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YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

(Vol 7 # 1)



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INTERNATIONAL BIGFOOT SYMPOSIUM

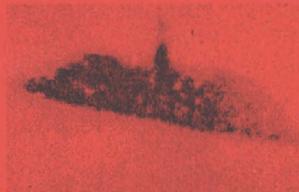
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£14:00 - 12 issues (1 year)

£8:00 - 6 issues (6 months)

sample issue - £1:50

Project Red Book is published by the Yorkshire UFO Society.

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"Fool of a Took!"

THE VIEW FROM BRITAIN

THE JENNY RANGLES COLUMN

(Originally published in The MUFON JOURNAL, July 2002)

(Editor's note :Please bear in mind the original date of publication. YUFOS extends its thanks to Jenny & to Dwight Connely, editor of *The MUFON Journal*, for permission to reproduce this work.)

ANALYSIS OF A WINDOW AREA

As noted in my column last month, I have recently engaged in a research study of Britain's major window area - the Pennine Hills - a range that stretches north-south down the middle of the country. The results of this analysis and many case histories are reported in my book *Supernatural Pennines* (Robert Hale, London, 2002). But, since it seems unlikely to be given a US edition (it is rather too parochial for that I imagine) I thought that I would reveal some of the findings here.

HISTORICAL BASIS

These moorlands - especially the real center of activity roughly in a triangle bounded by the outer suburbs of Manchester, Sheffield and Leeds - have generated a vast range of strange phenomena - from apparitions and time slips to sky falls and extensive poltergeist activity. I strongly suspect these are part of a continuum all linked to whatever energy source is powering the window area at such prodigious levels.

This hyperactivity is not a modern phenomenon. Indeed the Pennines has produced strange sightings right back into history. What today are reported to be glowing lights in the sky were seen in almost identical fashion centuries ago as being the eyes of a phantom beast or the result of the demonic actions of a 'boggart' - as the local elemental beings are still known in some parts.

You can even see the lasting consequence of this all over the region with place names such as Hob Tor (hob being an old name for the devil - as in hob goblin), Devil's Elbow and many more illustrating how the legends pepper the landscape with supernatural connotations. It would not amaze me if 500 years from now future historians reflect on why certain locations

have attracted neo-mythological names such as 'Alien's Lair'!

FACTS AND FIGURES

Although many odd things are happening in the Pennines this analysis concentrates on UFO activity - which these days is by far the most prevalent anyhow.

I calculated the number of UFO sightings over the past 40 years as related to the population density. Put simply this revealed that twelve times as many UFO sightings occur within the Pennine window as is the average for the UK.

But the results go further. Some 93% of UK sightings are regarded as explained - leaving 7% (in fact 761 cases) considered unsolved. When you work out a similar figure for Pennine cases there are only 88% of cases solved - meaning that the level of unsolved cases in this region is nearly twice the national average. So, stranger cases are more likely to occur in this window area than they are out of it.

This trend is emphasised further when you look purely at close encounters (which I define as a case that has some actual effect on the environment - that is it is not merely a sighting made geographically at close quarters). Nationally 2.8 % of cases qualify for that status, but in the Pennines it comes to a much greater 10.1 %. In other words close encounters are far more common within this window than they are outside of it.

The same is true when encounters with aliens are studied. The UK figure is 107 (just over 1% of all sightings) but there are four times as many cases as this average within the Pennines. Indeed almost half of all British alien contacts have apparently happened there!

HOT SPOTS

The study also broke down sightings according to the part of the window being studied. This revealed localised hotspots where activity is most intense. The real centre of activity was clearly indicated as being on the moors between the Rossendale Valley of Lancashire (near Bacup) and the Calder Valley of West Yorkshire (around Todmorden). Although mostly a rural area with few large settlements and much desolate moor this is way ahead in terms of the number of sightings. Indeed almost 10% of Pennine sightings occurred in this small area. Moreover fully one quarter of all British alien contacts took place here - making it without much doubt the most likely concentrated area in which to be abducted - quite possibly in Europe.

This is a tourist opportunity being missed! If anywhere was crying out to be the home of some sort of permanent UFO monitor site, or indeed the location of a UFO museum it probably should be here. Whilst this fact is little known it is the Scottish settlement of Bonnybridge applying to be twinned with Roswell, New Mexico (a wonderful - if rather inappropriate - gimmick!) But I suggest that Bacup or Todmorden ought to apply to be twinned with the Twilight Zone.

CONCLUSIONS

My analysis goes much deeper than this, also looking at such things as when sightings are most often made and assessing the way in which outbreaks of activity build up, expend themselves and then die away (possible to do given the wealth of strange activity being reported). This indicates some fascinating clues about the physics that might lie behind the genesis and operation of a window area - clues that hopefully someone with appropriate scientific expertise will take into account and develop further.

However, what is desperately needed is a serious investigation of this window. Unlike many around the world it is incredibly localised and well sited - within 40 miles of three major cities and within half an hours drive of at least five universities. Much of it can be 'staked out' with a minimum of effort. With a properly coordinated exercise involving the right equipment, goodwill on the parts of both science and the UFO community a genuinely positive initiative could be set in motion.

This has already been code named 'Project Pennine' - but the whole subject of UFOs remains shrouded in ridicule in the UK - preventing any direct action from occurring amongst the scientific community, to whom such an idea is little short of lunacy. Somehow we have to overcome this barrier because I am absolutely convinced that if we can mobilise resources in this fortunately accessible and extraordinary active window area then we could come up with definitive evidence that really might make a difference in the battle to understand the UFO mystery.

I see the Pennine window as one of the great missed opportunities of UFOlogy. It is high time that we took steps to persuade those who can make a difference that the time to do so has arrived. The chance of doing something meaningful in this way is infinitely better than badgering congress to 'come clean' or seeking evidential smoking guns through some indirect means. Here is the chance to be UFOlogically proactive in the best possible way and we are squandering that opportunity.

HENRY'S "GHOST" CAUGHT ON CCTV?

The photograph below allegedly comes from CCTV footage taken at Hampton Court Palace in south-west London in October last year.

According to reports in the British press (eg. *The Sun*), and on the internet, for three successive days at 1pm, alarms sounded indicating that fire doors had been opened. On the first and second occasion, security cameras showed the fire doors flung wide open, with no-one around, but on the second, a mysterious figure was caught closing the doors.



Is this a ghost, caught on camera? Full story next issue.

MICHELHAM PRIORY INVESTIGATION

By Gary Crompton (COTC/YUFOS)

A BRIEF HISTORY

Michelham Priory is located in the village of Hailsham, East Sussex and was built in 1229 on the site of a former Saxon manor house. The priory was the home of Augustinian Cannons until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536. The building has passed through many hands over the centuries but is most commonly known for being the residence of the Sackville family from 1601 to 1897.

Thomas Sackville purchased the property from Herbert Pelham who, after having spent all his money on restoring the property was forced to sell it due to bankruptcy. Over the years the priory and surrounding land was leased to tenant farmers until 1897 when the new owners, the Gwynne family purchased the house. The tenant farmers were angry at this and threatened the new family with murder. Rupert Gwynne, the new owner went to see the farmer about the threat but no killing came about.

The priory now stands as a tourist attraction and is set up like most stately homes around the country. Furnished with the possessions of the day and laid out as though a family still reside there. The paranormal TV program *Most Haunted* did their first ever investigation at Michelham Priory.

Over the years, visitors, workers and people who used to reside at the property have been reporting strange goings on in the house; unusual noises during the night, footsteps where no visible being could be seen and ghostly apparitions suddenly appearing in front of astonished witnesses. The ghost of a white horse has been seen on many occasions running through the gate house as has the figure of a grey lady, seen slowly walking through the gate house doors.

One of the most famous sightings at Michelham was in 1969. Two friends who were on a visit to the house were in a room reading some of the literature on the wall when suddenly, a black-hooded figure walked diagonally from the ceiling to the floor and disappeared. Completely astonished at what they had just seen the friends looked back at

the ceiling to only see another figure, this time of a woman in a blue/grey Elizabethan dress follow the exact same route and again, vanish at the bottom. The two friends recounted their tale to the people who were working there and they wrote down a report in the visitor's book.

It wasn't until a few years later when an archaeological excavation at the priory unearthed some old plans of the house. Amazingly, where the two friends had seen the figures descend, they discovered that years ago, there used to be a staircase and door leading to another room (now destroyed) in the exact spot the figures had been seen. Was this a recording from the past? Who knows but one thing is for sure, Michelham Priory is a very eerie place. Standing alone in a pitch black room makes you feel and hear all kinds of things and, as the caretaker told me, there are some rooms that you just don't go into on your own at night.

