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YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

(Vol 5, # 8, February 2002)



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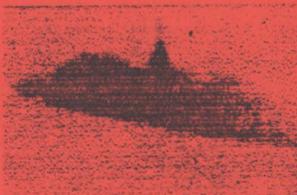
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Subscriptions:

£12:00 - 12 issues (1 year)
£7:00 - 6 issues (6 months)
sample issue - £1:50

Project Red Book is published by the
Yorkshire UFO Society.

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Chauffeur to the Editor, Chairman & He-Who-Speaketh-The-Most *Richard Moss*

They-Who-Printeth-The-Issues- *Slater
Publications 2002*

Cover Illustration- *Dave Baker*

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"Come out to the coast, we'll get together, have a few laughs..."

FLYING TRIANGLES: AN OBJECT LESSON

BY CLAS SVAHN / UFO-SWEDEN

(Translation by Eileen Fletcher And Clas Svahn)

From time to time video pictures of bright triangular objects are shown on TV and investigated by ufologists. Many times the objects are not identified but shown as a true unidentified flying object and even as "flying saucers". This article shows that these triangles can have mundane explanations.

A triangular object filmed over the city of Skövde in central Sweden July 10th 1999, has much to learn UFO investigators. After a lengthy investigation, UFO-Sweden's investigators came up with an answer that at first seemed both far-fetched and unlikely. Here is the full story of the strange looking craft that nearly defied an explanation.

It was just after ten on the evening of July 10th 1999 when Rolf Wallinder and Britt-Marie Gullberg observed a very bright object from Miss Gullbergs balcony in the western part of Skövde in central Sweden. The sun was still at the north-western horizon, setting in just a couple of minutes, when Mr Wallinder first observed the bright object in the south-eastern part of the sky. At first he didn't think much about it but soon he realised that this was something out of the ordinary and told Miss Gullberg, who was sitting with her back to the object, to take a look.



The witnesses: Rolf Wallinder and Britt-Marie Gullberg

"It was very, very bright with sharp edges", says Rolf Wallinder when interviewed a couple of days after the observation. "First we thought it to be the landing lights from an approaching aircraft, heading for Skövde airport not far away in the north-east. But after three or four minutes I realised that the object was stationary and hadn't moved a bit."

Rolf Wallinder asked Britt-Marie Gullberg to get his video camera that was lying on the

floor not far away. He took the camera, a Sony digital camera with 48X zoom lens, turned it to the bright object and started filming right away. Through the lens he could see that the object was more than a bright light: it was triangular with many lights on its rim and a mysterious black dot at the base of the triangle.

"I was lucky to get the triangle in the camera right away, as soon as I started filming", says Rolf Wallinder. "After just 7-8 seconds it vanished. Britt-Marie thought she could see it fly to the south at a very high speed after I lost it in the view finder."

When the object was gone Mr Wallinder checked his wristwatch. The time was 10.20 PM.

Six days after the observation Rolf Wallinders video was shown on a local TV station (TV4 Skaraborg).

The video is eight seconds long and taken in daylight. The lighted triangle was filmed at high digital magnification, which the effect that the picture is divided into separate pixels. When shown on TV these pixels were interpreted as "lights" on a craft. A triangular "shadow" of light could also be seen hanging under the object.



2) The object (see notes)

UFO-Sweden's investigation started on July 19th with interviews with both of the observers. They were consistent in their telling and there was no doubt that the observation was of a real object. But what kind of object?

Through several articles in the local newspapers UFO-Sweden successfully located two additional observers to the event.

Both of them made their observations from positions not far from Rolf Wallinder and Britt-Marie Gullberg. This was an important fact. If the object had been luminous or was carrying lights around its rim it should have been spotted from other parts of the city as well. The observers being situated in a narrow line going from the object, to the setting Sun indicated that we could very well be dealing with some kind of reflection on a metallic body.

Four main theories were investigated:

1. That it was a mirage caused by the Sun shining on a aluminium roof far away reflecting on layers of cold air. Data from the meteorological institute of Sweden (SMHI) showed that this evening was indeed perfect for creating mirages. Lake Vättern, a large body of water over which cold air was trapped, was situated to the East of Skövde, in line with the observed object, and so this could very well be the case.

2. A hang glider with a motor travelling over Skövde and reflecting the Sun from its triangular wings. This theory was investigated since at least one such hang glider was observed over Skövde some days before the observation. UFO Sweden investigators contacted more than 50 hang glider pilots in the area with no success in connecting their flights to the time of Rolf Wallinders film.

3. A model aeroplane reflecting the Sun. Since Skövde had a club for model aeroplane flying and their airfield was situated in the general direction of the observation we contacted the president who denied that there had been any activity on the 10th of July 1999.

4. A small airplane reflecting the Sun. Theory number four seemed to be the most interesting.

On January 13th, 2000 UFO-Sweden made a film of our own to see if we could recreate the effect seen on the original video sequence. With the help of Lars Hjärnered and Bertil

Mattsson at Sony's service department in Spånga outside Stockholm, we tested a camera of exactly the same model as the one used in Skövde.

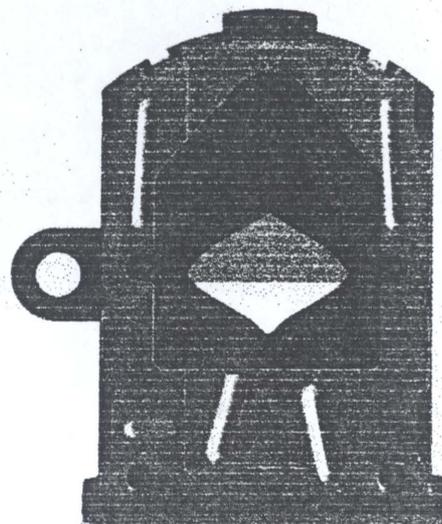
When Lars Hjärnered pointed the camera towards a bright lamp on a building 300–400 metres away, something strange was seen for a fraction of a second. On the TV screen to which the camera was connected a small perfectly formed triangle was formed from the light from lamp. We continued to film the lamp during out of focus conditions and now all of us could see the triangle.

The similarity to the film from Skövde was not only striking, but exact.

To make sure, Lars Hjärnered zoomed in to the light a few more times, now with the camera slightly out of focus. The effect became even clearer. We also did a similar experiment with a different model of camera, with different results. The form of the "object" changed from model to model. And the effect lasted only during the time the camera was set out of focus.

At this point we decided to dismantle to camera.

When the Sony technician took the camera apart, it showed that the triangular effect was produced by the shutter. The "ghost" picture – the triangle hanging under the main object – was caused by a transparent ND filter placed in the shutter.



3) The Sony camera (see notes)

"ND filters, or Neutral Density filters, are used when you are filming in bright light, and at the same time want to use as large aperture as you can", explained Bertil Mattsson. "The filter takes away some of the light and allows the aperture to open up."

To be certain, we also measured the angles of the triangle on the original film and compared them with the shutter opening. Both were approximately 35 degrees. From this it was clear that the shape of the object on the Skövde film had been caused by the camera, and not by an actual object.



It is important to note that the effect only shows itself when one films a light source without focusing. If in focus no triangle can be seen. When Rolf Wallinder grabbed his camera to film the shining light, his camera's autofocus didn't activate itself. Since he never had the time to adjust the focus manually and immediately saw the object in the lens, he started filming right away. When you film directly out into the air, the camera cannot find anything to focus on, so leaves itself in the unfocused position, just as it was when Wallinder first picked it up. Now we had an explanation to why the object looked triangular. But what kind of object had Rolf Wallinder filmed?

With the help of new radar pictures obtained by UFO-Sweden from the Ministry of Defence, one can see a Cessna aircraft moving directly opposite the observers, which is also actually directly opposite the setting sun. The Sun set at 10.25 PM at 320 degrees, which means that for some minutes the observers and the aircraft were almost directly in line with the Sun. A solar reflection on the plane's window would therefore reflect directly at the observers.

The pilot was traced through the local airfield and an interview with him confirming that the Cessna SE-IIN was flying on this course at this

time. The aircraft was painted white which could have helped creating a reflection.

Here we should for a moment return to the observers' descriptions of what they saw, and then compare them with the movements of the Cessna.

