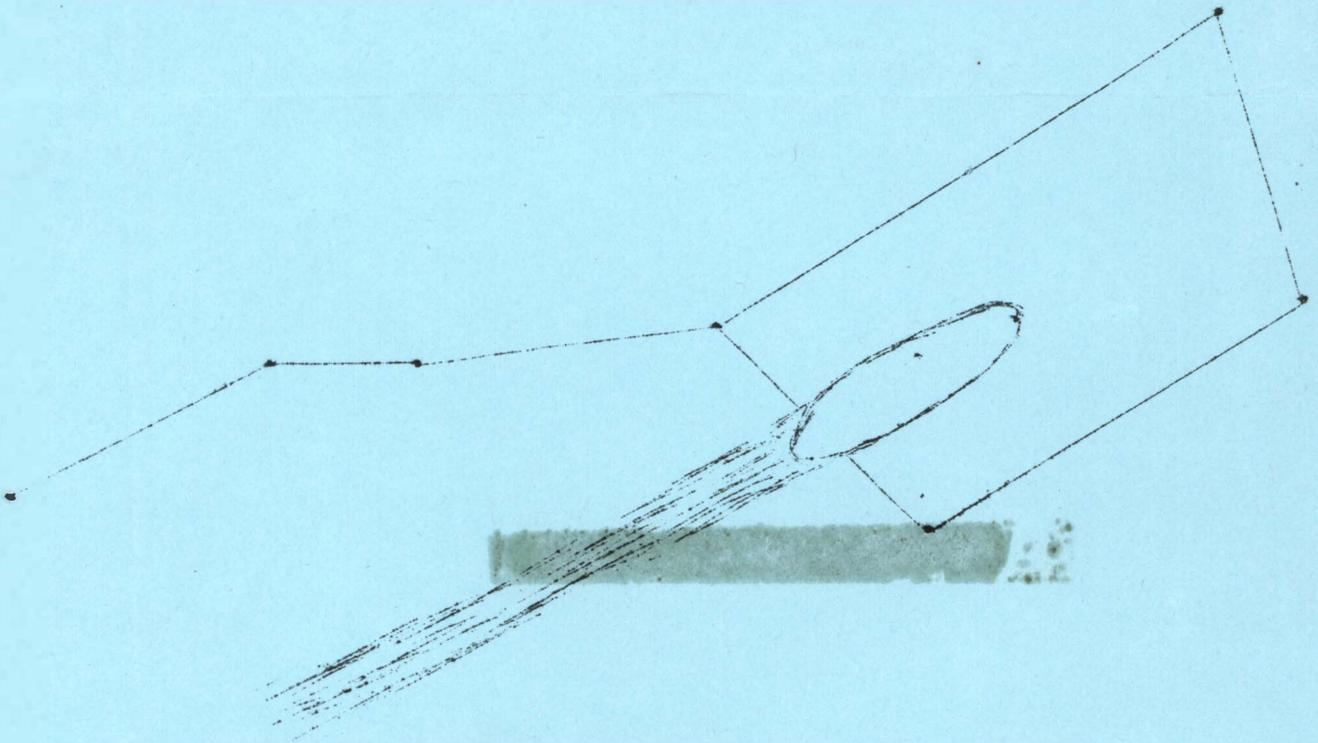


U. K.
Oct. - Nov. - Dec.
1966

SAUCER FORUM



churches of West Farleigh and East Farleigh, then approximately through this house, on through an old camp to the west of here, then through Langley, Charing and finally Dover. This ley runs almost parallel to the Roman road called Watling Street (A2) about 8 miles to the north.

My "egg", or another one just like it, was seen by a friend over Caxton (north of here) sixteen days later.

Kent is almost devoid of burial chambers and megalithic monuments, but the few that do exist are very interesting. North of here, on either side of the Medway valley, there are two of these chambers. One is called Kitz Coty (near Bluebell Hill) and the other is called the Coldrums (on the other side, to the west). Now there is a relationship between these two sites, which has never been mentioned before. They are exactly oriented east-west and at exactly the same altitude. Stonehenge is also at this altitude (325 feet above sea level). Could this magic number mean the sites once stood on a former coastline? Barrows below this level are almost non-existent.