THE INVESTIGATION

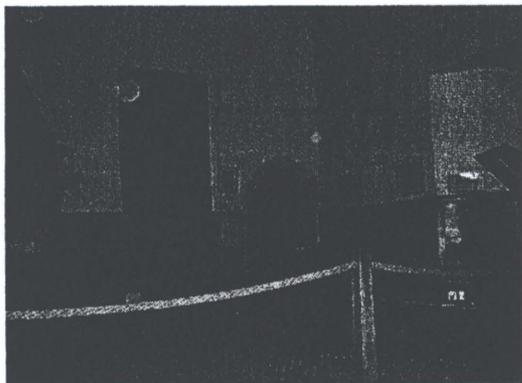
Our investigation at Michelham Priory started at 7:30 p.m. on October 31st, Halloween. Present were myself, fellow investigator and best friend Gavin Moulson, C.O.T.C Paranormal investigations and 10 members of the Ghost Club. We were all given a tour of the building and grounds and shown where the vigils would be held. After the tour we made our way to the conference room, which is situated on the 2nd floor of the building. Here we had a brief on what we would be doing throughout the night and which teams we would be with. Myself and Gavin were placed with Andy Mercer, Alan and Tania.

Andy is a medium and we have met several times before at investigations at Clapham wood. Alan and Tania are members of C.O.T.C and this was their first investigation of the priory. Once all the details were sorted out we began our investigation. All the teams were sent to the various vigil locations. The idea was, because there were quite a few of us, 5 main areas of the property were to be investigated at the same time. We were put on a rota so every 2 hours we would leave our designated location and move on to the next.

The locations were as follows. The gate house, the grounds, the gardens, the lower floors of the priory and the upper floors of the priory. The only places that were out of bounds were the caretaker's room, which was located on the 3rd floor and the Childs room that was located on the 2nd floor. The Childs room had been the most active area on the last investigation so a locked off, night vision camera was placed inside to see if anything was captured. A monitor was placed outside feeding back live images of the room so anyone could sit and watch if they wanted to.

Our first location was the upper rooms of the priory. The 'Monks' room was our first port of call and Andy started telling us what kind of things happened in here on his last visit. The Monks room is one of the largest rooms in the house and, like most of the other rooms, is furnished with old furniture and paintings. My first scare of the night came on entering this room, it was very dark and the first thing I saw was the figure of a monk sat at an old desk. For a split second I couldn't believe what I was seeing but then I realised it was a wax model, dressed in period clothes for tourists to look at.

The investigation was only 10 minutes in and already my mind was playing tricks. We all made our way around the room (see figure 1) and tried to get a feel for the place.



It was very quiet, somewhat damp and very eerie, even with 5 of us in the room. We settled ourselves into various positions and tried to get as comfortable as possible. Tania and Alan were near the doorway to the room, I was located in the middle of the room against a wall and Gavin and Andy were located in the centre of the room.

Andy began to feel the stonework of the building and started to pick up objects, trying to see if anything could be picked up. I set up

my camcorder, flicked the switch to night vision and got ready to catch the impossible on videotape. We sat, very quiet for about 10 minutes and then Andy began to ask questions out aloud to see if we got any response. During this time I was taking pictures with my digital camera to see if any 'orbs' would show up. Whether orbs are anything to do with spirits is something up for debate but, 90% of the time, when Andy said he was picking up on a presence in a certain part of the room, an orb would appear on camera. Complete coincidence? Maybe we will never know, but they only really showed up when he felt something. With the exception of the orbs, nothing was really happening in the Monks room. Nothing was willing to communicate with us so after an hour it was decided that we should try another room.

The next location was a room next door to the Monks room, we referred to this as the pottery room (see fig 2).



As before, we positioned ourselves in various parts room and tried to get a feel for the place. The atmosphere never felt oppressive and nothing was really showing up on digital camera. We were about to call it a day when Andy picked up the presence of a little girl. He began communicating with her put it appeared she didn't want to talk back. Andy felt that she was scared of someone who was also present in the house and she was hiding from him. Why this was we were to discover later. A few light anomalies appeared on camera but nothing of any great significance so after 45 minutes we decided to move on.

We decided at this point that it was a good time for a cup of tea and a chat. We all gathered in the kitchen area and discussed with the other groups what had been witnessed so

far. It transpired that the other groups were getting a lot of activity in the gate-house near the moat. We were going to be heading there ourselves soon so we decided it was best not to discuss what had been going on there; if we experienced anything, no one could say we were making it up or jumping on the band wagon and saying we witnessed the same things they did.

Our next location was in the gardens and grounds. It was very cold out there so we wrapped up warm and headed out. What happened next is a classic case of jumping to the wrong conclusion. As we left the building Andy said he had picked up on the presence of a man over in the corner of the gardens. Another clairvoyant from The Ghost Club also picked up on the same figure. I decided to fire a few shots with the digital camera to see if anything was being picked up. On the second shot I took the unmistakable image of a person (which) was clearly seen on the camera screen. I asked if anyone had been over in the corner or stood in front of me when the photo was taken but everyone was apparently accounted for and nobody was in shot. When asked why, I told them I had a clear image of a figure stood under a tree that was in the location of the presence. This got everyone excited and the camera was handed round to everyone so they could see it for themselves.

We all truly believed that we had caught something unexplainable on camera so we hurried back up to the 'hub' where all the equipment was set up. We downloaded the image straight onto Andy's lap top computer so we could see a clearer, bigger image and then we realised what had happened. One of The Ghost Club members was in shot and when the image was blown up it was clear for all to see that we hadn't caught a phantom but a member of the team. They said that they didn't think they were in the location when the shot was fired but obviously they were. How easy it is to believe something is paranormal when you're in a supposedly haunted location, a simple case of mis-interpretation. So, with that mystery solved we headed back out into the grounds.

On the site of the priory is an old church. It's all but destroyed now but its foundations are still clearly visible and marked out in the ground. We ventured over to them to see if we could 'pick up' on anything unusual but nothing was happening. Andy said he couldn't feel any kind of presence at all and nothing was showing up on camera. We walked

around for about 30 minutes but as it was so cold we decided not to continue any longer.

We began to make our way back to the priory but one of the other groups that were up at the Gate House radioed through to say they were also heading back. We made a quick decision and decided to make this our next location. I was quite excited about this and hoped we would experience something like the other groups had.

The Gate House is at the very entrance to the priory and is completely surrounded by a moat, one of the few I am told that is still full of water in this country. It looks like a small castle and is accessed by going up so very steep, winding stairs. I remember thinking that if all hell was to break loose whilst we were up there it would be a complete nightmare to have 5 of us all trying to get back down at once.

The gate-house has 2 floors, both only accessed by stairs. We set ourselves up on the first floor and the first weird thing happened. My camera battery that was half full suddenly drained from 32 minutes of film time left to virtually zero. Trying to change a battery in the dark is a hard thing to attempt but I managed it. I put a new battery in that had been on charge at the house for over 2 hours.

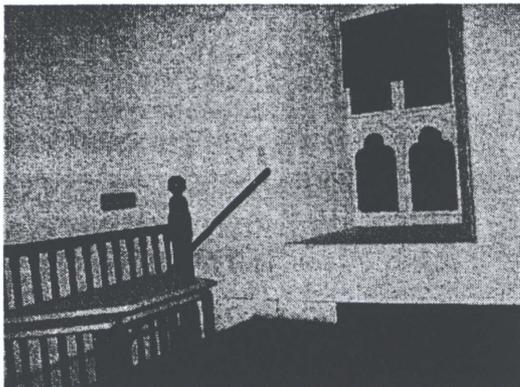
We all settled down and got a feel for the place. The atmosphere was different in this part of the building than in another we had been into. Maybe this was just me, half expecting it to feel odd but all the others said the same. Andy instantly picked up on the presence of a man in the corner of the room. He began trying to communicate with the 'spirit' but it appeared it didn't want to talk.

We did pick up some strange, sporadic flashes of light from one corner of the room on our night vision camcorders and everyone was at a loss to explain what they could be. We then moved on to the top floor, again setting ourselves up in various parts of the room. I decided to sit on my own in the far corner of the room so I could film the rest of the team.