Rolf Wallinder describes how, for 3-4 minutes, he saw a bright light which seemed to hang stationary in the sky in the East (bearing 121 degrees).

After he had filmed for 7-8 seconds, the object swung to the right of the observers' position.

At approximately 10.21 PM, a small aircraft emerges to the left of the observers and moves towards the area where the triangle was seen. This aircraft then makes a turn to the left towards Skövde airport.

Here follows a description of the private plane's movements:

A Cessna aircraft (SE-IIN) moves on a course 118 degrees towards Northwest at 10.07-10.09 PM (radar picture first begins at 10.07) directly towards the setting sun and directly opposite the observers.

At 10.09 PM the Cessna swings to the right as seen from the observers' position.

At 10.12 PM the Cessna is to the left of the observers and moves in towards the area where the object seemingly pauses.

The plane then swings to the left for some minutes, then lands at Skövde airport.

As we can see, the time on Rolf Wallinder's statement does not correspond exactly with the Cessna. There is a time difference of 12 minutes. This makes Mr Wallinder himself reluctant to accept UFO-Sweden's explanation. But all data is pointing in the direction that the object filmed by him was the Cessna SE-IIN heading for Skövde airport. According to radar pictures no other aircraft was in that area during the specified time and SE-IIN was the last aircraft to land at Skövde airport on the evening of the observation. This indicates that the aircraft seen by Mr Wallinder at the end of his observation must have been SE-IIN. Since Mr Wallinder's video was shot a couple of minutes before observing this "unknown" aircraft, it is clear after comparing with the radar pictures, that the only object flying in the area at that time was SE-IIN.

The radar pictures also confirms Mr Wallinders and Miss Gullbergs description of what they have seen.

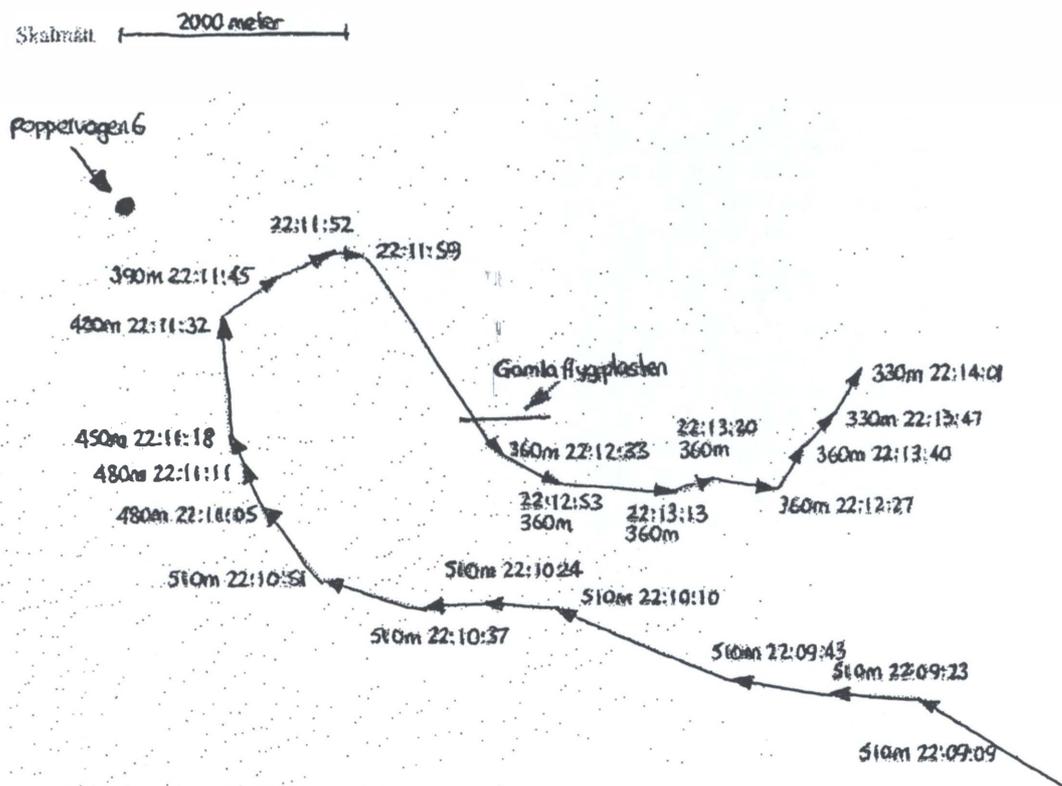
It is common that observers are mistaken when asked about the exact time for their observation. The problem is often that they do not remember exactly when looking at their watch. In this case it is difficult to say if Rolf Wallinder checked the time after losing the triangle in the camera, after seeing the aircraft coming to his left, or even some minutes later.

That the bright light seemed to hang still in the air was due to the aircraft moving directly towards the observers, which made it difficult to see any actual movement. The distance of the aircraft during the initial phase of the observation was 8-15 kilometres. The likelihood that the object on Rolf Wallinder's film is this particular aircraft is very high.

Translation: Eileen Fletcher and Clas Svahn

Pictures:

- 1) The witnesses: photo Clas Svahn
- 2) The lighted object over Skövde July 10th 1999 Photo: Rolf Wallinder.
- 3) The shutter in the Sony camera is triangular-shaped. The darker ND filter is seen above the triangular shutter. It was here that the above light phenomenon was created. Photo: Stefan Svensson.
- 4) Test at Sony. Lars Hjörnered filmed a lamp with a camera like that which Wallinder used. The lamp... to a triangle. Inset is a map showing radar details of the Cessna's route when the course lay directly opposite the place of observation. Photo: Clas Svahn.
- 5) Aircraft's flight path. On this aerial map of Skövde the Cessna's flight path is shown as dots from the radar picture. Rolf Wallinder's observation direction is similarly marked, as is that of the other two observers. The bottom of the map shows an additional part of the route. Map: Thomas Molén.



EARLY AUSTRALIA HISTORICAL ENCOUNTERS (part one)

BY BILL CHALKER

Written & © Bill Chalker, 1997

UFOIC (UFO INVESTIGATION CENTRE)

PO Box W42, West Pennant Hills NSW 2125, Australia

After Captain James Cook's voyage along the coast of Australia, Joseph Banks recorded in his Endeavour journal sighting a "Phaenomenon" near Timor. On September 16th, 1770, he noted:

"About 10 O'clock a Phaenomenon appeared in the heavens in many things resembling the Aurora Borealis but differing materially in others: it consisted of a dull reddish light reaching in height about 20 degrees above the Horizon: its extent was very different at different times but never less than 8 or 10 points of the compass.

"Through and out of this passed rays of a brighter coloured light tending directly upwards; these appeared and vanished near in the same time as those of the Aurora Borealis, but were entirely without the trembling or vibratory motion observed in that Phaenomenon. The body of it bore from the ship SSE: it lasted as bright as ever till near 12 when I went down to sleep but how much longer I cannot tell."

This was almost certainly a display of the Aurora Australis, but while the low latitude of Timor is unusual for auroral displays, it is not unprecedented. J. C. Beaglehole, who edited Bank's journal, did however point out that there was light solar activity in 1770 and in September of that year.

With the advent of white colonisation, documented accounts appeared with some frequency. Because of the number involved, only a selection has been included here. Most of the early accounts would probably have an explanation if more information was available. A number however seem to defy easy explanation.

1793

In *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, Lt.-Col. Collins recorded in 1793:

"An extraordinary appearance in the sky was observed by several people between five and six o'clock in the evening of Friday 12th of the month. It was noticed in the north-west, and appeared as if a ray of forked lightning had been stationary in that quarter of the sky for about fifteen minutes, which was the time it was visible. It was not to be discerned, however, after the sun had quitted the horizon."

This observation is difficult to resolve, due to a paucity of information, but may be some sort of refractive or reflective aberration related to the (sun).

1868

"A UFO VISION"

In about 1975, a 15-page document came to my notice. The material described itself as a *Copy from the Memorandum Book of Fred Wm. Birmingham, the Engineer to the Council of Parramatta. A machine to go through the air. A.D. 1873.*

It was ostensibly prepared by a group of people, with the work co-ordinated by Mr T.V. Homan (now deceased) – a former staff member of the UFO Investigation Centre (UFOIC). The undated copy was at least known to have been produced during the 1950s.

