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SKYWATCH S K Y W A T C H SKYWATCH

MAPIT SKYWATCH

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Readers' Letters

Dear David,

One final point I would like to make regarding SW36; why does Mr.Pace have to be so insulting to those who criticise something he is connected with? I tried to find out just what this 'institute' was and the thing I find interesting is what appears to be lack of conviction regarding his findings, on the Bignall end case, on his part. If he was so sure of everything why did he create a phoney institute instead of having his findings published in Bufora Journal or the excellent JTAP? Abuse will get ufologists nowhere. Criticise - yes; insult - no!
Kind regards, Terry Hooper, Easton, Bristol.....

Dear David,

What a pity that Tony Pace replied to John Hinds reasonable comments in such a discourteous fashion. Apparently Pace does not understand (or does not want to understand?) that reasoned debate is part of any scholarly study, and that if ufologists are not prepared to accept this, then the scientific community is well within its rights to keep its distance. It is rather apparent that this is yet another manifestation of the Bufora-is-always-right syndrome. Perhaps Pace ought to clarify what he means by suggesting that conference audiences should be selected in some way. If he means that ufology should avoid giant jamborees, with their large crowd of ufo groupies, 'autograph hurters and general glad-handers, O.K., but if it is implying that people whose faces do not fit in the Bufora Club (like John Hind, Jenny Randles, or the editors of Magonia?) will be kept out, then I'M sure that some of the European ufologists, who were already rather annoyed by Bufora's exclusionist policies, will be very interested to learn this, and will wonder if co-operation with Bufora on Bufora's terms is to the genuine advantage of ufo research. Jenny Randles suggestion that misperception of normal stimuli can actually generate subjective ufo experiences is quite interesting (and given sufficient time and effort could be put to experimental test). I made just such a suggestion in my article Doves are just middle class pigeons, some years ago.

The intense emotional response that suggestions evoke from people as diverse as Bob Morrell Pierre Guerin, Paul Whetnall and Tony Pace, is most interesting. Perhaps such psychological theories most offend our sense of living in a world of daylight reason and common sense. The Richardson case has some parallels with a case involving an elderly lady living in Manchester, who looked at the moon, yet saw a strange ball of light hovering over a chimney, with the figure of an astronaut emerging. I was at the local ufo group Meeting to which the investigator reported, yet neither he (a very nuts and bolts investigator) nor any of present thought of the moon. And it was not till the case was re-examined by Nufon years later that it became obvious that it was the moon. It is also interesting to see how many car chase close encounters are radical misperceptions of the moon. I do not think that those of us who suspect that there is some psychological mechanism going beyond "just Misidentification" have anything to apologise for.
Best Wishes, Peter Rogerson, Urmston, Manchester.....

Sir,

Re issue 36 of Mapit-Skywatch: The membership of Fufor were very concerned with the allegations and criticisms made by Mr.A.R.Pace (Research Director of Bufora). Upon reading his comments, it became clear that there were numerous parallels between the situation he now finds himself in and those Fufor have experienced over the past year or so. We have no doubt, and this is from experience, that the response to his article will be evasive and meaningless if it comes from those people he takes to task. Of course, Miss Randles will have numerous supporters who will rally to her defence; but we have no doubt that they will evade, disregard and ignore Mr.Pace's comments. We further predict that they will attempt, in print personalised attacks on Mr.Pace and the organisation that he represents - in a nutshell a 'character assassination'. At the end of the day, though, Mr.Pace's allegations will still stand and demand to be answered in a correct and honest fashion. Hopefully this will be done.
Yours Truly, Mark A Tyrrell, Secretary - writing on behalf of, and with the full sanction of the membership of Fufor, Crewe, Cheshire.....