No sooner had Andy started communicating with whatever was in the room, my new battery in the camcorder went dead. Now this was a new battery that had been charged for over 2 hours a little earlier that night. This seemed really odd to me and after a further few minutes the battery died completely. Now I wished I hadn't sat in the corner on my own because with the camera, I could see

everything in night vision but now I was sat on my own, in the pitch darkness in a supposedly haunted building. The hairs on my neck were on end to say the least.

Andy had noticed the figure that was downstairs with us had now come to join us in the upper room. Andy said the gentleman was stood on the stairs we had just come up, watching us but refusing to say anything. Who this man was remains a mystery as he never said one word but we did catch some light anomalies in the location of the figure (see fig 3).



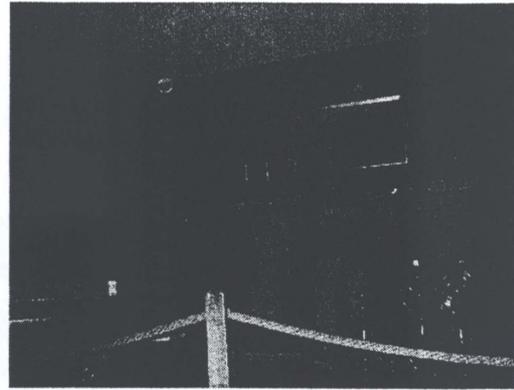
We were then disturbed by Stacy on the walkie-talkies asking us to all meet back at the house. Whether anything else would have happened at the gate-house is unknown but I felt a little disappointed as I thought this was going to be 'the one', that something big was going to happen. Little did we know the best was yet to come.

The time was now 1:30 so we had a quick bite to eat and a drink before we continued our investigation. I was glad to learn that the remainder of our investigation was to be conducted in the house, on the lower floors rooms.

Our first stop was to be the 'Music room', this, I was told was one of the most haunted rooms in the property. We set our equipment up in the room and began to relax in our surroundings. The Music room is quite small in comparison to the others but features period furniture and an old harpsichord. On the last investigation the C.O.T.C conducted there, the harpsichord was heard playing on its own. The sound was recorded on a Dictaphone and no one was present in the room at the time.

Andy again instantly picked up on the presence of a lady. She told Andy that her name was Mary and that she worked at the priory as a

servant. She also said that she had kept a very dark, bad secret that no one must find out about. What this secret was we would learn later that night. The presence faded at this point but 'orbs' were appearing everywhere on camera (see fig 4).



We then moved into the adjacent room to see if we could catch anything else. The room was set up as a dining room with fake food and plates set out on a huge table. There was no door leading to this room so a clear view of the music room could be kept at all times. Andy said that he felt drained and exhausted after his contact with 'Mary' so he decided to leave the room and go for some fresh air. Tania also said she felt ill so she left as well, leaving myself, Gavin and Alan in the room.

As our medium had left us I decided that I should have a go at trying to make contact. Having never done this kind of thing before I was a little stuck for things to say. The usual "Is anyone with us" and "give us a sign" was all I could think of and nothing much seemed to be happening. I took a time out and thought of what kind of things I could say. Gavin then said he felt as if something had joined us in the room. I felt nothing out of the ordinary but decided to try to communicate once more.

Now came the highlight of the vigil. I asked the question "Is anyone there?" but got no response. I then asked "If you can, can you give us a sign". As I finished my sentence the huge old grandfather clock that stood in the corner of the room chimed 6 times. A massive coincidence maybe? Who knows, but there are some things we should consider first:

Number one, the clock does not work - it had not ticked, tocked or chimed at all that evening and having spoken to the caretaker of Michelham Priory a few days after the

investigation, he told us that the clock had not worked for some years.

Number two, a digital photo taken of the clock as it chimed out showed up a huge, bright orb. This could all mean nothing of course, the orb was a dust particle and the clock just happened to chime at that time as its cogs slipped and set it off.

All the same though, my heart was now beating quite quickly. It wasn't over either. Once I had managed to calm down, I continued with the questions. I asked the 'spirit' to give us another sign just to prove that it was them that set the clock off. A big bright orb then danced in front of my night vision camcorder for a few seconds before shooting up to the ceiling. Things were looking up and suddenly all kinds of thoughts were running through my mind. We continued the questioning but nothing more happened. No more orbs appeared on camcorder or normal cameras so after 20 or so minutes we called it quits.

I don't really want to go into what it could have been as I would be here forever but I know what I saw, heard and felt that night and I can't give a 100% dead cert explanation as to what it was.

With the investigation nearing its final few hours it was decided that holding a few séances would be a good idea. The first location for this would be the Monks room. I opted out of sitting in the circle but instead set myself up with the camera to capture anything that may occur.

The first séance had 12 people in the circle and everybody sat still and quiet, channelling their energy into the ring. After about 5 minutes, Andy, who was lead medium started to breathe funny, almost like he was suffocating. One of The Ghost Club members then started to ask whatever had taken over his body questions.

Watching a séance in action is a funny experience. On one hand you feel almost nervous for the person who is having his body taken over, what if something went drastically wrong? Then on the other, you can't help but think 'Is this real?'. Its one of those things that you can't prove either way, how can you prove that he isn't having his body taken over from some long lost soul from another world?

Through the questions that were being asked it transpired that there is a very nasty story connected to Michelham. Andy had earlier

been in contact with a very nasty entity that was again speaking through him. The 'spirit' kept asking "Where is she" but wouldn't say who 'she' was. Further questioning revealed nothing more of the girl's identity, all that was coming through was that the 'spirit' wanted to know where 'she' was. Andy then took a huge gulp of air and broke the circle. This séance was over and Andy had to rest for 15 minutes to regain his energy. Who this person was we don't know but in the next séance he was back.

Again, this was conducted in the Monks room but this time the circle was smaller. It was a similar story to the last one as in the same spirit came through asking the same questions. After a few minutes had passed the circle was again broken and we all decided to move downstairs and conduct the last one of the night in the Music Room; this, remember, is next to the room we had our experience with the clock. I was looking forward to this one but again decided not to join the rest of them in the circle.

This time there were about 20 members in the ring and Andy again went into his trance-like state. This time the spirit of a maid came into contact with us. She told us a story of a man living at the Priory that had abused one of the family's children. The maid knew about what was going on but had kept quiet about it. She felt that by telling the family what was going on she would be thrown out of the house or, worse still, killed, so she kept quiet and had to keep the nasty secret over all these years.

It also became apparent that the evil male presence was still looking for the girl in the after life, that is why he kept asking where she was. Andy came out of his 'altered state' and Stacey went under. She began to quietly sob so the other members began to fire questions at her, wanting to know how she 'was' and why she was crying. It appeared that Stacey had made contact with the little girl that had been abused. All we could make out was that she knew the male was looking for her so she had to keep hiding in various parts of the house so he couldn't find her. After a few more minutes, the circle was broken and the séance was over.

The time was now nearly half past six in the morning so we all decided to call it a night. Myself and Gavin had a 4 hour drive ahead of us so we set straight off, saying our goodbyes as we left.

Michelham Priory was a very good investigation to do, very tiring but also very well worth it.

CONCLUSIONS

Michelham priory has been investigated many times by various groups around the world and some of what we learned on the night could be picked up by anyone doing a search on the internet. Having said that, there were also things that we encountered that are not readily available, the clock is a perfect example.

I did some research into the house and nowhere can I find anything about the clock chiming or indeed anything 'paranormal' happening in that room. Next door in the Music Room, yes, but not here. The caretakers and owners of the Priory have since looked into it and it is possible that our vibrations had made the old internal workings of the clock move, making it chime just at the right time but I don't personally believe this theory. I am not saying that some 'spirit' from the after life made it go off as a sign that we are not alone but I do believe some 'energy' of some kind did. It is recorded that the priory is dissected with 'Ley Lines', could this natural Earth energy plus our willingness for something to happen have triggered it? Maybe we will never know for sure.

The 'orbs' we captured on digital cameras and night vision camcorders are also another one of those 'are they' 'aren't they' kind of things. We can't say if they are dust/water particles or some insect that flew past the shutter just at the right time but we also can't say that they are spirit energies, ghosts manifesting in front of us. I am sure the 'orb' debate will rage on for years to come but I am curious as to why they don't appear on every photo. If a room is full of dust particles then why doesn't everybody in that room get them on every shot they take?