If the "Memorandum Book" of Fred Wm. Birmingham is to be believed, then Parramatta, in 1868, played host to a most peculiar "machine to go through the air." Although I had the *Memorandum Book* copy in my possession for some years, other activities always largely managed to prevent me from carrying out my desire to confirm the possible historical validity of the Birmingham account. It was not until January, 1980, that an oblique stimulus appeared which was sufficient to encourage me to launch into what has developed into a detailed and exhaustive enquiry into the *Memorandum Book of Fred Wm. Birmingham*.

That stimulus was *An Account of a Meeting with Denizens of Another World - 1871 - William Robert Loosley - edited and with commentary by David Langford*. Although I found the Loosley/Langford account unconvincing and unsatisfactory, it was enough to project me into attempting to see whether there was something of substance behind the Birmingham account. My scepticism of Langford's book was justified. Years later he confirmed it had been a hoax.

THE ACCOUNT

The *Memorandum book, A.D. 1873* attributed to the hand of one "Fred. Wm. Birmingham, C.E. & Lic. Surveyor, Parramatta, Australia." gives an account of an "aerial machine" -- "A machine to go through the air."

"On the night of the 25th - 26th July Anno Domino (*original spelling*) 1868, I had a wonderful dream -- a vision..."

Birmingham described standing under the verandah of his rented cottage in Duck's Lane, Parramatta, when he saw up in the sky, to the north-east, the passage of a bizarre apparitional procession. This consisted of "the Lord Bishop of Sydney's head in the air looking intently upon me in a frowning half laughing mood... I watched it intently and when it had travelled to the east it dimmed -- just as one loses his focus by quickly drawing in or out the slide of a telescope."

In the same manner, "the Premier's head twice appeared... this dimmed and again the Lord Bishop's head shone forth as it were looking intently and impudently upon me, and travelling southerly to about s.s-east."

Birmingham dropped his gaze to ponder the extraordinary display. "After some considerable time I determined to look at the head or heads again," but they were gone.

"A Machine to go through the Air"

"I retraced the course the head had taken and just in the spot where I first saw the head I saw an 'Ark' and while looking at it - moving along the same track as the head had taken -- I said to myself aloud, 'Well that is a beautiful vessel.' I had no sooner ended the sentence than I was made aware that I was not alone, for to my right hand and a little to the rear of my frontage a distinct voice said, slowly -- 'That's a machine to go through the air.'"

"In a little time I replied - 'It appears to me more like a vessel for going upon the water, but, at all events, it's the loveliest thing I ever saw.'"

"I then felt that somehow or another the spirit and I were as it may have been spiritually on the highest part of the Parramatta Park."

By this time, "the machine" had moved through the air in a zig-zag fashion, "then quite, stopped, the forward motion and descended some twenty feet or so as gently as a feather on the grass," at a distance of about 20 yards from Birmingham and the "spirit."

Birmingham described the ark in the following way:

"...through a brown colour (rubber!) all over at a distance... its peculiar shapings are well impressed upon my mind and the colour seemed to blend with faint, flitting shades of steel blue, below and appearing tremulous and like what one might term magnified scales on a large fish, the latter being as it were flying in the air, (the machine has not the shape of anything that has life)."

The "spirit" was described by Birmingham as being "like a neutral tint shade (white? - B.C.) and the shape of a man in his usual frock dress."

It said to him, "Have you a desire or do you wish to enter upon it?"

Birmingham replied, "Yes."

"Then come" - said the spirit, thereupon we were lifted off the grass and gently carried through the air and onto the upper part of the machine."

Aboard the "Ark"

On the machine, the spirit showed Birmingham two cylinders, located at the front and back of it, indicating their purpose, "by downward motion of hand."

The spirit beckoned the surveyor to enter the "pilot house" (as Birmingham termed a part of the machine) saying, "Step in."

Birmingham described how he went down about three steep steps. They led into the pilot house room, which was about three and a half

feet lower than the deck of the machine. The only feature of the room was a table, about five feet by three and a half feet and two and a half feet high covered with material like oilskin. "or perhaps iron covered with rubber cloth tightly." About two feet separated the table and the walls of the room. Birmingham referred to how, "everything appeared very strong, the sides I noticed were extremely thick, about six inches -- and I (then) wondered why they were so strong in 'a machine to go through the air'."

Standing alone at the rear end of the table, whereupon he rested one hand, Birmingham began to repent agreeing to "entering upon" the "ark."

"I felt miserably queer -- just like one who undertaking a billet or post he knows nothing of. So I remained for some considerable time, when I was aroused as it were from my reverie by the voice of the spirit on my right hand, who said, 'Here are some papers for your guidance'."

The hand of the spirit was resting on the table and within it were several printed papers. The first paper was covered with figures and formulae.

"...Thinking the formulae and figures of other kinds might be too intricate for my comprehension I said to the spirit -- 'Oh! Will I want them?' The spirit replied slowly, but with marked emphasis, 'it is absolutely necessary that you should know these things, but, you can study them as you go on'."

"... I again cast down my eyes between my hands as it were on the table and considering silently the words of the holy spirit and when I looked about I found I was alone in the ark!

"So I fell, I suppose, into my usual sleeping state, and waking next morning deeply impressed with that vision of the night..."

Birmingham pondered his "vision" occasionally but could only rationalise (to his own satisfaction at least) the first portion, namely that it reminded him: "that I must serve God by conforming to the Christian doctrine and laws of his church. (Christ's Bride). As to the second portion of the vision I could not conclude what it meant - at least in any satisfactory way ('a machine to go through the

air' -- or in other words, the ark mentioned in the Book of Revelations!)"

Things did not end there for Frederick William Birmingham

The Opening Gate

On March 27, 1871, he was struck by the strange behaviour of the gate latch to his veranda. It seemed to mysteriously keep opening by itself even when under scrutiny.

"I need hardly say I was astounded for a time... The thing has sunk deeply into my mind even to my very soul, and I now know that the power of god never sleeps. (The latch for years before and years after this occurrence never did rise without hands to it or hand and cane)."

"A thing to be accomplished"

"Day by day and at night in my wakeful moments I have often rehearsed the wonderful dreams I have had, and coupling them one day with the vision of the Lord Bishop's head and the latch rising, I came down from the hill in the Parramatta Park firmly convinced that the vision was gradually unfolding itself and 'the machine to go through the air' was a thing (through God's mercy) to be accomplished.

"I sat down at the same end of the table where from I saw the latch rise, calculating pressures etc. and taking a match box in my hand and letting it drop on the table I said aloud 'But, how in the name of goodness can I overcome 'gravity'. I instantly felt in my left ear a sound like that produced by pressing a large sea shell close to one's ear, and the words 'Are not the sides greater than a third'.

Becoming excited and in great joy I said aloud, "Yes, and the sides and bottom working together can overcome the top'. This was the first practical clue as to forming the interior parts of the machine I saw in the vision of the aforementioned night 25th - 26th July, 1868. (About three years and nine months had passed away viz to the 15th April, 1872)."

The Background To The Manuscript

Are we dealing with a copy of a legitimate historical document, or a literary hoax

perpetrated more recently? As far as it has been possible to determine the copy of the *Memorandum Book of Fred. Wm. Birmingham*, from which the above account is drawn, was made by T.V. Homan, during the late 1950s. Mr Homan acquired the manuscript, when it was given to him, by a Mrs N. de Launte. Mr Homan came to know the de Launte family during the fifties, apparently because of his fringe interest in matters occult and spiritual.

Mrs de Launte obtained the original memorandum book from a Mr Wallace Haywood, a teacher, who lived in the Park, Parramatta, a street which ran along the south-western perimeter of Parramatta Park. How Mr Haywood obtained the memorandum book is unclear, but it is known that it was in his family for quite a long time, either obtained directly or indirectly. It may be significant that Haywood's home was situated within a few hundred yards of "the highest part of the Parramatta Park" - Parramatta Park Hill - ostensibly the landing site of the ark in Birmingham's vision.

FRED. WM. BIRMINGHAM -- The Man Fred Wm. Birmingham was a real person, and lived in Duck's Lane, Parramatta, between 1868 and 1873, as alleged in the *Memorandum Book*.