R. K. Proctor, 3, Iona Road, Maidstone, Kent.

(bi) Dear Mr. Goddard,

On the night of July 20 I was studying a small cluster of stars, then left my telescope for a few minutes. About five minutes elapsed before I went back into the garden. Just as I was putting the kitchen light out there was a very bright light coming through the windows. As soon as I opened the door I was almost blinded by a very bright flash in the sky. I went to my telescope and turned it on to this bright phenomenon and saw that it was oval shaped. It appeared motionless against the night sky and was in view for about five minutes. It was like looking at the sun through the telescope. The following Saturday it was in the local paper, reported by some other witnesses.

J. Cowley, North View, 123, Icknield Way, Luton, Bedfordshire.

(bj) Dear Jimmy,

Yes, we did see a UFO on Saturday night (Sept. 17 - J.G.) around 11.45 to 12.00 p.m. Nothing spectacular happened. It just moved across the sky in an irregular pattern, hovered occasionally and speeded up at odd times. It was pretty high, but seemed to be able to see Arthur Shuttlewood's flashing torch. We also saw Arthur's "space stations" which proved rather interesting, as one definitely moved around for a bit around 12.30. Nothing else happened so we went to bed about 2.00 a.m., camping on Cradle Hill the night.

William J. Trotter, 3, Osterberg Road, Dartford, Kent.

(Editor's note - The activity around Warminster is still continuing. Apart from the above, the current UFOlog has a number of reports of UFOs seen by skywatchers at Cradle Hill. On October 14 a bright object was seen there by Dr. Cleary-Baker, Editor of BUFORA Journal. This object also seemed to reply to light signals).

(tk) Dear Mr. Goddard,

With reference to the letter from Miss B.D. Wood, published in your magazine, there are at least two possible explanations, apart from UFOs. The object could have been the planet Venus or a balloon. Venus would seem to be the most likely explanation, however, as it is not likely that a weather balloon would be aloft at the times stated. If the sighting took place last year (not specified in the letter) Venus was then approaching its greatest elongation East of the Sun and would be easily visible on a clear day, if one happened to look in exactly the right direction. When Venus is far enough away from the Sun, it can be seen at any time of the day, if the atmosphere is clear enough.

John Harney, 53, Woodyear Road, Bromborough, Wirral, Cheshire.

(bl) Dear Jimmy,

My journey to Warminster was on Saturday, October 28. On the way, about nine miles before Amesbury, we observed a very bright light to our left, in the S.E. We watched it for about two minutes, using binoculars. It was about the size of a cricket ball at arms length. Eventually it disappeared behind some trees to the east.

We arrived at Cradle Hill at 8.10 p.m., and wrapped ourselves in blankets, for it was cold even at this hour. At 8.15, John Clarke, who was with me on the watch, noticed a bright light high above Warminster to the south. From what we could see of it, it looked cigar-shaped, white in the centre with red ends. It flashed on and off every 35 seconds, then disappeared as if a light was turned off. Another UFO was observed at 8.20 in the S.E., but this was completely orange. Through binoculars we could see a slight haze round it. This flashed about four times at 15 second intervals. At the same time we saw another UFO in the S.S.E., which did exactly the same as the one in the S.E. This was also completely orange.

For about ten minutes everything was normal, then the S.E. UFO came back. It looked as though a long light had been turned on in the sky. Through binoculars it was seen to be definitely a mother-craft type, but looked as though it was turning on its axis. Then, in the south, the other UFO lit up, and we both thought they were flashing to each other. Then they disappeared as before. Through the next $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours we observed all three objects. The southern one must have risen a good few hundred feet higher, the S.E. one moved about 45° to the south, and the S.S.E. one stayed put, and wasn't so active as the other two.

Mr. Shuttlewood arrived about 10.00 and tried signalling with his torch to the saucer people, but without success. But a little later we saw the S.S.E. object again, this time with Mr. Shuttlewood, who said it was definitely the "Thing". About 11.00 we observed a very high "star" about twice the brightness of Jupiter. We observed it for an hour, and it did not move with the other stars, instead it moved above our heads. At 3.00 a.m. it grew fainter and disappeared completely, after which we saw no more UFOs, so we left for London at 4.00.