Its also interesting that 'orbs' appear on nearly all the photo's that were took in the direction of where Andy said the 'presence' was. The stories that came out of the séances are again, un-provable either way. The names we received in the séances are easily got from the internet and as the big story was a secret that only 3 people, all of who are now dead know, we will perhaps again never know the truth.

All in all though I do believe that the Priory is somehow affected by something

unexplainable. Be it natural Earth energy; making different people react and see strange and unusual things, group hysteria, we are all in a spooky place so we are all going to see and feel spooky things or actual visits from the 'other side' is something that none of us can be 100% sure about. All I can say is, if you get the chance to stay all night, do it, but I wouldn't do it alone....

Gary Crompton

YUFOS

C.O.T.C

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 'FLYING SAUCER'

(02 Jan 2004 Free Internet Press)

Daylight Disk - Denison, Texas, USA - 2
January 1878

The term "flying saucer" was made popular by a journalist covering Kenneth Arnold's sighting of nine flying disks in June of 1947.

A farmer, John Martin, used the term 70 years earlier to describe what he saw on a hunting expedition in Texas.

John Martin saw a dark object high in the Northern sky. He first noticed it to be about the size of an orange, that grew in size as it got closer to him. After a while it had increased considerably in size and appeared to be going quite fast. When it was over him it was the size of a large saucer and at a great height.

Because this UFO was dark, and not a mysterious light, reflective, or silvery, many scientists believe he saw a solid object against the sky, with the light behind it.

The phrase "Flying Saucer" is 126 years old this year.

INTERNATIONAL BIGFOOT SYMPOSIUM

Willow Creek, California September 12-14th 2003

BY PAUL VELLA (paul@vella.co.uk)

In 1972, when I was little more than a toddler, I was sitting on the living room floor of my parent's house in Hertfordshire when the BBC screened a documentary called *Fabulous Animals*, which changed my life forever.

The documentary, which many of you will have seen, showed what is the most studied 58 seconds of film ever made, second only to the Zapruder film, namely the Patterson-Gimlin Film of a 'Bigfoot', filmed on October 20th 1967 in Bluff Creek California.

Over the years, I have read almost every book on the subject, and have corresponded with literally hundreds of people across the world. I have tracked down some of the world's rarest books on the subject, and even have a signed first edition of John Green's seminal work *Sasquatch: The Apes Among Us*.

So, you can imagine my reaction when a friend from Minnesota told me about the first International Bigfoot Symposium to be held in Willow Creek – after seeking permission from my wife, and promising to do the ironing for the next year, I booked a flight to San Francisco. I called the Bigfoot Motel in Willow Creek, and discovered to my horror that all the rooms were already booked, so I decided on a campervan rental instead.

The date came, and on 10th September this year I landed in San Francisco, sorted out the details of the camper rental and hit the road. Once north of San Francisco, I took the beautiful coastal road north, stopping overnight in Bagoda, the small town where Alfred Hitchcock filmed *The Birds*. The schoolhouse and church are still there, and don't appear to have aged one bit.

The following day I continued my drive north, eventually moving off the highway onto the 'Avenue of the Giants', a 32 mile stretch of road that parallels the highway, and takes the driver right through the middle of 60% of the world's tallest trees, namely the *Sequoia sempervirens*, otherwise known as the Redwoods - if you haven't seen these magnificent trees, then you need to add them to the list of things to do before you die.

I stopped and met 'Bigfoot' friends from Arizona (Dave) and Washington (Jerry) at the Samoa Cookhouse in Arcata on the coast. This is the last remaining logging cookhouse in the United States, where my friend Dave told us the story of how he had taken his pickup truck down to the Bluff Creek film site the previous Monday, and got stuck down there after the rain made the road back up impassable. He camped there for three days, and told us that he was very nervous at the time. After dinner, I headed inland to Willow Creek, arriving there around just before midnight. It was too late to start looking for a campsite, so I parked in the China Flats Museum car park for the night.

Having arrived after dark, I wasn't quite prepared for the sight that greeted me in the morning – Willow Creek was surrounded by steep wooded hills, and looked more like an alpine village than a sleepy Californian town – the rest of California may have been debating on whether or not to elect Arnold Schwarzenegger for Governor, but believe me, no-one here was going to care. The mist was slowly lifting, so I went off to find some more friends who had been lucky enough (or so I thought) to get a motel room.

We chose what was possibly the slowest diner on the planet for breakfast. Actually, 'Sherries' is the only diner in Willow Creek, so it was either that or a doughnut from the gas station.

At the table next to us was sat John Green, Demetri Bayanov, Jimmy Chilcut, Thomas Steenburg, Jim McClarin, Dr. John Bindernagel, Bob Gimlin, Dr. Jeff Muldrum and a couple of other people I didn't recognise. These were the giants of Sasquatch research, and I felt like I was a small child in Disneyland.

Breakfast over, and there was a press conference to take care of back at the museum. The speakers were lined up, and the press received an explanation that we were not crazy folk, but actually people who for scientific reasons believed that there was an as yet unknown ape roaming the forests of North America. I don't know whether the press

believed them or not, and at this stage I couldn't care less.

The China Flat Museum in Willow Creek is small – it is named after the 'flat' area of land where the Chinese workers lived (you've got to love Americans for their simplicity). Most of the small museum contains local exhibits, logging photos etc, and then there is the small 'Bigfoot' room, which contains a number of plaster casts, a copy of Dr. Grover Krantz's Gigantopithecus Skull reconstruction, a short video and newspaper cuttings. This particular weekend, the so-called Skookum Cast was also on display – more about that later.

Since the museum was so small, the Symposium organizers had commandeered the use of the local school Gym for the weekend – this being a Friday, we had to wait until after lunch before the talks could start.

We recorded the entire symposium, but in true Fortean fashion, all the audio recordings were unintelligible when we listened to them later. It was an extremely hot weekend, and the organisers had installed a couple of very large (but still ineffective) fans, which was just about the only sounds picked up by the recorders. Fortunately, my friend Jerry from Vancouver, Washington spent the weekend busy with his notepad, and has allowed me to use his notes, which I have largely reproduced here. (Thanks Jerry).

John Green opened the Symposium in the spot originally reserved for Jane Goodall -

"Even though I have the same initials as her" Green said, "it is a great misfortune that Miss Goodall was unable to attend as her stature might have caught wide notice."

Dr. Jane Goodall had been slated to give the keynote address, but instead was meeting government officials in the Democratic Republic of Congo to discuss habitat preservation. Interestingly, she was instead supposed to provide a video address, but that failed to materialise – rumours suggested that her advisors had steered her away from having any involvement in the weekend's proceeding.

Green dedicated the Symposium to the memory of Bob Titmus, noting that Titmus had almost single-handedly started the field of Bigfoot research, bringing to Willow Creek, Ivan T. Sanderson, as well as Green himself. Green told us that many of the items on display

in the museum were donated by Bob's wife, after Titmus' death.

Green believes Sasquatch represents a single form of "bi-pedal wildlife" - and made the following points about the Sasquatch phenomena

- 1- The story of Sasquatch is one that can't be shaped to fit our fantasies... we must be willing to change our "image" of Sasquatch to fit the facts.
- 2- We are dealing with an animal... and the study of Sasquatch will require more than one cadaver for dissection purposes.
- 3- Green believes Sasquatch is an animal, because, not only of what he has learned in his years of study, but because of what science has learned of human origin.
- 4- There is nothing new about claims of detailed viewing of Sasquatch, or for that matter, people who see, or smell, something every time they go into the woods. Every researcher has his, or her, cross to bear... "mine is the Albert Ostman story." he told us.
- 5- But there are detailed, as well as seemingly reliable accounts... Glenn Thomas and William Roe, for example. Ruby Creek, which came to light in 1957, produced a casting almost identical to a casting in Bluff Creek, CA.

Green went on to give us a summary of the cases he has personally investigated over the years. Of 3,647 cases in Green's files, only 40 have a male and female together. Smell is mentioned in only 72 reports, with 14 described as "strong," 4 describe a "mild" smell, while 26 reports mention no smell from a distance of 10' or less. Green believes any smell may be a "fear odor" as described by Diane Fossey. Green went on to say that 1182 of his sightings were by hunters, loggers, or hikers. The most common sighting is "the one seen on the side of the road."

Green told us that whilst it was very tedious entering all the information from his card files into his computer, that it was worthwhile, as it started to show certain trends such as migration, time of day, time of year, moon phase, etc.