I found nothing in the *Memorandum Book of Fred. Wm. Birmingham... A.D 1873*, which was inconsistent with information known at that time in the 19th century. No apparent anachronism exists in the manuscript's text. The allusion to Birmingham's surprise as to why the ark's furnishings were "extremely thick" and "very strong," and the reference to rubber, steel, centrifugal pumps and "positive and negative electricity" are realistic for the period of the manuscript - 1868 to 1873.

The *Memorandum Book* is therefore consistent with the period in which it is based. Research has taken the established existence of the document, back at least to the early 1940s, when it was in the possession of the Parramatta school teacher. The case for the manuscript being what it purports to be -- a *Memorandum Book* written by a Parramatta resident in 1873 -- is, I believe, well established. The chance of it being a literary hoax perpetrated around the early 1940s or earlier, certainly seems quite remote.

Discussion:

Many aspects of the Birmingham vision are common to the rich harvest of "contactee"

stories of the 1950s, other "contact" tales and even "abductions." Some of these elements include "the invitation," "levitation," tours of the "machine," "alien tutelage." ESP, precognition or other faculties, disorientation and bizarre "follow up" experiences.

The bizarre nature of the Birmingham vision (the dream-like quality of the account, floating heads, spirits, flying, instantaneous relocation, poltergeists, voices and not-the-least -- visions -- all elements of dreams, psychotic episodes, hallucinations or other realities, depending where your preferences lie), does not, in my mind, lessen its relevancy to modern UFO accounts of contacts, contactees, abductions and the like.

The impossible and the totally absurd are no longer strange bedfellows in today's UFO accounts. So as the bizarre fabric of UFO experiences continues to be woven onto the world scene and incorporated into our culture at what seems to be both a subtle but profound level, I consider it unlikely that such accounts will cease. The bizarre and impossible will continue to emerge. But at what level of human existence are these sorts of experiences occurring.

Were the visions of Fred. Wm. Birmingham objective or subjective in nature? Does the *Memorandum Book* record a real physical event or is it principally psychological in origin? Perhaps the event had some physical basis, but was embroidered by fantasy and imagination. Probably most contactee, contact and abduction events of the modern era beg the same questions.

In 1873, Birmingham had a clear and undeniable daylight sighting of a UFO.

"The most extraordinary cloud"
(And a UFO ?)

His strange memorandum book continues:

"My thoughts have been continually bent on unravelling and learning the matter, and the little monies I could spare went towards experimenting and each experiment learnt me something but, on the last of the three principal occasions, I was disappointed and felt unhappy and laid on my back on my 'couch' for a long time (some hours) thinking and when I had finished all of my thinking I said aloud to myself - 'Well, I don't care, I believe it firmly and try I will if I should fail a

thousand times, to the day of my death I will believe in it'.

"So saying I threw myself on my feet and went out to the kitchen (at 7 p.m.) and slowly took my evening meal. The sun was or had just set. My door was open and my eyes were toward the sky which was quite clear, excepting three small clouds of Van Dyke brown colour, in the south-west a little separate.

"The middle one being the largest, drew my attention and was without doubt, the most extraordinary cloud in its wonderful movements that I ever saw. I made a sketch of it which I keep because it is evidence that we are taught betimes by the great and good spirit."

Birmingham records the date as March 9, 1873.

Out of the middle "cloud" appeared two screw-like appendages, which projected downwards. Between these "screws" appeared a "second shape with like two flat necks on a turtle shaped body". How it came there puzzled Birmingham. The "necks" bent up as the screws rotated about seven times more.

"As the screws reversed the neck(s) came down gradually to the horizontal position and after a few minutes (2 or 3 minutes) the screw part rotated the second time and reversed as before. After this double operation the 'turtle' disappeared, I then knew not where to.

"After a few minutes lapse of time I was astonished (and said aloud) 'Well I declare! The turtle is forming again', and sure enough, in the same shape and place it remained for a pause of a few minutes, and to my surprise the movements were exactly the same as the previous series, namely twice screwed and twice reversed all the same forms as before.

"After a couple of minutes the turtle began to fade away and the last shred of it I saw winding around and going upwards to the middle cloud and to my surprise the two big three-threaded screws folded up like the arms of a bear and lost their shape in the middle cloud! Just after this the whole three clouds which had remained stationary in the sky for, as truly as I can reckon, (without a clock or watch) twenty

to twenty five minutes or so - moved quickly south-easterly, formed into one cloud and in about three minutes melted out of sight. This going away of the clouds was so quickly done that I had to rise quickly and step out of doors to watch them!"

"There may be a meaning in all this."

"I thought silently over the thing that was shown me, and said I to myself 'How could these things be done!' So I concluded that the cloud material was worked upon by positive and negative electricity - for wind there was none seemingly - after some lapse of time I said to myself 'There may be a meaning in all this' - doubled over and twice each time. I then thought of Pharaoh's 'dream' of the fat and the lean kine - but said I (inwardly) 'Pharaoh's was a dream but this just now seen by me was in daylight!'

"It sunk as it were deep into my soul and I concluded that the thing was shown me by God, but I could not on that day unravel it - but my fixed belief then (and ever since) was that there was a meaning - a teaching for me in it."

There the account finishes.

Birmingham's memorandum book indicated he had become obsessed with learning the secret of the "ark". However he died, ostensibly without finding out the secret, in 1893, 19 years before a more prosaic "machine to go through the air" landed in Parramatta Park.

On June 29, 1912, William E. Hart, a Parramatta dentist and holder of Australia's first aerial pilot's licence, won Australia's first air race.

He challenged the visiting American flier, "Wizard" Stone, to a twenty mile race for a stake of 250 pounds. Stone lost his way, landing at Lakemba, but Hart, a much less experienced pilot, finished the flight in 23 minutes and landed as planned in Parramatta Park.

"...I came down from the hill in the Parramatta Park firmly convinced that the vision was gradually unfolding itself and 'the machine to go through the air' was a thing (through God's mercy) to be accomplished." Fred. Wm. Birmingham. 1873.

THE VIEW FROM BRITAIN THE JENNY RANGLES COLUMN

(Originally published in *The MUFON JOURNAL*, January 2001)

Editor's note: This issue, *Project Red Book* is proud to announce the start of a series of articles written by best-selling author Jenny Randles. The column was originally written for the USA's biggest-selling non news-stand UFO magazine, *The MUFON Journal*, (Mutual UFO Network), which has thousands of subscribers in the U.S. and world-wide.

As most of the articles are only of a vaguely topical nature, these articles can be read today without any problems, but do bear in mind the original date of publication.

With the kind permission of both Jenny, and Dwight Connelly, the editor of *The MUFON Journal*, those articles will begin a run here- and only here - in the pages of *Project Red Book*. My thanks go out to both of them for their generosity.

Firstly, I want to thank Dwight Connelly and all at MUFON for inviting me to report on UFOlogy as it happens on this side of the Atlantic. I will try to use this column to bring you a flavour of the UFO debate in my native Britain. You will find some things that are familiar but others that seem very different over here.

To start with I want to update an issue that somewhat defines British UFOlogy - since the UK was the place from whence the 'crop circle' mystery was exported to the rest of the world - although, ironically, it did not start here. There were, in fact, multiple crop circle events in Canada and Australia well before the British UFO community discovered these strange circular patterns in cereal fields during the summer of 1980.

This past year has been the most active in this field since 1991 so it is appropriate to offer a status report.

The circles were first found in fields of Wiltshire oats about 100 miles south west of London. These initial marks were rough swathes and whilst they had the look of a giant cookie cutter from the sky stamping out an oval in the field they were not sufficiently well defined to suggest any kind of intelligence at work.

Indeed these early circles were investigated by just a few UFOlogists (led by Ian Mrzyglod - now part of the UFOIN¹ team) and one physicist, Dr Terence Meaden (editor of the *Journal of Meteorology*). Their mutual opinion that they were created by a hot weather

whirlwind was perfectly reasonable given the form of these 1980 circles.