Dear David,

I do wish Bufora officers would answer rather than respond to criticism. The descent into personalities in Tony Pace's response to articles in the previous and current 'Skywatch' is particularly unfortunate. However, since Tony started it, I will respond in kind. I have known Jenny Randles for many years now and consequently feel justified in holding an opinion of her character, which, for the record, is as follows; she is an intelligent, sensitive, sociable, modest and attractive lady. She lacks any characteristics which might be described as bitchiness, and, besides, has only two legs! I know Tony Pace only slightly, and Magda Graham not at all, but we all sometimes let out intensive involvement with an issue overcome our innate humanity and I will continue to think well of both of them at least until I get to know them better. It is saddening that Tony classified me as one of the 'opposition'. I am a Bufora member, and any criticism that I make is intended to be constructive. I do not remember criticising any of the speakers on their presentation, however, if I did, I apologise. As a sometimes public speaker myself, I fully realise the problems. 'All in this world' are not first-class researchers, but there are first-class researchers in this world. Some, but not enough, were speakers at this conference. I did not claim to have 'invented' the truly scientific conference, merely to have 'advocated' it. I also advocate racial and sexual equality, comprehensive education and the negotiated re-unification of Ireland, none of which I claim to have invented. If a congress is to have any lasting value, it must be sorted in its proceedings. Of course publication involves work, but if orders were taken before printing, it should not cost anything. If the papers were worth listening to, then they are also worth reading. This would exclude some of the papers at the last conference, but we should not throw out the baby with the bath water. Life is a continuous compromise; we seek perfection, but usually have to accept less. For this reason, I will continue to attend Bufora conferencesif I am allowed! Tony Pace's style of criticism has always mystified me; after a rather controversial paper at a previous Bufora conference, he accused me of being 'fashionable' - now he charges me with being 'articulate'. With critics like this - who needs admirers? Seriously though, I took a great deal of care over my submission to the working party, and still hope that it will receive serious attention. The challenge was meant at an intellectual level, and I am very disappointed that Tony has chosen to take it at a personal or organisational one. I do not think that the working party are 'inflexible fools' (Tony's words) and hope that they will justify my confidence by either answering the criticism or amending the definition. I also hope that the working party are not going to adopt Tony's authoritarian attitude to criticism. There is nothing more pathetic than an authoritarian without authority. Finally, I would like to say that I do not agree with Jenny or with Allen Greenfield that the enterprise of trying to standardise definitions is inherently a waste of time. Allen suggests that we all know what a ufo is, but if this is so, then we should have no difficulty in agreeing a standard definition. One of the positive results of the working party has been to highlight the differences of in what we actually mean by often-used terms in ufology. However, I would have liked to see them address the more important issue of standards in the other sense of the word; as in standards of quality of investigation and documentation. That, thought, might have proved embarrassing for those members of the party whose definition of a fact is loose enough to include the very shaky radar confirmation of the Hill ufo, not to mention the even shakier correlation of the Hill star map. May your neutrality never waver. John Hind, Co. Tipperary, Ireland.....

Dear David,

I'm interested to see that Tony might be a 'little choosy about who we accept (at Bufora congresses) in the future....' Vetting of the audience at ufo conferences is a fascinating idea, and would certainly help to keep out all those awkward people who don't agree with what the speakers are saying. Couple this with Tony's apparent wish only to deal with those ufo reports that he likes the look of, and we should have the problem licked in no time! Tony's rather snidey implication that John Hind is a time-wasting, polysyllabic bore (the only meaning I can adduce of the phrase "we would have become completely entangled with his articulate verbiage and the whole weekend entirely waster") is not the stuff that serious criticism is made of: John Hind's views on the deliberations of the working party are cogent and coherent, and have been echoed by many other ufologists in recent months. Although I expect Tony Pace would label these also,

as the opposition. Allen Hendry's recent milestone in ufo reasearch , the Ufo Handbook' very clearly demonstrates that the IFOs (Identified Flying O bjects) are very muchaa part of the whole phenomena. It is important to understand why genuinely strange and bizarre experiences are triggered off by apparently commonplace stimuli. Tony seems to thing that research along these lines is, quote "crap". Presumably this is his considered opinion as Research Director of Bufora. It is a pity that Tony's 'Institute for the evaluation of anomalous phenomena' had no real existence. There is certainly need for such an organisation to counter the flim-flammetry that is being put about. I do not think that articles like Tony's (or Jenny's for that matter) make any great contribution to the UFO debate. However, they are great fun, and I do enjoy them; they beat LIT reports any day!

All the best, John Rimmer, New Malden, Surrey.....