You will recall that the death in 2002 of Bigfoot hoaxer Ray Wallace led to numerous newspaper reports that 'Bigfoot was Dead'. On the subject of Ray Wallace, Green said the first paper to print the story reported it in a responsible manner, "but the rest of the press was highly irresponsible". Green went on to say that the Wallace family doesn't even know how the *fake footprints* were made.

One of the main factors against the Wallace claim is the fact that the discovery of the tracks in the Bluff Creek area strongly interfered with Wallace's contract to construct Bluff Creek Road, costing Ray Wallace money, as he started losing construction workers, causing the construction to run overtime.

Green warned researchers to be wary of associating themselves with people that claimed that they habituated with Bigfoot – it was clear that he was referring to Mary Green's ridiculous book '50 Years With Bigfoot: Tennessee Chronicles of Co-existence'.

Green ended his address by telling the delegates that when it came to Bigfoot research, he was the past, and that this symposium was all about the future. When I spoke to Green later, he said that he never imagined that there would be no resolution to the mystery some thirty years after the publication of his final book. He says he is too old to continue at the pace he has been working, and wants to hand his records over to an organization that will use them properly.

Apelike anatomical and behavioural characteristics of the Sasquatch - Dr. John Bindernagel

Dr. John Bindernagel started his talk by asking "What is it that makes people think they've seen Bigfoot and not an upright bear?"

He summarised the answers as follows:

- Long arms, short neck, flat face
- Female creatures seen
- Short thick neck
- Large nostrils (like a gorilla)
- Pointed (or somewhat pointed) head... "a sagittal crest" - an attachment of muscles to the upper jaw
- Sagittal crests may occur in either male or female gorillas, with size appearing to be the determining factor

- Deep-set eyes (an almost mythological description)
- Pursed lips (seen in NW totems and in pictures of chimps)
- NW totems exist with a thunderbird on top and a Wild Man of the Woods on the bottom
- Wild Giants of the mountains throw rocks at viewers, as do chimpanzees
- Chest-beating (as the gorillas do) are seen in Sasquatch
- The tracks are prime evidence... "tracks often appear as if something was walking on a tightrope"

Dr Bindernagel did however go on to say that people believe in Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, "because they like to believe in it!"

It should be noted that Dr. Bindernagel's presentations and papers have been rejected by wildlife meetings and seminars "due to recent stories in the press" (*apparently referring to the Ray Wallace stories*)

Midfoot flexibility, footprints and the evolution of bipedalism: Perspectives on the Patterson-Gimlin film - Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum

Dr. Jeff Meldrum began his talk by telling us that the hallmark of the homonoid locotor system is the grasping toe.

Dr. Meldrum gave a fascinating talk about the *Mid-tarsal break* in apes and his research into it - used as a test ape was "Jason," walking repeatedly across a box filled with sand, to get an example of the mid-tarsal break. After trying the sand-box test the first time, Jason was put into a holding cage, watching as Meldrum and Jason's handler raked the box smooth.

Following his second attempt walking through the sand-box, Jason looked back at the holding cage, then at Meldrum and his handler (Jason's, not Meldrum's), then back at the holding cage. Jason then went back to the box, and erased his footprints with his hands !

Human footprints show a pressure ridge just behind the toes. Bigfoot tracks seem to indicate the presence of a mid-tarsal break.

Following the Patterson/Gimlin film, Patterson chose to cast tracks which were too "perfect" - so flat that nothing could be learned from them. Lyle Laverty took a series of photos

which show a mid-tarsal break (tracks show up very well in Bluff Creek soil.) Bob Titmus cast 10 consecutive tracks, one of which was the same as in the Laverty photo.

Meldrum concludes that "The Patterson film shows flat-footed mid-tarsal breaks and bipedalism!"

Meldrum went on to show us a Blue Creek Mountain "half-cast" of a 1967 track which "clearly shows mid-tarsal breaks.", and a Blue Mountains, WA ('96) photo which shows toe slippage and typical front half-track.

Dr Meldrum ended his talk by saying that he believed that "Hominids may have been bipedal for over three- and as much as seven-million years."

Dermal ridge evidence in footprint casts - Mr. Jimmy Chilcutt

For me, Jimmy Chilcutt's talk was the most fascinating – many of you already know that I work as a Forensic Examiner and Expert Witness, so for me, it was interesting to see another Expert Witness's 'Evidence'

"My basic job" Chilcutt began, "is to take one fingerprint from a crime scene and match it to one from all the millions on file."

Chilcutt said that he noticed during an investigation, that Cocaine packages are generally wrapped in numerous layers. By carefully unwrapping these packages, Chilcutt was able to isolate prints, on each of the layers, which ultimately led to convictions. The Federal organizations picked up on this very quickly and now Chilcutt works with the FBI, DEA, ATF, and all sorts of "alphabet" organizations.

Chilcutt is a man with a curious mind, and whilst his future research into human fingerprints was going to be unpopular, it is important to us. Chilcutt wondered whether human fingerprints contained any sexual or ethnic characteristics that could be used as an aid in identifying individuals. He was somewhat successful, and states that he can say with an 85% certainty whether a fingerprint is male or female, black or white, but ran into some difficulties as a result of interbreeding of races (it is easy to see how his work could be deemed as being politically incorrect).

As part of this study, he began taking prints from primates (because they don't interbreed.) After being turned down by several zoos, He started with the Yerkes Primate Center, telling inquiring minds he was "investigating the theft of a truckload of bananas!", and found that humans and primates share the same characteristics - *arches, loops, and whirls*. They are simply present in different configurations.

Chilcutt said that he lived alone at the time, and because he didn't have a wife to nag him, was sat eating his dinner in front of the TV one night with a beer, half-watching the Discovery Channel, when he hears Dr. Jeff Meldrum utter those two words which brought Chilcutt into the Bigfoot field – "*Dermal Ridges*". Chilcutt called Meldrum the next day, and eventually spent three days examining casts from Meldrum's vast collection.

Chilcutt came away from those three days convinced "...there is an undiscovered North American ape!"

The first cast had dermal ridges, but had been *double-tapped*, by using human fingerprints to make the toe prints look better. He put that cast aside.

The Walla Walla, WA casts (13-inches long) exhibited "clear ridges with characteristics", with ridges going down the side of the cast.

He went on to explain that human ridges go across the foot and then fade away, and primate ridges run across the foot at an angle...

To Chilcutt's surprise, he found the ridges on the Walla Walla cast ran down the cast on the bottom of the foot, but also on the side of the cast. The ridges on the cast were also "twice the thickness of human dermal ridges."

A Walla Walla cast from 1987 displays the "same texture of ridges as some Northern California casts.", cast some twenty years and hundreds of miles apart.

In addition, he has found dermal ridges on a cast from Georgia... faint ridges, again running down the side of the foot, and explains that the Skookum Cast shows dermal ridges running down the sides of an Achilles Tendon.

Chilcutt said dermal ridges are not present on every cast... but on casts made before 1999, he is convinced that no one could have known the significance of ridges. But casts made after

that date could be made knowing all the information Chilcutt has brought to the field of Bigfoot research.

The following day I caught up with Chilcutt in a corridor, and asked whether his involvement in the Bigfoot field had harmed his reputation as an Expert Witness in any way.

"Absolutely not" he said in his soft spoken Texan accent "If a defence attorney were to ask me about it in open court they know they would be given the same presentation I gave yesterday, which would only re-enforce my particular expertise".

Chilcutt and I agreed that one of the most frustrating aspects of Bigfoot research was the poor handling of evidence, and that it needs a good shake up, so that field researchers treat footprints, film, photos etc. as real forensic evidence, and are collected and handled in a forensically sound manner.

I firmly believe that Jimmy Chilcutt is the best thing that has happened to Bigfoot research in years.

We broke for a Samoan smoked salmon dinner, but since one of our party was not keen on fish, we drove back into town and visited a diner. We bumped into some firefighters from the nearby Indian Reservation, who told us that there were more forest fires on Highway 299. A burger and a beer later, and we returned to the school

Doug Hajicek - Patterson-Gimlin footage: Another Look

Those who attended the CFZ Weird Weekend in October will have seen his documentary *Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science*, which is probably the most even handed documentary made on the subject to date.

Doug explained that in 1994, while filming a documentary in the sub-arctic, he walked off the path to relieve himself and discovered 17-inch prints on the beach of a lake (with a 42-inch stride, 3-4 inches deep). The tracks went in a straight line, going "over seven foot tall trees" (tracks going on both sides of the trees).