But the problems grew as more and more circles appeared and exploded in complexity almost weekly. By 1983, when the tabloid press discovered them in a big way, the numbers had risen and no longer were they rough ovals but multiple formations. The complexity continued to escalate until we had animal glyphs, gigantic formations in mathematical patterns complete with straight lines and undeniable evidence of order and intelligence behind them.

The battle lines were drawn. On the one hand were the original investigators, sure that basic circles were weather induced but suspicious of the complex ones (the first hoax - a moderately complex pattern - was exposed in July 1983 when one national paper paid a farmer to try to fool the rest of the media and many others soon followed.)

But a growing number of UFOlogists and new age mystics (already strong in the area because of the connections with ancient sites like Stonehenge and Avebury) saw the gradual increase in complexity as a warning of ecological catastrophe -surely coming from another intelligence.

Then - overnight - the media interest was killed off suddenly in 1991 when two elderly artists claimed that they had fooled the world by producing ever evolving patterns using boards and rope. Their yarn convinced the press. But the circles and the researchers refused to go away.

In fact, these two chaps, Doug and Dave, had not claimed to create more than a small

¹ UFO Investigation Network

percentage of all circles. And, much more importantly, said they based the idea on apparently real circles that formed in snake infested reed beds in Northern Queensland, Australia during 1966. (See *"Something in the Air"*, elsewhere in this issue – Dave Baker)

Thus there always was a crop circle mystery even before the hoaxers began their games. The media have simply missed the significance of that vital clue.

Against this background the past year has proved fascinating not merely because the media rediscovered circles with a vengeance, but because several key events took place amidst the numerous pretty patterns that dotted the crop fields as always and have fast become a major tourist attraction (another clue not to be overlooked!).

Although hoaxers had been caught in the act before one man who was arrested faking a circle was successfully prosecuted. He also turned out to be a well-known UFOlogist. One of his motives was to test out the research community, but, of course, he was unlucky because most tricksters escape the courts to the chagrin of effected farmers. But - again - incidentally, most of the damage is not done by the actual hoaxer (flattened crop is still harvestable) but the hordes of sightseers that their handiwork attracts.

Yet for me the real intrigue during the recent season was the curious reversal of positions between the 'believers' and the 'skeptics'. Colin Andrews, who had long argued for the strangeness of the phenomenon, announced a theory that revolves around a natural magnetic/electrical energy field triggering the non hoaxed circles.

Meantime, the once cynical media are now championing far more remarkable solutions. The well known crime writer Colin Wilson had a major article in a responsible newspaper (the Daily Mail) explaining why he believes aliens are creating these marks as a message to us all. Wilson's argument was based on an incomplete knowledge of the mystery. For instance, he charged that if circles were natural in origin they would have always occurred. Yet, indeed, the biggest argument in favour of the natural origin of some circles is that they have - in fact - always occurred!

Whilst the media may have been AWOL for some years, crop circle research has not been idle during that time. It has established

conclusively that outside the pretty widespread hoaxing that clearly is rife a smaller scale but real, if usually more simplistic, phenomenon does genuinely exist.

This is the phenomenon that has provoked some circles virtually everywhere (and not just in crop fields because circles have been found in grass, sand, snow and other mediums - but these rarely last long enough to be noticed). There is even a circle on a wet road surface tied to one of Britains best known abduction cases (that of police officer Alan Godfrey in Todmorden, West Yorkshire in November 1980).

Furthermore a large body of eyewitnesses have actually seen them during formation - usually observing an invisible energy laying flat the field (in one case described as like a fan opening up). And numerous sources - from pioneering aviation surveys of the landscape during the first half of the 20th century - to Victorian age science journals (such as Nature) and even back to old woodcuts and folk tales - all seem to establish the pattern that there have been circles reported for at least hundreds of years.

But, importantly, almost without exception these observed and historical circles have been of the simpler variety – not animal glyphs or mathematically precise patterns as so common today.

So, as we enter the third decade of crop circle research it is interesting that whilst the pioneer working researchers have come to establish what is, and is not, true, and have moderated their stance to a more rational - if still fascinating - one, the move to revive the alien force behind crop circles is coming from a media long starved of the big story.

Of course, there will be readers of this journal who support the view that an alien intelligence is creating some of the circles. And, to be fair, there are many other aspects to this debate that I do not have space to go into here. Without doubt an argument exists that some intelligence has used a long occurring natural phenomenon as the template on top of which to convey a message.

Indeed that seems to be precisely what has happened with the crop circle mystery - the only dispute being whether that message conveying intelligence is an alien one - seeking to warn us of the fate of the planet – or human

(and thus the message being conveyed is 'fooled you!')

My personal view is that circles are nine part hoax (basically the complex patterns) and one part some kind of atmospheric energy force (essentially the more simple patterns). But I am prepared to be convinced otherwise as no doubt further evidence will continue to appear.

In UFOlogy it is never wise to say that all questions are conclusively answered. That tempts the fates! But in British UFOlogy, as you will find during coming issues, caution and objectivity are words that we use often. Just try not to translate them wrongly as disbelief and skepticism. Because usually they are not that - as I hope you will come to see through my future reports.

Jenny Randles, January 2001

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 12 March 2002

7:00pm – 10:00pm

THE MOSLEY'S ARMS

West Bar

Sheffield City Centre

****Note: To be confirmed:****

Special Guest Speaker

VALARIE SALIM

Author of "*Ghosts of Sheffield*"
& "*More Ghosts of Sheffield*"

PHONE DAVE FOR CONFIRMATION

EXPERT SAYS 'BEAST' MAY BE WILD DOG (*Grimsby Telegraph* 25 January 2002)

A leading wildlife warden says a mystery beast prowling Woodbury Common in East Devon is probably a large dog living wild.

Wildlife expert Trevor Bartlett spoke out after a series of new sightings of a large creature over the past few weeks at Newton Poppleford and Colaton Raleigh.

It was spotted by Mary Tenney about 500 yards from her Newton Poppleford home as being dark grey, big and like a puma.

Mrs Tenney of the Owls Hatch Nursery said: "It was about two weeks ago when I saw the creature from my kitchen window. It was on the brow of a field and it was walking from the direction of Colaton Raleigh through long grass.

"It must have been large because it was appearing above the high grass – it wasn't a deer because I am used to seeing them from where I live. It was so big it was the size of a puma and I had heard that the creature had been spotted by people in the area. It was walking across open fields."

The beast has been the talking point among regulars at the Otter Inn, Colaton Raleigh, following reports that it had been sighted at least three times in fields behind the pub and near Place Court in the village.

Mr Bartlett, of the East Devon Wildlife Rescue Centre on Woodbury Common, said he remained open-minded but thought it likely the creature was a rogue dog.

He said: "I have had hundreds of reports of this creature over the years. Nobody has found droppings pointing to it being a large cat and no footprints have been discovered believe it is rogue dog and there are now more reports of creatures like this in Britain than there are on the plains of Africa."

Mr Bartlett said he ruled out the animal being a puma. "Had livestock been killed we would have taken it more seriously."

SOMETHING IN THE AIR

FRANCES WHITING

(The Sunday Daily Mail - Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, 20 Jan 2002)

It has been more than 70 years since the devil man came looking for Jack Muriata.

Then, he was a little boy playing with his friends on the sandy banks of the Tully River. Today he is a much respected Girrigun elder but Muriata, 79, says time has not erased the terror of that moonless night all those years ago.

"Our mothers and grandmothers used to tell us not to go too far from camp in case the Devil Man came calling," Muriata said. "Devil men, we Aborigines call them, or chic ah bunnahs.

"White people call them UFOs, and if you get caught by one, our grandmothers told us, you will die.

"One night I was with my friends and we wandered too far from our camp to the river.

"We were playing in the dunes when this great big ball of light, so bright, you have never seen such a light, came flying down from the sky above us.

"It lit up the whole river, and then it zoomed down low along the banks, like it was looking for us.

"My friends were yelling, 'Run! Run!' and we all took off as fast as we could back towards camp and our mothers.

"You don't want to get caught by the devil man."

Devil men, "chic a bunnahs", unidentified flying objects, call them what you will, believe in them or not - but whatever they are, and whatever name they go by, they do seem to be particularly attracted to the small, picturesque north Queensland town of Tully.

About 180km south of Cairns with a population of about 3400, Tully would be like any other pretty sugar cane town in the far north, but for several factors.