Dear David,

If I may I would like to air my own thoughts on the two articles in SW 36 by Randles and Pace. As you know, I've been involved in ufo research for many years and I have kept a low profile, but I feel I must speak out in full support of Tony Pace, whom I may add, I have never met. The IEAP conclusion is fact and I'm sure if Tony had sent FSR a letter on this, FSR would not have published a retraction. In fact, to prove this point, in FSR Vol 25 No.5 Sept/Oct 1979 page 16 to 23 can be found a lengthy item entitled The Llanerchymedd Ufo by Martin Keatman; at the end of the item Keatman states "whatever it was that was observed that night was certainly mysterious and something the Llanerchymedd villagers will not forget in a hurry". If one then obtains the Bufora Journal Vol 8 No.5 published November 1979 - page 3 to 14 includes a indepth report on the Llanerchymedd indidents by the Crewe group FUFOR; in their final conclusions they state "One definite conclusion that can be drawn is that the sightings were in no way as mysterious as the press and media would have us believe. There is possibly a mundane explanation for most of the incidents." Now what I find particularly disturbing about the latter is: If the FSR staff read Bufora's Journal, why haven't they printed the Fufor report which is quite the opposite to the Keatman account.

Although investigators say they are unbiased, I sometimes wonder why they try and kid themselves. From reading the report prepared by Fufor on the Welsh case, it is obvious that there is no mystery to be attached to the incident. Yet in FSR we have Keatman doing his utmost to create yet another British 'unknown'. At times, recently, I feel some of the so-called investigators need investigating themselves.

The standard of investigations in Britain is very bad indeed, and one of the alarming aspects is the 'in thing' of finding a psychic link with all cases. Instead of reporting the ufo incident, we find ourselves reading about how many ghosts and weird noises the witness has experienced, making a simple LITS case into a major event.

So, inclosing, well done, Mr.Pace, on your bringing to our notice the myth-makers such as Randles, who never seem to investigate anything but CE3 and 4 cases, and through the Ufo in setup is building up the UK scene as the most interesting in the world. I can say from my own experience that investigating ufo reports is often boring and from my friends in the subject, its quite clear that to investigate one CE 3 case in one's lifetime is a major event. So, readers of Skywatch and other researchers, don't take everything you read in ufo publications as gospel even if they are presented as such. Am I the only person to have noticed that the same people are always investigating these bizarre and weird ufo psychic cases and never your Joe Soaps.

You may, David, if you wish, print this letter in the next Skywatch.

All the best, Richard Avery, Buxton, Derbyshire.....

PROCESS IN UFO RESEARCH by Allen H Greenfield.

Some time ago, I can't pinpoint exactly when, I began to give serious consideration to the question of process in ufo investigations. I have for many years, both in my writings and in my ufological activities, devoted a substantial portion of my time to ufology as a structure. For this I have received some criticism, along the lines of: The important thing in ufology is the phenomenon itself, and time spent on structure is time wasted. I never had a clear-cut answer to this criticism; in the past I tended to respond along the lines that a sophisticated ufology movement was a necessary prerequisite to understanding the ufo enigma. In later years, I linked my interest in ufological structure to my theoretical assertion that, in some yet-to-be-defined way, ufologists were inextricably linked with the phenomenon they were investigating. I still consider these justifications valid and would only wish that more ufologists would take an interest in the structure of the field they represent. But, more recently, I have turned my attention to the processes through which ufologists go about dealing with the now long-standing unsolved mystery of unidentified flying objects.

It should be noted in passing here that I base my observations upon several underlying assumptions which are rather unorthodox even in the unorthodox field of ufology. As mentioned above, I suspect that ufology and the ufos themselves are part of a complex closed loop involving phenomenon-report-investigation-publicity-mythos-phenomenon. To properly understand my thesis, (and in the prescribed fortian manner) you may envision these words in a circle. For the old "which comes first" question, I have no answer at present, if, indeed, there is an answer. The point is, you cannot separate the ufologists from the ufos.

Other assumptions I make which should be kept in mind include my extreme scepticism regarding the objective reality of ufos, and my view that there are at least two ufo mysteries, which are: (A) What are UFOs? and (B) What is the nature of the UFO mythos? The former has been the major focus for ufology since its inception as a field. The latter question deals with the characteristics and sources of the worldwide ufo rumour regardless of the answer (if any) to the first question, and has, in my opinion, been woefully neglected by ufologists for reasons we shall explore.

