were dead.

Several UFO parallels are presented here, notably the initial perception of the glittering light, the uncanniness of the object, and the cataleptic paralysis of the witness. Again, we note that the apparition first appeared out at sea, a frequent UFO approach, as in the well-known case of Professor Guimaraes in Brazil, 1957. The sea - or water in any form - is a most common prop to the flying-saucer scene. The glittering swords carried by the strangers in this Eskimo tale correspond to various flashing weapons carried by the UFO entities - in my opinion, forms of the psychophysical link, or 'astral cord' mentioned in the accounts of out-of-the-body experiences.

The seals find their place in this story because these phantom umiariaks are said to be manned by human beings who have been changed into seals. Vague humanoid forms of this description are universally ascribed to ghosts and other disembodied human entities, and could as well be applied to certain types of flying-saucer occupants. It is suggested that these 'seals' or 'strangers' were the discarnate, multiple phantoms of the inmates of the tent, released in the act of dying, the withdrawal of their 'weapons' representing the severance of the vital 'astral cords'. I suspect that their deaths, and the appearances of the spectral boats in general, resulted from the shamanistic practises so commonly indulged in by the Eskimos,.....

Reading through the tales of ghostly kayaks and umiariaks, we discover that not only do they fly through the air on occasion, but also display that other typical UFO manoeuvre of plunging into the sea, or arising therefrom. Furthermore, we are informed that some umiariaks are formed out of solid blocks of ice. That is to say, they present a glassy, or crystalline appearance - another feature in common with certain contemporary UFOs.

THERE is an Eskimo story about a lad named Akigsiak, whose father told him that he might go hunting anywhere except in the north, because of a monstrous reptile which inhabited those regions. One day he wandered further than usual in search of game, and he became lost in a snowstorm. Wandering about in the darkness, he came upon something which looked like two large windows of an Eskimo house. Then he saw that other parts of the object were like a hill, and finally he recognised it as the reptile about which his father had so often warned him. He at once took flight, the thing in pursuit. Whenever it came too close he struck at it with his lance, and continued running, until, eventually, he dropped with fatigue and lost consciousness.

He was awakened by a cool touch on his forehead, and at once remembered his predicament. Looking about for the 'thing', he saw it at his feet. With his eyes constantly fixed on the object, Akigsiak crept cautiously away and, observing that it did not move, he eventually broke into a run and made his getaway. He did not reach home until the fourth day, having been given up for lost.

The story goes on to relate that he told his father and friends of his adventure, and they got up a party to seek out the reptile and kill it for food, since it was in the depth of winter and they were on the point of starvation. Many of the party died in trying to reach the spot. Those who managed to reach the already dead animal found it to consist mainly of fat, mixed with a little lean flesh.

Such is the story of Akigsiak's encounter with the mysterious reptile of the north. To us, it reads like a meeting with a UFO. Those two windows, and the hill-like shape, certainly put us in mind of the dome-shaped flying-saucers. The windows, being likened to those of an Eskimo house, would have been rectangular - quite an un-reptilian feature. Presumably they were luminous, since they were observed in the dark. Apparently it loosed an animal form upon the hapless hunter, unless the UFO itself metamorphosed into such a form. We are reminded of Ivan T. Sanderson's speculations about UFOs as sky animals, and the 20-foot diameter monster washed ashore at Sandy Cape, Tasmania, in 1960.

It is noteworthy that the Eskimos found the animal to be composed chiefly of fat, which would be quite in line with those amorphous, gelatinous masses which have so often been reported as falling from the sky in various parts of the world in the past. It is also interesting to note that the Eskimos always place these 'reptiles' in the north, as they do of encounters with other strange beings. This points to a particular UFO activity in the polar hinterland.

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** AN AERIAL PHENOMENA GUIDE **  
** By Dick Beet **  
** SIGAP Vice-Chairman **  
** PART I **  
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An alphabetical reference for UFO investigators, detailing many of the common - and not so common - natural and man-made phenomena visible in our skies.

AERODYNAMIC TRAIL

Otherwise known as a condensation trail. This is caused by the sudden cooling of air passing over the surface of aircraft; notably the tips of wings and propellers. The trail usually appears as a white line, although a high altitude trail at sunrise or sunset may appear tinged with red or orange. It is usually of short duration.

AFTERGLOW

Although this phenomenon is unlikely to be confused with UFOs, it is, nevertheless, interesting. Observed in the western sky during sunset, afterglow appears as a glow above high-altitude clouds, and is caused by the scattering effect of dust particles in the atmosphere.