First of all, there's the famous Tully Gorge, where white-water rafting enthusiasts from around the world gather to shoot down its rapids.

Then there is Tully's extraordinary weather - with an average annual rainfall of 4252mm, it is officially Australia's wettest town and has decided to build a giant gumboot to celebrate the fact.

But if you believe the locals, Tully's most interesting claim to fame is that it is Australia's UFO headquarters, with hundreds of sightings every year.

Muriata says the Aborigines have known about Tully's strange visitors "since the beginning", and other, older locals such as 82-year-old cane farmer Albert Pennisi agree.

"Everyone who lives in Tully knows about the UFOs here," Pennisi says. "It's just that some folks choose to talk about it and some folks don't."

Pennisi is one who does - and no wonder. It was on his 83ha farm that Tully's most famous UFO sighting took place.

On the morning of January 19, 1966, Pennisi's neighbour George Pedley was driving his tractor across his banana farm when he heard a strange hissing sound.

At first Pedley - who no longer speaks publicly about his experience - thought the hissing was from his tractor tyres, but Pennisi says the sound was instead coming from a medium sized, horseshoe-shaped lagoon on Pennisi's property.

"Suddenly George saw this machine rise up from our lagoon - it rose about 30 to 40 feet (10-12m) - and then it turned on its side and just shot away." Pennisi said.

"It was gone, vanished into thin air."

But Pennisi and others who have visited the site believe it left behind a souvenir of its visit.

"George went to the lagoon straight away and he saw the water still swirling, still churning around.

"I think it really shook him up, and he came to get me but I was away. Later on when I got back we went to the lagoon together and, by crikey, did I get a shock."

Floating on Pennisi's normally unremarkable lagoon was a UFO "nest", a 9m circular mass of reeds, tightly woven in an intricate design swirling clockwise and so strong, Pennisi says, it could easily support the weight of 10 men.

Pedley's sighting of the blue-grey saucer was never repeated, but whatever made that first "nest" on Pennisi's dam kept making it.

"They came back in 1972, 1975, 1980, 1982 and 1987," Pennisi said.

"There was always the big one, but we also got about 22 smaller ones and, the strange thing is, while the big one always went clockwise, (the others) were always anti-clockwise."

Determined to explain the phenomena, Pennisi took to watching the lagoon at all hours of the night.

"I wasn't scared. I didn't take any weapons with me except my cane knife but I never did find out why they came to my farm - or why they suddenly stopped coming, but I've got a fair idea why."

Pennisi believes interest in his lagoon (carloads of people came at the height of its fame) plus the attention of the police and the air force may have made whatever - or whoever - was visiting his farm, shy off.

"We had people from all over the world arriving: UFO researchers, police, the air force investigators were watching us 24 hours a day. It was all a bit much for a cane farmer."

After an extensive investigation by the police and the RAAF, a 1966 report by the Commonwealth Aerial Phenomena Investigation Organisation (CAPIO), concluded:

"There is no explanation for the visible phenomena reported but it could have been associated with or the result of 'down draughts', 'willy willies' or 'water spouts' that are known to occur in the (north Queensland) area."

Pennisi, a down-to-earth farmer not usually given to flights of fancy, laughs at the explanation.

"They also tried to tell me it was a low-flying helicopter, a mini tornado, even a crocodile. But anyone who saw it will tell you whatever made it was not of this world, my friend.

"Before this thing happened to me, I might have been a bit sceptical, too, but things change when you see things with your own eyes."

And for many Tully locals, seeing it with their own eyes is all that it takes to turn them from sceptics into believers.

Semi-retired handyman Les Holland, 60, reckons Tully is "crawling with UFOs".

"I think I would have had trouble believing it if I hadn't seen them myself," Les says. "There's a hell of a lot of activity here.

"If you look up in the night sky in Tully, you'll see them soon enough. Lots of very bright lights, moving quickly through the sky. They're par for the course, but occasionally you see something really mind-blowing.

"A few years ago I saw this massive one hovering above us - you could see its lights: red, yellow, green. It was completely silent, just hovering there then, in a flash, it was gone."

Holland's son Morgan, 17, has also had his fair share of sightings. A keen fisherman, his late-night trips have yielded much more than the tasty jungle perch he is angling for.

"Morgan was out one night about 18 months ago looking out over Tully Heads when he very clearly saw a machine in the sky which looked like a pyramid with the top part cut off it.

"He could see bands across it . . . he could see the whole thing quite clearly. It didn't make any noise - most of them don't, they're just silently hovering.

"It didn't bother Morgan and he didn't bother it. That's the thing about Morgan, all he wants to do is fish - crocs, sharks, UFOs nothing gets in the way of his fishing."

But one young Tully mother's experiences with what she believes were UFOs were not so casual.

"I was living on a property just outside of town right on top of this hill," says the woman, who asked not to be identified.

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...AND BEYOND!!!

UFOs, conspiracies, fortean and paranormal events compiled by Dave Baker

EXPERTS CALLED TO INVESTIGATE SNOWDONIA'S SPACE RIDDLE

A 20 metre-long trench has mysteriously appeared on a remote North Wales mountainside - arousing the interest of some of Britain's leading astronomers.

The gash, about 2,500ft high, between Moel Eilio and Snowdon, starts amid a cluster of smashed rocks, ending in boggy ground close to a fence.

Astronomers were last night investigating the possibility the gouge mark could have been caused by a meteor smashing into the earth.

Another less likely theory is that it may have been caused by a lightning strike.

One expert told the Daily Post yesterday: "It is all fascinating stuff, and if it is eventually found to have been caused by a meteor it will be virtually unique in Wales."

Local walkers and fell-runners first noticed some disturbance, but it was not until Caernarfon builder, Mike Blake, a member of the Eryri Harriers club, examined it in more detail that the interest of leading authorities was aroused.

Mike, a keen amateur photographer, visited the site and took photographs. He has sent them to the Natural History Museum and Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire.

"It's clear that some natural occurrence has taken place, but what exactly it was, I just don't know," he said.

"It appears that a rocky outcrop was hit and shattered, as there are fragments over a wide area. Leading away from it is a large gouge mark about 20 metres long, which ends in the boggy ground."

Mike tried to clear a drainage ditch to see what lay at the bottom of the trench, but it merely filled up again.

"I am desperately anxious to know what

caused it, but one thing is clear, and that is that it was not caused by any vehicle," he said.

He and others are adamant the damage had not occurred in October when the British Mountain Relays were held in the area.

This week Mike has been in touch with the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland, whose director, Professor Mark Bailey, said he was intrigued by Mike's detailed description.

"There does appear to have been a violent impact with the mountainside," he said.

One puzzling feature, he said, was the long trench, as that would indicate an object having hit the ground at a shallow angle, while a meteorite would be expected to approach earth much more directly.

"It would be wonderful if it were a meteorite because we don't get many of them in this part of the world, but something about this does not ring true. If it were a meteorite, it would almost certainly have been clearly visible," said Professor Bailey.

"It is, nonetheless, fascinating, and I shall be trying to follow this up."

His concerns about the angle of trajectory and the trench were shared by Jay Tait, director of the Knighton Observatory in Powys.

"It is well worth further investigation, and I shall be following this with great interest. If it were a meteorite, it would be virtually unique in Wales, the last one in England having been in the 1960s," he said.

Tom Muxlow, an astronomer at Jodrell Bank Observatory, added: "It could conceivably be a meteorite but one would expect some debris, and that requires further investigation and geological analysis."

BONY BIGFOOT ALMOST STREET-MEAT (*Wireless Flash* | 16 Jan 2002)

Multnomah Falls, Oregon, USA—An Idaho

family recently had a run-in with a Bigfoot that almost turned into a run-over -- as in road kill. Linda Boydson claims she and her son came within inches of running over an unusually-thin bigfoot while driving near Multnomah Falls, Oregon.

Boydson says she was zooming around a corner on the freeway late one night and saw a "very, very skinny, 9 foot tall, hairy man" standing in the slow lane.

She barely missed hitting the creature -- probably because it was so skinny.

However, despite being super-thin, Boydson doesn't think the Sasquatch was bulimic because it looked as muscular as a well-toned athlete.