My first concern with process relates to the question of whether or not the procedural protocols involved in ufo case investigations and evaluations influence the results of those endeavours. In other words, are the questions which are asked and the methods used biased in such a way so as to influence what we will learn about the case? I am more interested in raising questions here, rather than giving answers, because I think far too little has been done as yet in the area of process research to offer anything more than the most tentative of answers, but, based on my twenty years in the field, having read numerous reports and evaluations, as well as having had personal contact with any number of investigators (including some who are, by general consensus, considered among "the best in the business"), my (very qualified) answer is, "yea." I believe that there has been a long-standing bias within the framework of our procedural protocols towards finding a "positive" conclusion. That is to say, there is a bias towards finding a nonordinary or nonconventional explanation for the ufo mystery in general, and this tends to influence evaluations of individual cases, particularly in recent years, the close encounter cases. At the same time, speaking here exclusively of evaluations (and removing from consideration for a moment field investigations), I also feel that there has been a regrettable neglect of cases which have been found to have conventional explanations, as if there were no valid questions to ask, and nothing of value to be learned from the enormous volume of data accumulated over the years on ufo cases which turned out to have a clear-cut explanation. Remembering that I consider the UFO mythos as important as the ufo mystery, I am inclined to think that a resifting of this body of information would yield a veritable treasure-trove of useful insights.

With regard to field investigations in this direction, I would think that field investigators should formulate a whole new set of procedures for gathering information related to the ufo mythos.

Another process question concerns the communication of accurate state-of-the-art information about ufological concerns to the general public. UFOlogy communicates with the public through publications and appearances on radio and television (mostly radio) traditionally, and, especially in more recent years, through direct contact at ufo conventions and conferences. Have we, by and large, told the ufo story as it is or have we tended to project an image reflecting of a bias or biases? (We will not consider here the images of the ufo problem offered to the public by conventional media outside ufology per se, though this also merits out attention). I have attended many UFO conventions and gatherings under various auspices since 1964, and my general impression is that there has definitely been a great deal of 'filtering'. The ufology presented at conferences is, in essence, a "sanitised" version of the field, quite a great deal different from the ufology I know from the inside. The 'metamessage' projected towards the public varies somewhat according to who organizes the convention, but it tends in the direction of two erroneous assumptions: (A) That ufology is a rational, scientific field, led by orthodox, unbiased scientists and other professionals. (B) The reality of ufos is virtually a foregone conclusion. It should be noted that, in recent years, some effort has been made to include sceptical ufo researchers in convention programmes, but as far as I can tell, the overwhelming bias is towards a 'favourable' picture of the ufo question. As to the former, we tend to "put out best foot forward" and, when before, the public, act as if the contributions to ufology were not largely done by amateurs, were not influenced by belief-systems, did not include a liberal share of craziness and lunacy. As to "professionalism" in ufology, who among us can claim a legitimate degree in ufology as such? Even some among us with degrees in other fields are not beyond questioning, as witness the various exposes. The point is not that ufology is a field unworthy of consideration, but rather that it should stand (or fall) on its actual merits, without missionary gloss aimed at convincing the public of our supposed "legitimacy". Personally, I love ufology in all its wild eccentricity. But I detest posturing and hypocrisy, and so should we all.

It should also be noted that ufology has yet to cope with "the varieties of ufological opinion" in setting convention programmes. As noted, some effort has been made of late to include the "established sceptics" on convention programmes, but what of the emergence of internal criticism in ufology, as exemplified by Magonia in Great Britain, or my own humble efforts in the USA? What of the religious critics of ufology? What of the classical contactees? Some among us may find a convention programme which includes such "elements" uncomfortable, or even repellent, but they are as much a part of ufology as ETH advocates.

One qualification on this area of process: My convention experience, though extensive is confined to the United States. Regarding Great Britain and the rest of the world, my knowledge of conventions and other gatherings is more limited than I would like. If such gatherings are reflected at all in the literature, I would expect that British gatherings would be more open than their American counterparts. I leave it to my British colleagues to evaluate their own record in this regard.

What about theoretical process in ufology? Do we tend to develop our theoretical structures logically, supporting any assertions with appropriate grounding? Here again, my very tentative conclusion is that what we say (and perhaps believe) we are doing is quite different from what we are actually doing. What we seem to think we are doing is taking the now incredibly large corpus of ufo data, logically factoring in case evaluations, and extrapolating possible conclusions, termed "theories". The reality, as I see it, is a bit less flattering.

To begin with, the "conclusions" now being offered have differed but little from the very first theories offered in the early 1950s when ufology was just beginning and the body of evidence was much smaller. One could at least suspect from this that the conclusion antedates the accumulation of data, implying that we are dealing not with true hypotheses, or even speculations, but rather presumptive belief systems. This criticism applies, incidently, to sceptics as well as "believers". In point of fact, one need only take note of the uses the words "belief" and "believer" have had in the literature over the years to raise this question.