If anyone is interested in skywatching at Warminster would they please contact

scientists point out that on Venus living things may float in the thick clouds that completely hide the planet's surface. It added that scientists differed on whether life could exist on Venus, the planet which approaches nearest to the Earth.

One theory, the society said, held that life once existed on Venus and was annihilated, possibly by the Venusians themselves through some development similar to the hydrogen bomb. Agreeing with this theory is Soviet astronomer Dr. Nikolai Kozyrev, who stated recently that a flare on Venus in 1964, which was comparable in brightness and scale to a nuclear explosion, was one of the most mysterious phenomena recorded on the planet.

As a matter of interest, we haven't heard much from those blond-haired, high-foreheaded, blue-eyed Venusians lately!

(Editor's Note: In a previous issue of SF quite a while ago there was a report of similar flashes on Mars, which scientists also thought could have been nuclear explosions).

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BALLOON SATELLITE CAN BE SEEN WITH THE NAKED EYE

by Ken Rogers

Not to be confused with UFOs, America's newest satellite, Pageos 1, will be a bright feature of the night sky for many months to come. Like Echo 1, the passive communications balloon satellite launched in the summer of 1960, it can be seen clearly with the naked eye, and is already proving a source of interest to millions of people.

Pageos 1, an ultra-thin balloon of Mylar plastic coated with aluminium, was inflated in orbit after being launched from the Western Test Range, California on June 23. It is being photographed by a network of 41 ground sites as it circles the earth. The information gained will enable scientists to map the earth's surface more precisely.

Pageos carries no instruments, but by reflecting sunlight provides an orbiting point source of light to be photographed over a five-year period to determine the location of continents, land masses and other geographical points in relation to each other. Its orbital course will provide many opportunities for it to be photographed simultaneously against a star background by two or more cameras located at stations 2,500 to 2,800 miles apart.

The satellite is circling the earth at 13,700 miles per hour, with an orbital period of about three hours. In each twelve-hour span, it passes over every area of the globe as the earth revolves on its axis.

What is the official explanation of UFOs? Even Project Bluebook admits that there are unexplainable sightings. Professor Hynek: "They are a psychic projection!" An Italian professor: "They are solidified thought forms". Are UFOs extraterrestrial flying machines? Are contact stories to be believed?

What are your views on flying saucers? I would like to hear your opinion. Write to Ken Rogers, 1, Vicars Moor Lane, Winchmore Hill, London, N.21.

ABC OF UFOLOGY

A - Astrocompass

The astrocompass is a device which has frequently been used on skywatches. Its purpose is to find the bearing and elevation of any object in the sky. It consists of two gauges, one horizontal for the compass bearing, the other vertical to find the elevation in degrees, mounted on a tripod. The horizontal scale must first be orientated using a magnetic compass, then when any object in the sky is sighted along a sight on the top of the instrument, the gauges will record the bearing and elevation.

Whether this instrument is of real use on a skywatch is a debatable point. It is rather cumbersome, and by the time it is lined up the UFO could have disappeared. In theory it is possible, using two astrocompasses on two separate skywatch points, to gauge the height of a UFO. In practice, as was found out during Warminster Week, this is quite impossible without two-way radio communication.

This and other aspects of skywatching, and other things concerned with practical UFOlogy, will be presented in the Sky Scouts Handbook, which should be out by the beginning of next year.

SALISBURY STAR MAP?

It has been found by Mr. Chaundy of Burnham-on-Sea that the long barrows on Salisbury Plain, when marked on the O.S. map, seem to form patterns similar to the constellations in the northern sky. I will be checking this with a star map later on, but just looking at Mr. Chaundy's map one can see Ursa Minor and the Pole Star quite clearly.

If this discovery is authentic, it is certainly amazing, partly because of the huge scale this would have to be on in real life, and partly because, even from the air, it is doubtful that one would be able to see the patterns.

Editor: Jimmy Goddard, Wynchlands, Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton, Middlesex.
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