He went back to the float plane pilot (named Wallace... much laughter at this point) and asked him if they could follow the tracks with the plane, upon which Wallace got angry with

what he perceived to be a joke and hurled his clipboard. The subject was dropped.

In 1998, Hajicek contacted the Bigfoot Field Research Organization, and began the early work on what would become S:LMS. John Green lent him his first generation copy of the Patterson/Gimlin footage, and Hajicek had the film cleaned up and transferred digitally to a computer.

He quickly determined that there wasn't enough, with the P/G footage alone, to fill an hour documentary.

He spent hours in his basement looking at the digital footage on a High Definition monitor, concentrating mostly on the head of "Patty.", when he began to notice a bulge which appears then disappears, on the right leg of the animal. He later discovered that there is an injury which occurs predominately in women, called an *Erectus Femoral Hernia*, which is very similar to what can be seen in the P/G footage.

As part of the documentary, he shopped around and found a forensic animator willing to create a "digital skeleton" by "reverse engineering" from the footage. (The first bid came in at \$300,000, another was \$100,000, but Hajicek, due to budget constraints, was forced to take the lowest bid.)

The result was a skeleton which appeared to walk in a manner completely different than the movement of humans. The knees would bend, with the legs splay outward... then the knees bend in, in a knock-kneed fashion. The Peruvian-gait Horse (bred to walk up hills) are the only animal Hajicek has found that exhibit this manner of walking.

His conclusion - "No suit in 1967 (or today) could create this effect."

Other things noticed in the digital P/G footage...

- 1 - The hair appears to bristle when Patty looks at Patterson and Gimlin.
- 2 - Patty seems to favour her right leg.
- 3 - A scientist (who was sure the film was a hoax) agreed to watch the digital footage and was able to identify 40 different muscle groups on the animal. He couldn't give any explanation how that could be hoaxed.

During a question/answer period, he told the

audience that, other than the footage in 'Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science', all images of the P/G film came from a third-generation copy of the film. (Both Chris Murphy and Danny Perez maintain the original footage still exists - but neither know exactly where it is!).

When asked about the Ray Wallace claims near the end of the year, Hajicek disclosed that the Discovery Channel pulled all pre-publicity just one week before LMS was originally aired in Jan., 2003. Despite the lack of publicity, the documentary was the first to grow in viewership during the hour broadcast.

DAY TWO

Mayak datat: An archaeological viewpoint of the hairy man pictographs - Ms. Kathy Moskowitz

Moskowitz began her presentation by noting the differences between a pictograph and a petrograph - picto is carved into rock, while petro is painted on rock.

Near Tuleville, CA (in central CA), on the Yokut Indian Tribe's reservation, is a faded pictograph of what may be a family group of Bigfoot. The pictograph was first written about by Mallory in 1889 and again in 1929... this time by Stuart. Both referred to the pictograph as *The Hairy Man*.

The male *The Hairy Man* is depicted as 2.6 meters tall and six feet wide... the female is depicted as 1.8 meters high and 1.2 meters wide... and the baby is depicted as 1.2 meters high and 1 meter wide. The baby is positioned under the female's right hand, while male is to right of the female.

Moskowitz drew a parallel to the Glenn Thomas sighting in Estacada, OR (1967) in which he saw an apparent Bigfoot family searching through a pile of rocks for small rodents. Thomas described the small Bigfoot as trying to stay as far away from the male as possible.

Photo evidence case study - Mr. Alton Higgins

Higgins became interested in the subject of Bigfoot following a fishing trip with his cousin, during which he found tracks and scat.

He started his discussion by noting that evidence can be divided into several categories...

Testimony - anecdotal evidence

Signs or indications - physical evidence

Photographic - this category has "proof" problems; it neither anecdotal, nor physical

Photographic evidence can be split into numerous categories- 1) obvious fakes, 2) more sophisticated fakes 3) unclear, but possible, and 4) equivocal image evidence

An investigator, as well as a casual person interested in this field, must always question any evidence presented - although it may not be easy to dismiss some images.

Higgins always looks at the 3 "C's".

Context - always explore the context in which the photos were taken. They should not emerge from a void... photos are only one manifestation and should parallel reports and other evidence.

Other evidence may include *hair* - this is controversial. Samples taken in North America have been "identified" as primate. *Footprints* are a very good indicator. *Handprints* are found very rarely, no dermal ridges have been confirmed on handprint casts, as yet.

Character - includes consistency, reputation, truthfulness, and motive (whether it be financial or fame/prestige)

Comparisons - the ability to identify the location of the original, to enable investigators to take measurements and perhaps stage a re-enactment of the photo (to compare height and width)

For so called 'confidentiality' reasons, we were asked not to photograph the photos we were shown, but I have to say that they were not the most convincing photos I have ever seen.

That said, we were also presented with before and after photos which showed that the humanoid shape in the woods was not there before or after, but that is pretty much all I can say on the matter. (*Continued next issue*)

UFOs:
SUB ROSA*
 DOWN UNDER
 THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY & GOVERNMENT
 ROLE IN THE UFO CONTROVERSY (part 8)
 BY BILL CHALKER
 (Copyright © B. Chalker - 1996)

The author is a leading Australian UFO researcher and a contributing editor to the International UFO Reporter. An industrial chemist with an honours science degree from the University of New England he has worked in quality assurance and laboratory management. His book, The OZ Files - the Australian UFO Story, was published in 1996. He coordinates the NSW based UFO Investigation Centre (UFOIC).

Bill has allowed his work to be published in Project Red Book on numerous occasions, and it is now my pleasure to begin a major series on Bill's research into the secret investigations of the Australian government and military of UFOs.

Sub Rosa: refers to "under the rose", meaning "in secret".

UFO IMPACT AND THE JIB

Soon after, the plan for the "rapid intervention" team was dropped.

While this development may not be linked to the intelligence "empire" wars, as it was at this time that the US Air Force sponsored Condon Report on UFOs appeared (which concluded there was nothing of scientific worth involved), it is still obvious that political considerations had again frustrated attempts to undertake official scientific UFO research in Australia. Harry Turner in a JIB report indicated that "the conclusions of the Condon report conflict with its own contents and had been discredited by many reputable scientists including the UFO scientific consultant to the USAF."

For a number of years Turner tried unsuccessfully to encourage JIB or DSTO to undertake a serious scientific interest in UFOs. In January, 1970, he even utilised Dr. Jacque Vallee's so called Magonia listing of 1000 worldwide UFO landing or near landing reports to highlight to JIB the potential military threats involved:

"The information suggests the existence of 3 'weapon systems' -

- (1) a device to interfere with electrical circuits
- (2) a device to induce paralysis
- (3) a heat ray.

There is circumstantial evidence that these weapons are at times used deliberately, although mostly in a defensive role. A number of reports allege that a lone car at night has been followed, and after being stopped by a beam, some kind of interaction has developed between the car occupants and the landed craft occupants.

Information is included which deals with residual effects on the environment of the landed craft. It is these residual effects which offer the greatest potential reward to scientific investigation at this stage.

Even reports of this nature within JIB that went to the heart of defence issues failed to get Turner's proposed study off the ground. The status quo had prevailed."

INTRUDER AT WOOMERA

In the wake of Harry Turner's abortive "sub rosa" efforts, the scientific investigation of UFOs at an official level had all but disappeared, with the primary goal being the resolution of any defence and/or political implications.

The attitude can be seen in the Woomera "intrusions" of late in 1971. In one case just prior to the launch of a Black Arrow rocket (in part a DSTO project) an unidentified "aircraft" was observed by a trained site meteorology observer over Woomera prohibited airspace.

Yet another sighting led to a Department of Supply letter to the Director of Air Force Intelligence, dated January 7th, 1972 which stated that "this sighting appears to be sufficiently authenticated, yet there is no official knowledge of any military or civil aircraft that could have intruded into the Woomera air space. It is therefore now a matter of speculation that some foreign aircraft passed through a Restricted Flying Area on December 20, 1971, without the knowledge of the appropriate authorities and this is cause for concern."

Rather than accept that maybe the "Russkies" or perhaps something else entirely was the problem, it was more politically expedient for DAFI to suggest an alternative. They suggested that a more plausible explanation was re-entering space debris, even though it was impossible to confirm that possibility.

SCIENCE AND THE UFO

Ironically, in light of this ascendancy of the political and military ethic over scientific enquiry, it perhaps should be observed that exactly 2 days after the first of Woomera "intrusions", to the south on the campus of the University of Adelaide, the South Australian division of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (ANZAAS) organised a one day symposium to consider the UFO problem, namely on 30th October, 1971.