AIRCRAFT

It is unlikely that under normal conditions an aircraft would be subject to mis-identification. However, the following circumstances might lead to confusion:

- (A) An aircraft flying through broken cloud.
- (B) Reflection of city lights or moon at night, or a flash of sunlight on the fuselage during the day.
- (C) Cabin illumination at night.
- (D) At certain angles the aircraft may appear to be a cigar-shaped object.
- (E) Research aircraft with appendages.
- (F) Searchlights on aircraft, used in calibration exercises or to assist during night-time refuelling operations.
- (G) Unusually designed prototype aircraft.

AIRCRAFT LIGHTING

Navigation lighting on aircraft is as follows:

- (A) A single, unbroken green light is carried on the starboard (right) wing, and a similar red light on the port wing. Both lights must be visible at a distance of five nautical miles.
- (B) An unbroken white light on the tail, which must be visible from a range of three nautical miles.

(C) A central, white landing light, often rotated.

(D) In addition, two powerful landing lights are carried at the front of an aircraft. In clear weather it is possible the crew may forget to extinguish these high-power lamps. The ground observer would see twin headlamps traversing the sky - a common feature of 'Lights in the Sky' (LITS) reports.

AIRGLOW

This is a steady chemiluminescent glow in the upper atmosphere, due to the emission of oxygen and nitrogen molecules. Although readily visible to astronauts, airglow is only marginally visible from the ground. It is unlikely to be confused with UFO phenomena.

ANGEL

Although this is not an optical phenomenon, it is of extreme interest. The term 'angel' is slang for a radar echo caused by a physical object which has not been visibly confirmed. It can be ascribed to temperature and/or moisture inversions. Meteor trails, birds, and even insects, can give rise to angels on radar screens.

ANGEL HAIR

An unstable, fibrous material reported to fall from the sky, often after a UFO sighting. It disintegrates and vanishes soon after falling, and burns rapidly if ignited. A possible explanation is that it is caused by airborne cobwebs, spun by ballooning spiders. Probably the most famous accounts are those arising from falls of the material at Orelon and Gaillac in France, reported by Aimé Michel in 1952.

ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITE

This is a man-made satellite which orbits the earth. Often the cause of many a UFO report. Satellites can be seen as:

- (A) Moving star-like objects.
- (B) Flashing (due to pitching, yawing and rolling).
- (C) Twinkling (due to atmospheric scintillation).

They may also:

- (A) Dim, or brighten, during the transit.
- (B) Appear to have a halo if observed through cloud.
- (C) Appear or disappear during transit, due to entry into, or exit from, the earth's shadow.

It is not likely that a satellite would be seen during daylight. A satellite will not travel in apparent straight-line paths. A satellite will not change direction in orbit, nor is it likely that two satellites would move together.

ASTEROIDAL FRAGMENTS

These are meteoric objects which enter the atmosphere at varying

speeds and which are thought to originate from the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Normally they are minute in size, and are observed as a flash of light in the night sky.

ASTRONOMICAL SCINTILLATION

Sometimes known as stellar scintillation, it is a consequence of atmospheric turbulence. The phenomenon produces the following effects, themselves characteristic of many LITS reports:

- (A) Irregular, oscillatory movements.
- (B) Colour fluctuations.
- (C) Variation in apparent magnitude.

ATMOSPHERIC ELECTRICITY

A general term referring to all forms of electrical disturbance in the earth's atmosphere. Causes include: clouds, contaminants, earthquakes, meteors, tornadoes and volcanoes.

AURORAE

Although auroral phenomena are rarely observed in Southern England, they can take many forms, some of which may appear as UFO activity to the untrained eye. The auroral zone is within 15° of the geomagnetic poles, and the spectacular displays are caused by charged particles from the sun striking the earth's upper atmosphere. Auroral displays vary in altitude from 50-60 miles and can assume the following forms:

- (A) A soft glow in the northern sky.
- (B) An arc of light.
- (C) Pulsating streamers like searchlights emanating towards the zenith.
- (D) Draperies, which swing like curtains.
- (E) Coronal displays, which appear as circles of light.
- (F) Flaming aurorae appear as flames licking the sky.

Aurorae vary in colour. The northern display is known as the Aurora Borealis, whereas the southern is the Aurora Australis.