However, Boydson admits her first thought when she saw how bony the Bigfoot looked was "Go eat something, Sasquatch!"

PSYCHIC OPS

(Geoff Gray, New York Magazine January 21, 2002)

"Remote viewers" say the Feds have sought their help since 9/11. Might this explain all those "credible, nonspecific threats"?

Earlier this month, Prudence Calabrese, a West Coast psychic, flew into New York on business. She had two meetings: One was a catered sushi lunch at an uptown hedge fund that had hired her, for about \$20,000, to predict this year's profit outlook. ("Their investors will be very happy.") The second, she says, was with agents from the FBI.

During the Cold War, the Pentagon spent millions training "remote viewers" to spy on Russian military targets. (The Soviets, of course, had their own psychics.) The program, called Stargate, was very controversial, very X-Files, and until funding was cut in 1995, completely classified.

Now some of the psychics connected to that program and others, like Calabrese, say that federal officials are calling upon them again. Lyn Buchanan, a former CIA remote-viewing trainer, says that since September 11 he has received requests for intelligence from three separate federal agencies. And Las Vegas-based psychic Angela Thompson Smith says she has been asked by the Feds (she won't reveal which ones) to help identify perpetrators

of the World Trade Center attacks and the anthrax letters, and to pinpoint future terrorist targets.

What do remote viewers see, and how do they see it? Calabrese, 36, mentally visualizes her subject and blindly jots down "doodles" or "squiggles." Then she lists ten words that come to mind. Afterward, she sketches a more complete drawing -- "the big picture." She repeats this process three times, then compares notes with the other fourteen viewers in her firm. "It's about 75 percent accurate.", she says. "The data is always correct -- it's the interpretation that's off sometimes."

Before her meeting with the FBI, over coffee at the Algonquin, Calabrese shares some of her report. "It's not very pleasant," she says. "We see more attacks." As for the location -- no big surprises there. "We are all seeing the subway," she says, pulling out three sketches, said to be from three separate viewers, featuring giant wormlike objects snaking beneath crowded streets. The worms are circled: "That's the target." The cryptic diagrams include words like SNOW BANK. "That could suggest a season.", she explains helpfully.

A spokesman from the FBI's New York Bureau won't confirm or deny Calabrese's alleged meetings. "We have 1,100 investigators here," says Joe Valiquette. "She could have met with anyone." In Washington, however, her name was more familiar. A former Justice Department lawyer said Calabrese's psychic findings, along with those of other remote viewers, have been looked at in the past, and in some cases, the information was "elevated up the channels".

The FBI does not use psychics as official sources, the lawyer says; it happens "under the table." After September 11, "the attorney general told us to think outside the box," says this person, who still works closely with federal law-enforcement officials. "This is definitely thinking outside the box." (Perhaps that explains why Calabrese's premonitions sound ever so slightly like Ashcroft's "credible but nonspecific threats".)

But critics wonder if Calabrese's marketing instincts have gotten the better of her. "I doubt she's making it up," says Paul H. Smith, a former military viewer, and now president of Remote Viewing Instructional Services. "But she's also, well, a little out there."

Indeed. On her Website:

<http://www.LargerUniverse.com/> Calabrese claims to have had a vision of the World Trade Center attacks way back in 1997, with help from a source she refers to as "the Grey Dude", a three-foot-six-inch extraterrestrial who appears in her bathroom at night. So where's Osama bin Laden? It seems that the Grey Dude's guess is as good as anyone's.

LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS? VATICAN AIDE PONDERES THE POSSIBILITY

(9 Jan 2002 ZENIT.org News Agency)

Comments of Director of Astronomic
Observatory

ROME, (Zenit.org).- Scientific studies on the possibility of intelligent life on other planets is not against the Christian faith, says the director of the Vatican Astronomic Observatory.

Speaking in his own name, Father George Coyne told the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera* that such an extraterrestrial possibility "is an exciting prospect, which must be treated with caution."

"For the time being, there is no scientific evidence of life," the priest added in the interview published Monday. "However, we are gathering observations that point to this possibility. The universe is so large that it would be folly to say that we are the exception. The debate is ongoing and complex."

Father Coyne's suggested as a hypothesis that we imagine that there is life beyond the earth.

"If I were to meet an intelligent being from other worlds who revealed to me a spiritual life and told me that his people have also been saved by God through sending his only Son, he would ask me how it is possible that his only 'Son' was present in different places. Thoughts of this kind are a great challenge," the priest said.

"Heresies, one after the other, have tried to deny the humanity of God over the centuries," Father Coyne added. "Jesus Christ is true God and true man. Can this true man also appear in another planet? I don't know; I don't know whether I should deny or affirm this."

"The possibility of extraterrestrial intelligent

and spiritual life poses many questions," the priest said. "Anyway, science does not destroy the believer's faith, but stimulates it."

Father Coyne also addressed the question of the big-bang theory and its implications for the faith.

In this area, the priest advises caution. "It is true that the cosmology of the big bang is certain today as a scientific model," he said. "But it tells us very little about creation, or rather nothing, because creation as understood in the Bible does not answer the question about the origin of the universe, but why there is something instead of nothing."

"This is a theological response to a question of faith," Father Coyne said. "Science, however, is concerned with discovering the origin of the matter we know. In other words, sacred Scripture and theology do not refer to the way God created the universe. The two questions are not in conflict and, when this happens, very serious misunderstanding can arise."

The origins of the Vatican Astronomic Observatory go back to the time of Pope Gregory XII. He created a scientific commission responsible for studying the elements necessary for the reform of the liturgical calendar that took place in 1582.

The observatory now has two headquarters. One, in Castel Gandolfo, serves as an archive and library. It is located some 35 kilometers (21 miles) from Rome. The other, the Vatican Observatory Research Group in Tucson, Arizona, is located in one of the most important astronomic centres of the world.

IRISH INVENTOR CONSTRUCTS FREE ENERGY DEVICE

(Reuters January 23, 2002)

According to a recent report from Reuters, an Irish inventor says that he's spent the last 23 years trying to develop a power system capable of replenishing its own energy source, and the most amazing thing just happened: he's succeeded. For "security and privacy reasons" he's declined to give out his name to the public, but that's all he's keeping to himself. He wants everyone to know what he's accomplished and how it works.

The premise is almost too good to be true: self-replenishing energy that goes on indefinitely- or at least until the parts to the machinery it's

running wear out. The Internet is full of similar claims already. A quick search on "zero point energy" or "free energy" brings up pages of people who proclaim loudly that they've achieved it through magnets, coils and even crystals. Consequentially, skepticism for an accomplishment that actually does what it's supposed to do runs high among both professional and public circles. To date, every one of them has been disproved as being non-functional and deceptive in advertising.

This newest device is named, "The Jasker", supposedly a name derived from family abbreviations. The inventor claims it can be built to scale using off-the-shelf components and that it has the ability to power anything that requires a motor to run. Projections for use start with the home market and extend eventually all the way up to the automakers. They claim that their energy is emission-free and that the only cost required is that of the installation of the device itself.

Tom Hedrick is the only person associated with the project willing to provide his name to the press, and that may be because he is chief executive of a company that's trying to set up a way to license the product for use in the United States. In an interview with Reuters, he insists that this device is so phenomenal that it "shatters the laws of science".

Experts in the field are quick to point out that a device such as the one described here defies the very most basic law of physics: thermodynamics. Simply put, it's impossible to get out of something more energy than you put in. Since that fundamental law has not yet been disproved, a device such as this would be impossible by their terms. Which leads to one of two conclusions: the makers of the Jasker are either Nobel Prize-winners or they don't know what they're dealing with. Which scenario are correct remains to be seen.

Preliminary demonstrations seem impressive. A prototype roughly the size of a dishwasher ran for a total of just over two hours, using four 12-volt car batteries as an initial power source. At the end of the demonstration, power levels on the batteries showed that rather than expending any battery-life on the project, they were slightly more charged at the end of the experiment than they had been in the beginning. Running on just their power alone, mainstream science would say that the batteries used in this experiment should have been drained completely in about one and a half minutes.

TRAWLER NETS GIANT SQUID

(14 January, 2002)

A giant squid has been netted off the UK coast for the first time in more than 50 years. The 3.15-metre-long (10.3 feet) creature, caught by an Aberdeen-based trawler, will be a star feature at the National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth, Devon.