The symposium had about 300 attendees and, because of its prestigious backing, attracted widespread publicity. Dr. Brian Horton's introduction to the ANZAAS symposium pointed out that while the UFO question was on the fringe of our current knowledge and indeed was often ridiculed, it should still be scientifically investigated. He cautioned against forming opinions with incomplete information.

Local South Australian UFO researcher, Colin Norris presented a history of UFOs, described their apparent characteristics, and showed numerous slides and a film. ANZAAS secretary, Dr. Bill Taylor, delivered a paper by Mr. B. Roberts of the Department of Air. This was simply Robert's 1965 Ballarat presentation recycled again.

Dr. Duggin's paper, *The Analysis of UFO Reports*, called for closer cooperation between UFO organisations and scientists. Micheal Duggin was then a senior research scientist at

the Mineral Physics section of the CSIRO, Sydney. Because of the lack of concrete action from existing official studies, Dr. Duggin felt it was up to individual scientists to form world-wide panels. He indicated that they could expect to face ridicule from colleagues, but that the UFO phenomenon warranted attention.

Dr. Duggin had been secretly working with JIB scientist Harry Turner, sharing information and data. Indeed Harry Turner attended the symposium despite the frustrations he had experienced over the years in his secret attempts to ensure that scientific investigations were undertaken at an official level in Australia.

Lynn Mitchell, Deputy Regional Director of Meteorology in South Australia, gave a detailed address on meteorological phenomena relevant to the UFO subject, referring to scintillation, green flash, crepuscular rays, mirages, and iridescent, noctilucent and lenticular clouds. He indicated that meteors, ball lightning, Saint Elmo's fire, stars, planets, balloons and satellites were often the source of sightings. He reported that not one inexplicable sighting had been reported in the last 20 years, attributed to meteorological observers, people trained to observe and record. Mitchell's research was obviously quite limited. In 1964, the US group, NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) produced a detailed study entitled *The UFO Evidence*. It listed 4 UFO sightings by scientists from the meteorology field in 1950, 1954 (2), and 1961.

Psychologist, Dr. Peter Delin, addressed "Psychological Aspects of Belief and Disbelief" highlighted that sceptics and believers were "at the two ends of a continuum" Their acrimony "springs from mutual lack of comprehension, but part of it is justified, in that there are nuts on both sides."

He argued that both sides tended to confuse and blend theoretical and observational issues. Through comparisons of UFO and psychical research, evidence supported the view that sceptics and believers showed similar faults of reasoning, biased observation, and "similar evidence of strong internal motivation unrelated to the subject matter under discussion, but predisposing them to the point of view they take up."

Dr. Delin stressed it was important to separate a witness' report from his interpretation of the report or observation.

Further papers addressed the possibilities of extraterrestrial life and possibility of contact with such life.

Dr. Don Herbison-Evans, Lecturer in the Basser Computer Department, Sydney University, offered a cheap practical approach to obtaining hard scientific evidence for UFOs. His idea involved the use of diffraction gratings and cameras, in order to secure spectra of anomalous light sources. Dr. Herbison-Evans developed a 'UFO Investigation Kit', consisting of 3 slides, a diffraction grating and 2 polaroids. He pointed out, "Scientists are only willing to look at the UFO problem if there is hard evidence, not just witness' testimony." He encouraged people to use the diffraction grating and polaroids in conjunction with a camera if they photograph a possible UFO. No one has provided Dr. Herbison-Evans with that hard evidence to date.

The following motion was moved at the ANZAAS symposium: "The Symposium as a group feels very strongly that some action on the problem of UFO reports be taken.... (and) that the possibility of setting up a subcommittee for the study of UFO reports be considered by the Executive Committee of ANZAAS (S.A. Division)." This motion was favoured by the Divisional committee of ANZAAS in November, 1971. They felt that there was sufficient evidence to demonstrate that there were sightings and evidence for phenomena that had not been adequately explained. The committee concluded there was a need to investigate unexplained sightings and they constituted "an unsolved scientific problem as there were no answers under current hypotheses."

RAAF UFO "COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE" IN SA

In the ferment of unidentified intrusions during sensitive Woomera rocket launches and attempts by ANZAAS and "invisible college scientists at engaging a puzzling, but frustrating phenomenon, the RAAF in South Australia were busy trying to assert their official responsibility to investigate UFOs. In my examinations of the RAAF UFO files I came across 2 documents prepared by RAAF Edinburgh Base South Australia personnel that address their frustration with "the UFO problem". Their documents carried the extraordinary title of "COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS".

Neither document indicated specific classic "counter-intelligence" activities and the choice of title therefore is either unfortunate, inappropriate or sinister. Extracts give an insight into the UFO milieu:

6/32/ Air (10)

Headquarters

RAAF

Edinburgh SA 5111

29th May 1972

Department of Air (Attention: D/DAFI IR)

For Information:

Headquarters Operational Command

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE - UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

1. Enclosed is an UFO report forwarded to this Headquarters by "The Australian Flying Saucer Research Society - (Adelaide)", together with an accompanying letter from Mr John Burford which, inter alia, outlines recent moves to amalgamate the various UFO "research" societies in South Australia...

2. As on many occasions in the past, the report arrived at this Headquarters too late to make an investigation possible without considerable embarrassment and possible adverse publicity. The various UFO societies in this State, while aware of the RAAF's responsibility to investigate UFO sightings in an official capacity, are nonetheless reluctant to pass on information on UFO sightings to the RAAF until they have "picked the bones clean".

3. Every attempt has been made by this Headquarters to elicit the co-operation of local UFO organisations, and in particular the AFSRS, in an endeavour to gain some first-hand information on UFO sightings....

4. Also enclosed for your information is a list of alleged sightings investigated by the AFSRS alone in 1971. It is significant that of the 112 sights, not one was reported to this Headquarters in the first instance. Indeed, it was only at the personal whim of Mr. Norris that the RAAF received copies of investigations (without "findings") in the long term. It would appear that, in spite of sparse and rather patronising publicity by the mass media to the effect that the RAAF is the responsible UFO-reporting organisation, and arrangements with the police to have any individual sighting a UFO contact this Headquarters, the public at large in this State

remains either ignorant of the correct procedure, or chooses to contact the more glamorous - and credulous - "flying saucer" society. Furthermore, we are not aware of any effort on a national scale by higher authority to inform the public of the RAAF position in this matter, which is very active in South Australia.

5. From the foregoing, it can be seen that, if the proposed amalgamation of UFO groups in this State comes to pass, and timely reports of UFO sightings are passed to this Headquarters as indicated by Mr. Burford's remarks, the volume of work involved in investigating and processing such sightings will increase considerably. In fact, it is doubtful whether the Officer-in-Charge UFO's at this Headquarters (a secondary appointment) would be able to cope with such an increase, without significant and non-acceptable inroads being made into his primary role.

(E.T. PICKERD)

Air Commodore,
Officer Commanding

The second document also to Headquarters Operational Command was dated 20th June, 1972:

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE -
UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

Reference:

1. ... peculiar ground markings discovered on a farming property at Tooligie Hill, Eyre Peninsula, in late December 1971.

2. The matter first came to the notice of this Headquarters through the "Day by Day" column of **The Advertiser** on 27th January 1972 (which mentioned the markings) "...sighted by Eyre Peninsula farmer Robert Habner in the middle of a wheat paddock. "Farmer Habner found it while he was reaping. No tracks led to or from it. Peter is investigating"...

3. This Headquarters' OIC UFOs ... contacted the Peter Powell referred to in the clipping and ... received assurances of co-operation. Mr. Powell stated that considerable interest in the Tooligie Hill "phenomenon" was being evinced by local UFO groups and added that a meeting of several of the groups, including the Australian Flying Saucer Research Society (of Colin Norris notoriety), was to be held that Sunday (30th January 1972)... At this juncture it became apparent that a belated RAAF

investigation of the "phenomenon" would attract unwanted publicity, and would in any case probably be paralleled by simultaneous investigations by civilian groups. The question of "co-operation" between the RAAF and local UFO groups would then be a matter for speculation and individual interpretation by the media. This Headquarters therefore deemed it prudent not to initiate an on-site investigation into the incident at the time.