NO LIFE ON MOON: Space scientists studying the rocks brought back from the moon by the Apollo 11 & 12 astronauts, have found no indication of life on our neighbour in space. A report issued by NASA, the American space agency, detailing the space exploits of 1970, says: "Scientists reached a number of conclusions based on the studies of the lunar rocks returned to earth, and data from automatic recorders left on the moon by Apollo 12. Among the findings: there is no sign of life, past or present, on the moon. Rocks returned from the moon are older than any found on earth. Lunar rocks are composed of the same chemical elements as some found on earth, but in unusual proportions."

* THE CONTACTEE AS AN ASTRAL PROJECTOR *
* By Dan Butcher *
* PART II *

AS an example of what seems to be a case of astral projection under the guise of a UFO contact, I have selected the following from an article in Flying Saucer Review entitled "Fantasy or Truth?" by Editor Charles Bowen. (Vol. 13, No. 4. Page 11, et seq.)

On the night of May 15, 1951, an American working for the U.S. Occupation Army in Austria, was taking a short cut home near Salzburg. It was a little after 11 p.m., and there was no moon.

Suddenly, someone emerged from the dark scrub on his left, and came up close to him. He could see only an outline in the dark, but the figure appeared to be wearing a helmet of some kind. In its hand was something like a pencil which was pointed at the American's head. It went 'click.'

"After the 'click' he (the figure) waved his hand quickly and I went to put my arm up in front of my face, but I was paralysed. I felt like falling down, but I didn't. He put a black square plate on my chest and strapped it around my back. I could hear a dog barking in the distance, but I couldn't hear him walking.....

"After he strapped the plate on me, he walked in front of me and pointed the thing in his hand at the plate on my chest, rather than at my head like before. He walked away, and pulled me after him. I couldn't move or walk, but he just pulled me along after him. I wasn't actually in the air, but my full weight wasn't on the ground. It seemed as if I was light.

"Behind the brush was a small field. In the field, hidden from the road, was a round object about 150 feet in diameter.....

"The thing that led me, sort of rose from the ground and took me after him to the top of the object....."

The contactee was taken into the UFO, still with the pencil-shaped object pointed at him.

"Then, when I was in the room, he took it off me, and I sank down to the floor. He went out, and I could see his outline. There was a sort of shaking sensation, and I knew the door to the room had shut.

"The next sensation I had, was a sensation of rising up into the air.....In a few minutes I could see the left half of the moon

shining. I was scared, but I figured I was dreaming. Then, I started to feel my hands and feet again. I sat up, and then got on to my feet. By this time we were in sunlight."

After a description of the spaceship, the contactee then says:

"My first thought was that I was dreaming, and then my second thought was that I was dead, and that my soul was rising up.

"The ship was not rotating, or going sideways, but was kind of gliding straight up. I could see the sun like a ball of fire, and the moon was like a silver ball....."

Suddenly, he looked up and saw the moon right above him, about a quarter-of-a-mile away, and he found himself standing on what had been the ceiling of the UFO. The figure points its pencil-like thing at the moon's surface, and then, after about five minutes, they move off. Then, in another sudden shift, another planet loomed up before him, which he took to be Mars.

"I looked out over the land, and it looked like paradise."

His pilot disembarked, and putting the 'pencil' to his chest, "slowly dropped to the ground like a falling leaf."

Left alone, the American looked around him, and noticed that there were other ships parked in the vicinity, two of them containing people from Earth. He waited for them to wave, feeling scared to do so himself, but he got no response.

The pilot then returned, and they set off again, passing by a moon that looked like a tin ball. After about ten minutes, he saw the Earth looming up.

"But we came at it with such a terrible speed that I thought for sure we would crash. The driver stopped the ship again when it seemed we hit the atmosphere, and he glided down towards Earth. I seemed to know he was going to take me back to where he found me, but I had the impression that he was going to kill me because he wanted to keep it secret.

"We came into the darkness and then went down to the ground, and I knew that we were back in the same place he picked me up.

"I was really afraid he would kill me. He opened the door and took the small pencil thing and pulled me out of the door the same way he pulled me in. He guided me right back to the road. At that time I could walk, but I was very light, and he was just pulling me.

"He took the pencil thing from my chest and pointed it at my head. At that moment, a dog started to bark at us from about a quarter-of-a-mile up the road, and it seemed to have startled him,

because the pencil clicked and nothing happened to me.

"I knew from the first experience I should be paralysed, so I just pretended to be, so that he wouldn't know. He took the plate off my chest and went back to the ship.

"I stayed the way I was until I saw the outline of the saucer going off into the distance. Then, I ran home....."