The squid, believed to be female and three years old, did not survive being brought to the surface.

It is thought it would have stretched to about 5.5m in length if it still had its two feeding tentacles, which were lost when it was caught.

After DNA tests have been conducted, the squid will be preserved in formaldehyde and displayed in its own custom-made tank in the Creatures Of The Deep area of the aquarium's new Ocean Discovery Zone.

The facility will open to the public in May.

"Giant squid are incredibly rare and scientists have never seen one alive," said Doug Herdson, information officer of the National Marine Aquarium.

"They live in very deep waters, at about 500 metres and below, and provide fodder for the sperm whale.

"It is believed that the last known giant squid to be washed up in the UK - near Aberdeen - was six metres long, but that was way back in 1949."

Others are known from New Zealand and Newfoundland, and a giant squid featured in the Jules Verne novel, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

The aquarium will conduct a number of scientific investigations, in conjunction with experts from the Marine Biological Association and the University of Plymouth, prior to the squid going on display.

TALKIN' BOLLOXINSKI

Hi! I'm Tom Bolloxinski. Welcome to the first of what I hope –you listenin' Dave? – will be a regular section of little ol' *Project Red Book*. There's an awful lot of crap out there passing as ufology – no names, no pack-drill right? and –hey-you guys know who I'm talking about anyway, right? But here in *my* column, I can promise you that you'll get the truth. I'm gonna cut through the bullshit and the red-tape, the kookie conspiracy theories and the skeptical debunking, and hit ya right between the eyes with what's *really* going on out there. Some of it might shock you, some of it might scare you, but one thing I guarran-goddamn- tee it *won't* do...is bore you!

Now let's talk Bolloxinski...

AREA 51

We've all heard about it, right? We've all seen the photos. But what do we *really* know about this top-secret military base? In this month's column, I'm going to tell you the truth in this *Beginner's Guide to Area 51*.

Constructed in 1954 at Groom Lake, a dry-lake bed 120 miles northwest of Las Vegas, it's location in the middle of Nevada's remote and desolate desert is perfect for ultra-secrecy: so desolate and so perfect, in fact, that Area 50, and Area 52 are *still* secret, but probably somewhere to the left and right of Area 51, respectively.

Primarily a Research /Development /Testing facility for Black Project Aircraft, this was the birth-place of many of the world's most celebrated craft: the U-2 spy-plane, the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird, the B-2 Stealth Bomber, the F-117A Nighthawk fighter and – according to my sources, the Reliant Robin.

Because of these, and other "special projects" we shall discuss later, security surrounding Area 51 and it's neighbouring site S-4 was so intense that for many years it's very existence was denied. In fact, Area 51 was once so secret that even the people who worked there didn't know it existed.

The workforce would be picked up by a big black bus with blacked-out windows, and driven under tight security to an airport in Las Vegas. There they were blindfolded, transferred to a big black aeroplane with

blacked-out windows, and flown to the base itself. And sometimes, the plane would even fly around for a bit, to confuse the passengers.

More disturbingly still, it has been suggested by at least one of my sources, that some of the workers were even *born* there, and were never allowed to leave.

The base was not even common knowledge amongst the military and Government. Funding was siphoned from Congress budgets by mis-directing and re-shuffling. Luckily, most bean-counting beaurocrats are pretty unimaginative, and probably didn't notice that the bill for paper-clips in the Pentagon had risen from \$50 a month to several million.

Even the President was not "in the loop", protected by "plausible deniability.", or maybe the fact that they just wouldn't understand.

That said, President Truman knew. Oh, and Eisenhower. But not Reagan. Although he *did* know that Spielberg's *ET* was "closer to the truth than anyone except three people in this room know". So maybe he did. Maybe they all did. Who knows?

Anyway, Area 51 was exposed to the world when a Russian spy satellite, actually photographing Soviet troop manoeuvres in Afganistan, accidentally snapped a shot of the facility. This is understandable – at one time, I'm sure we've all received our holiday snaps back from the pharmacists, and found a photo in there we can't remember taking.

Well, it must have been like that.

Allegedly, though, Area 51 is involved in more sinister and literally *unearthly* business, and it is this area of interest which is of direct interest to ufology.

According to reliable sources, Area 51 was one of the select, top-secret facilities to which the wreckage of the alien craft which crashed at Roswell, New Mexico was taken in 1947. It was here that the White-coats begun their arduous task of 'back-engineering' the extra-terrestrial technology.

So, Area 51 can also be said to be the birth-place, or 'womb' if you will, of fibre-optics, plastic, the micro-chip, the silicon chip, and

hell, even the goddamn oven-chip. (So I've heard).

It has also been suggested, specifically by a video, available in most stores, and which appeared on Fox TV, that alien corpses, or EBEs (Extraterrestrial Biological Entities) were recovered at Roswell, and became "guests of the United States of America".

Using my many years of experience – and I've seen some garbage, believe me, I think that we can declare this film absolutely authentic. For one thing, it's narrated by Stephen Williams who played the black-ops double agent 'X' in *The X-Files*. So it must be true.

The incredible video footage was apparently smuggled out of the ultra-top secret, mega-secure military base, in an Insider's trouser pocket. Or something. Anyway, the alarming film shows an actual EBE – an alien, of the Gray species (or "Grey" as you Brits call 'em!), under interrogation, or "interview" if you will, by military scientists. Apparently, under intense computer enhancement, you can even see a bowl of strawberry ice cream on it's bedside table - *another* point in the film's favour.

However, some skeptics have challenged the footage's authenticity, claiming that the alien's jerky movement's, dead, glassy eyes, latex-like skin, immovable mouth, habit of only being seen from the 'waist' up, and desire to be filmed in almost complete darkness suggests a 'puppet'.

Well most news-readers come under those descriptions...except the bit about the light, and I don't think anyone would dare to suggest that Larry King was a goddamn puppet!

Anyway, I think it's cool.

Before that though, the ET link was exposed to the world when Las Vegas' KLAS TV reporter George Knapp was approached by, and later interviewed, one Robert Lazar. Lazar claimed to be a scientist who had worked for a time on "recovered" alien spacecraft. There were three or four different "models", and Lazar was led to believe that at least one of these craft had been given to the U.S. Military by aliens.

There had been some kind of "agreement" between the U.S. and the Aliens, the details of which are nebulous, and change depending on whom you talk to. My source –who must remain nameless, but who I shall refer to as

'Rob Bazar', says that while he worked at Area 51, he became privvy to much of this information, and he believes that he has the true details.

As most of this information pertains more to topics I will explore in future columns; Majestic 12, Underground Bases, Roswell etc, I will be brief.

But basically, ever since the crash at Roswell, a secret cabal – MJ-12, and it's successors, began negotiations with the Aliens, often at Area 51. "Deals" were made, some frightening, some exhilarating. 'Rob Bazar' explained to me that one such deal was a trade – the Aliens presented the U.S. with their technology; working, complete spacecraft such as those worked on by Bob Lazar, cures for many medical complaints (which, for reasons I shall discuss in later columns the U.S. never revealed to the world) and other incredible technology. In return, the Aliens received something that *they* wanted. Rob is unsure what this was, but it can be no co-incidence that sales at the Las Vegas branch of Haagen-Daas went up by seventeen million percent. Especially the strawberry section.

Finally, Area 51's desolate location in the middle of the arid Nevada Desert also came into play in the 1970s, when NASA "supposedly" sent Mankind to the Moon. I say supposedly, because, according to another Fox TV Special, "*When Man Didn't Really Go to the Moon at All, No, They Didn't, Honestly, as God is My Judge*", NASA never really sent anyone to the Moon at all! As will be revealed in an upcoming column, the Moon landings were nothing more than an elaborate hoax- the greatest of all time –and Area 51 was an integral part of this.

For the so-called historic "footage" of the astronauts exploring the surface of the Moon was actually filmed at Area 51. Amongst some rocks.

So there you have it. The truth split from the lies; the information gleaned from the dis-information; the wheat separated from the chaff.

I've been talking Bolloxinski, and I'll see you next month...

Tom Bolloxinski, February 2001