4. ... (Newspaper accounts referred to) a projected "safari" to Eyre Peninsula to investigate the "phenomenon"....[Flt. Lt. King (O i/c UFOI) minuted the following:

This morning I received a phone call from Mrs Habner of Tooligie Hill. She said that Messers Ianson and Mackereth (of AFSRS) had arrived and were investigating the "phenomenon" on the Habner property. As might be expected, Mr. Norris had arranged the usual publicity and the ABC, SKA and the Advertiser, according to Mrs Habner, were on the scene or on tap. She said that she had not expected so much publicity and in any case it was Peter Powell who was supposed to be doing the investigating. His "safari" is due to arrive on Saturday and she had tried to contact him without success to tell him that he had been pre-empted. I informed Mrs Habner that there was nothing the RAAF could do about the situation and offered my condolences.

Mrs. Habner seemed surprised that this Hq had not been informed officially of the "phenomenon in the first instance as she had reported it to the police in the area.

ORWO this morning noticed a leave application submitted by Cpl. A_____ of Catering Section. The address given on the application for the week's leave was c/- the Habner property. I interviewed Cpl A_____ who said he had answered an advertisement inserted in the local newspapers by Peter Powell for people to accompany him to Eyre Peninsula to investigate the finding. I briefed him on the "no-publicity" requirement and asked him to keep me informed of events."

The airman referred to (above) was also mentioned in our (message) to your department. On his return from leave he was again interviewed by OIC UFOs. The "safari" had taken soil samples and photographed the markings, and also interviewed a number of people in the district, but after a week on the site had not made any findings. Present on the Habner property at the same time were two

members of the Australian Flying Saucer Research Society, who also fossicked without discovering the origin of the markings.

5. ... (Mrs. Habner wrote to Flt. Lt. King):

I am sending you, as promised, some slides and information on the mark we found in our paddock on December 28th 1971. This mark was made in the middle of a wheat crop, with no tracks or marks leading in or out. The diameter of the rim-shape which is spun into the clay soil is approximately 7 feet. 2 feet from the outer edge of the mark the crop was laid flat in an anti-clockwise spinning motion, and in the centre, which measures 45 inches across, the crop was cut to a height of 9 inches.

The crop was also laid flat (anti-clockwise again) in a small crescent which joins onto one side of the mark. About 12 feet away from the main mark is the same shaped marking spun into the wheat straw, but not with as much force as the main mark. This mark was just on the top of the straw and not cut into the ground. We can only think that whatever tried to land here was put off because of a small mallee stump, and, wanting a smoother place to land, rose up and hovered over to finally land on the main "site".

One family in our district say they saw a strange light, which would have been in that position. They saw this on Christmas Eve. We were away from home all that evening.

We have had approximately 200 visitors from surrounding districts to see it and they all wonder what could have made this mark.

The cut out circle is still there and will be until we plough it up for seeding. There are still markings of the spun down straw etc too, although they are not as clearly defined as they were when fresh....

6. (Attached) is a letter from this Headquarters to the Commissioner of Police, dealing with the incident,

[Dear Commissioner,

..... A telephone conversation between my Officer-in-Charge of UFOs and Mrs. Habner reveals that police authorities in the area were informed of the incident and indeed visited the Habner property prior to the "phenomenon" becoming public knowledge....

I am sure you will agree that, as this Headquarters was not informed of the incident

in the first instance, any post-event official RAAF investigation of the incident, with attendant publicity, would prove not only unfeasible but also embarrassing to some extent.

In view of the above, I would appreciate your once again bringing to the notice of your staff the necessity of referring all UFO reports to this Headquarters with the minimum of delay.

Yours faithfully,

(E.T. Pickerd)

Air Commodore]

and (also enclosed) is the Commissioner's reply;

[Dear Air Commodore Pickerd,

... I enclose copy of a report furnished by Inspector R.A. Schlein of Port Lincoln.

It appears that there was no actual sighting of a U.F.O. at Tooligie Hills in December last, and although the Inspector was aware of strange markings in a field, he did not consider there was sufficient evidence at that time to connect them with a U.F.O. Moreover, as there was already growth from the dislodged wheat heads, it seemed that some time must have elapsed since the disturbance.

... we are sorry that you have been hindered or embarrassed by the lack of an earlier report. Although members generally are already aware of the necessity to report such matters for your information, a further instruction will be issued by a notice in the Police Gazette.

Yours sincerely,

(J.G. McKinna)

Commissioner of Police."]

and a copy of a report by Inspector Adolf Schlein of Port Lincoln Police.

7. For your information.

(B.G. KING)

Flight Lieutenant

For

Officer Commanding

For something generally dismissed by the RAAF all this seems to be a great amount of effort and activity, either in the name of bureaucracy or "counter-intelligence". Think

about it. The 2 documents were classified **RESTRICTED**.

DR. ALLEN HYNEK'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

Dr. Allen Hynek, who had acted as astronomy consultant to the United States Air Force UFO study since 1948, came to Australia during 1973, to lecture on astronomy and UFOs and to promote his ground breaking book, *The UFO Experience - A scientific Inquiry*, published in the US in 1972. His visit was a watershed for both Australia and himself.

Dr. Hynek was in the best position to determine the scientific merits of the UFO phenomenon. He had consulted for more than 20 years with the US Air Force and had moved from a sceptic to a scientist who was willing to actively promote the validity of the phenomenon. He championed the need for serious research. His 1972 book was his case for the scientific merit of the UFO phenomenon. It caused a lot of scientists to rethink their position on the subject. By 1973, Dr. Hynek lacked an appropriate vehicle for his ongoing research.

For years he had quietly encouraged and actively participated in the "invisible college". Following his visit and the massive resurgence of UFO activity in America during that year he brought the "invisible college" into the open and formed the Centre for UFO Studies. It continues as an ongoing focus for serious research into the UFO phenomenon. During his stay he researched many of the classic cases. As indicated earlier in this history he met with Shamus O'Farrell and discussed his famous 1954 Sea Fury incident. Dr. Hynek was also able to meet with Rev. William Gill and also journeyed to Papua, enabling him to undertake a detailed on site investigation into this famous case. He came away still convinced of the bonafide nature of the Boianai "visitants". While in Australia he had discussions with researchers to try to set up a local focal point of case material which could then be forwarded to his group in Chicago. Out of those discussions, ACOS - the Australian Co-Ordination Centre for the Centre for UFO Studies was formed by Harry Griesberg and David Seargent.

Hynek met privately with Harry Turner and Michael Duggin, and had an informal meeting with Group Captain K.R. Janson, Director of

Air Force Intelligence. He described their meeting in the following terms:

"Opportunely, an informal meeting was held at the Department of Air between Professor Hynek and myself on 24th August when the Professor was visiting Canberra on other matters. During the meeting, discussions covered a wide range of matters relating to investigation procedures of unusual phenomena in both the USAF and RAAF. The Professor's wide experience in this field was very evident, and the discussion will undoubtedly be of benefit to my officers and myself in the conduct of future investigations."

(Continued next issue)

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Hi.

It is with great regret that I have to announce that the enclosed copy of *Project Red Book* is the final issue, and that after seven years, I have decided to close down YUFOS (Yorkshire UFO Society), or at the very least, place it on indefinite hiatus.

There are a number of reasons for this, and I have not made the decision lightly. Attendances at monthly meetings have steadily dropped over the last couple of years, sometimes to the single figure mark. UFO reports are at any all time-low and have been for some time, and I have found it increasingly difficult to find enough decent material to fill out the pages of PRB. I made it clear some time ago that subscriptions would no longer be for 1 year or 6 months, but for 12 or 6 issues, but I still feel that it is unfair for people to pay hard-earned money to receive a magazine which is published sporadically at best.

One of the main reasons, though, partly because of the issues outlined above, is that, (as a husband and a father, among other things!) I no longer have the time or indeed passion, to put into running monthly meetings and editing a periodical. Its harder work than most people think, and I ultimately feel responsible if meetings or the magazine quality is poor.

However, I am not removing myself from the world of UFOs and the paranormal completely. I will be working in a smaller role within the newly-formed YPS (Yorkshire Paranormal Society), www.yps-online.co.uk and I will still be active as an investigator for the CFZ (Centre for Fortean Zoology) and other groups. The difference is that I will have more freedom to be involved when and how I want, instead of being responsible to do so.

I always stressed that YUFOS was a non-profit making group, so also find enclosed a cheque for your refunded subscription. (PAUL your subs are up with this issue, I think!)

If, at any point in the future, YUFOS re-forms, I will let you know as soon as possible.

But for now, thank you for your interest and support in YUFOS over the years, and take care.



Dave Baker