"I noticed the time when I got back home, and it was 12.20 a.m. The whole trip had taken about an hour....."

".....and I remember it happening - and it is as clear as yesterday."

I have omitted a great deal of descriptive matter out of this fantastic yarn, but have emphasised those passages relevant to astral projection.

What happened to the witness?

It would seem that he was walking hom in an abstracted frame of mind, and became semi-consciously projected. Conditions must have been favourable for such an event, but, unfortunately, we are not given enough information to be able to state what those conditions were, apart from the fact it was a moonless night. Possibly the silence, the darkness, the shadowy bushes, and the cosmic ambience of the night-sky, lent colouring to the fantasies which came to the surface at that moment - strange forms.....the depths of space..... and, suddenly, he was aware of something there in the shadows.

From the point of view of astral projection, this figure might have been his own phantom, and he had literally 'caught himself out,' his consciousness remaining centred in the locality of the physical body. That is to say, he was not fully projected, least of all his self-consciousness. Only a certain amount of his phantomic body was extruded. Such a situation constitutes the chief difference between the average UFO-contactee and astral-projectors proper. The true projector is consciously centred in the phantom: the UFO contactee sees the phantom outside himself.

The helmet points to an ectoplasmic apparition. Numerous ghosts are said to have bulbous heads, high foreheads, and so forth. Usually an apparition forms out of a globe - its head. Stavely Bulford, in his book, "Man's Unknown Journey" (page 207), describes how the astral cord forms a cap-like attachment to the head of the phantom, and this is possibly the helmet our contactee saw - the attachment of his own astral cord to his own phantom. Alternatively, he may have been centred in the phantom at that moment, and the figure emerging from the shadows may have been his own physical body, for the etheric caul of the cord attachment also covers the physical brain. This 'helmet' may have given direction and content to the subsequent train of fantasy on the theme of space-travel, nonetheless vivid for being a

dream, since the projector attained moments of clear consciousness, and questioned whether or not he was dreaming, or had projected from his dead body. At all events, this figure, for him, became his 'driver' and guide, and must have been, however diluted, an aspect of his higher self: hence the multiplex eyes, symbolic of the seer, the observing self, reminding us of the 100-eyed Argus of Greek mythology, whose eyes are as the stars in the sky. 'Guides' are common figures in the literature of astral projection, one of their functions being to aid the extrusion of the consciousness from its physical milieu.

Thus, this particular guide proceeds to do just that, and they take a trip into the heavens. The pencil-shaped thing in the figure's hand, which the witness first mistook for a finger, seems to have been a portion of the astral link, or cord. The waving arm must have been another portion of the same object: for although the cord is properly attached to the head, it may appear to extrude from any part of the body. Moreover, there are, in many cases, subsidiary links, chiefly a 'cord' running from solar plexus to solar plexus, which may account for the flashing light seen on the belts or breastplates of UFO entities. The cord, when noticed by the projector, never fails to fascinate him by its movements and apparent independent life, and it is noticeable that when the UFO contactee sees this upraised 'arm' (often holding an instrument), a sudden fear takes hold of him, and the experience usually ends at that point.

Our anonymous American, however, somehow passed by that hazard. He could not have been too afraid, or he would have returned quickly to his normal state. When the object was seen to be directed at his head, he felt a click. The click indicates that at that moment he was free of the body, and it was then that he became paralysed, as would be expected in a case of projection. The astral click is a common projection phenomenon. The paralysis was the catalepsy of the phantom in which he was now centred. So we now have two phantoms, the 'driver' and that which, unseen, bears the contactee's exteriorised consciousness. This is no anomaly in astral projection. Phantoms may be multiple, and the projector might see himself multiplied.

He did not fall because he was now fully centred in the floating phasma, already upright because the projector was in a standing position before projection. The black, square plate and the straps around his chest were images and rationalisations of his sensations in the cataleptic state. (Breastplates are occasionally mentioned in the mythology of flight.) Images of binding occur elsewhere in UFO reports and in projection cases. He could hear the barking of the dog because the externalised entity, while within 'cord-activity range' (as he was), can hear such local sounds, but he could not hear the footsteps of the alien because the latter was a phantom.

(to be continued)

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* CONE-SHAPED UFO SEEN BY PLANE CREW *
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By Ron Toft

PILOTS are first-class observers. That is why particular credence should be given to UFO sightings reported by them.

Such a sighting was made on Sunday, September 9, 1967, by the crew of a DC63 aircraft, en route from Palma, Majorca to Manston Airport at Ramsgate in Kent. The cone-shaped craft was seen by the pilot, Capt. F. E. C. Underhill, his co-pilot, P. J. B. Hope, Flight Engineer B. Dunlop, and Chief Steward L. Billett.

Three of the four witnesses afterwards gave written statements to HUFORA, and it is from these that this story is taken. It was brought to my attention by Omar Fowler, Investigations Co-ordinator for BUFORA. I believe the sighting was given publicity shortly after it took place. Nevertheless, I consider it an interesting hard-core case worthy of relating in full.

The aircraft was flying at 16,000 feet at a speed of some 290 m.p.h. Time of the sighting was 1703 hours (5.03 p.m. GMT). Location: 80 miles north-west of Barcelona (approximately).

Capt. Underhill takes up the story: "As we were approaching the Pyrenees from the direction of Barcelona, I noticed an object passing from left to right at what I can only describe as an ultra-sonic speed. Having established the fact that it was a definite object, I asked the other crew members if they could see it, and what they thought it to be. The engineer was first to sight it, but made no comment as to what it was. When the first officer sighted it, the object had slowed down and was in a turn. He said: 'It looks like a formation.' At this time I agreed, for the dark shape had the look of a formation in a turn.

"As we all watched, the object appeared to come directly for us, being at first a black mass, and then assuming the shape which I can only describe as an inverted ice-cream cone as it passed to starboard."

The steward was buzzed at this point, but only caught a glimpse of the UFO as he entered the flight-deck. He was unable to give any details in his brief report to BUFORA, although Capt. Underhill claims that Mr. Billett remarked at the time: 'Good God, what is it!'

Continues Capt. Underhill in his report: "Everyone of us agreed as to the shape, colour and inclination of the object. Flight Officer Hope drew a sketch within a minute or so. The object appeared metallic, and silver in colour. Size was difficult to ascertain. Largish to airship size? Distance at first sighting 50-60 miles. On passing, fairly close. The weather was clear with haze. Speed was

extremely high at fast. This is what drew my attention to it. It then slowed down. There was no apparent drift at this altitude. There was no noticeable effect on radio etc., but we were too intent on viewing to check. An official report was made to the Ministry of Defence. The duty officer was most interested, and had himself seen an object many years ago."

Co-pilot Hope said in his account: "The captain first saw the object, then undefined, and slightly above us at some considerable distance (estimated 40 miles). It was moving very quickly from left to right (estimated over supersonic). When the object was almost dead ahead, the captain reported it to the other crew members, who watched it, still undefined. When it reached the one o'clock position (range estimated 30 miles) it was seen to turn about 90° starboard. In the turn, the sun was reflecting on parts of it, and it looked like a formation of three or four aircraft in a turn, and we intently watched to see what they were. However, after the turn, the object took up a definite shape as it flew towards us. The chief steward was called up to the cockpit, and he just saw it as it passed by on our starboard side - now slightly below us - at a distance of.....five miles? No apparent effect on the aircraft was noticed. A report was made to the Spanish Air Traffic Control, who knew nothing, and an official report filed with Manston RAF upon arrival at base."

UNUSUAL UFO SIGHTED OVER HALIFAX: At 12.55 a.m. on May 31 this year, 30 year old Mrs. Shirley Ogden, of 121 Backhold Drive, Siddal, Halifax, Yorkshire, saw an out-of-the-ordinary UFO.

In a BUFORA report, Mrs. Ogden said: "I got out of bed at five to one, and my husband asked if it was still raining. I glanced out of the window and said it had cleared up. It was then, I saw a very bright, shining object hovering high in the sky. I called my husband and he joined me at the window. We continued to watch, and ten minutes later the dome part left a strip at the bottom and flew off out of sight. The strip began to change shape and took on more of a cigar outline. Then it turned to a vertical position, still very bright. It seemed to be dimming and brightening in rapid succession. This continued for another ten minutes. Then it began to disappear, starting from the bottom upwards. I left the window, but my husband remained. He called me back when the strip appeared again. It had now reverted to its former shape. It was about 15° lower. It slowly began to fall, and disappeared beyond the horizon."

The UFO was orange-yellow in colour, and sharply defined. BUFORA Investigator Trevor Whitaker, who lives in Halifax, is trying to trace other witnesses.

Owing to pressure of space, several articles and book-reviews have had to be held over until the autumn issue of Pegasus - EDITOR.

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