I have by no means exhausted the questions possible in ufology with regard to process here, but I hope that I have at least demonstrated the legitimacy of this line of enquiry, and perhaps pointed to a few of the specific questions that should be raised. If my tentative conclusions are found to have any validity, it would perhaps be appropriate to call, at some future time, an international conference on ufological process, to discuss openly and candidly the question of bias and the question of direction, and perhaps submit suggestions for correction.

(Allen H Greenfield is the editor of the American journal UFOlogy Notebook. His articles on the UFO subject have appeared in various UFO publications. He was a founder of the Congress of Scientific Ufologists-National UFO Conference, and received that organisation's Robert Loftin Memorial Award in 1972).

MAPIT Newsdesk

Available from Bufora is the recently published research work - "Vehicle Interference Project" compiled by Geoffrey Falla, required reading. Price: Members £2.50; non-members £3.50 post free. From Tony Pace, Newchapel Observatory, Newchapel, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.....

Probe is the name of a new ufo magazine produced by Nufor (Southwest). Sub is £1.60 for four issues. Write to the editor: Ian Mrzyglod, 16 Marigold Walk, Ashton, Bristol, BS3 2PD.....

Alpha magazine in co-operation with the Society of Psychical Research are to hold a one day symposium on the ufo/psychic link in London on Saturday 15 November.....

The Portugese Group GCEO has ceased to exist in its present form. All mail should now be addressed to: Luis Freixo, CIDIC, Apartado 420, P-4007 Porto Codex. Portugal.....

Recent news from Australia via David Reneke concerns a new book just published entitled 'Alien Honeycomb'. In the book, self-confessed ufo expert John Pinkney plus Leonard Ryzman claim to have proof of a crashed ufo in Queensland. He claims he has major pieces of it and will only submit them to the United Nations.....

On November 8th, Birmingham University are staging a one-day seminar on Ufos: the Facts and Arguments. Ian Ridpath will present the anti-ufc case and Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington the pro-ufc case, including in a free-for-all debate. Even though Ian is outnumbered 2 to 1, I'm sure he will make a good impression. For further details write to: Birmingham University, Department of Extramural Studies, PO Box 363, Birmingham, B15 2TT.....

You can find some interesting inclusions in the Sphere book "Who's Who in Science Fiction" by Brian Ash. For instance: Charles Fort, wrote no science fiction but he was the originator of ideas which later served as the plot basis of various distinguished stories such as Russell's "Sinister Barrier". George Adamski, some suggested that he had written more science fiction than he thought, and finally Erich von Daniken, another dabbler in economically profitable guesswerk.....

New books to look out for are: The Janor People by Frank Johnson, to be published in September 1980, features a bizarre UK case; The Kaikoura UFOs by Capt. Bill Startup and Neil Illingworth to be published by Hodder and Stoughton, this book covers the New Zealand sightings in December 1978; The Interrupted Journey by John Fuller, to be published by Souvenir press, September. £6.95 - the famous Hill's abduction case. Harmonic 695 by Bruce Cathie and Peter Temm; Ufo and Anti-Gravity published by Sphere books on the 23 October price £1.50; Storm on the Sun by Joseph Goodavage - how the sun affects life on earth, published by Sphere books on the 23 October price £1.35. The UFO Handbook by Allan Hendry, a large format book which is a guide to investigating, evaluating and reporting UFO sightings, published by Sphere books on the 25 September price £5.95. Sun Gods in Exile by Karyl Robin Evans, published in paperback by Sphere books in August, price £1.25, described as the most revolutionary discovery since the devastating revelations by Erich Von Daniken. Books yet to be published and worth noting also are Jenny Randles' UFO Study, for publication later this year, I hear, and also Window on Another World to appear in May 1981 and published by Neville Spearman again by Randles and I believe Paul Whetnall. The Chosen is the working title of a book on abductions now being worked on by Andy Collins. Who said there was a shortage of UFO Books?.....

I have by no means exhausted the questions possible in ufology with regard to process here, but I hope that I have at least demonstrated the legitimacy of this line of enquiry, and perhaps pointed to a few of the specific questions that should be raised. If my tentative conclusions are found to have any validity, it would perhaps be appropriate to call at some future time an international conference on ufological process.

In a recent press release Bufora announce that the Lord Kings Norton has consented to accept the Presidency of the Association. Leslie Bayer, Chairman of Bufora said, "We are proud to have Lord Kings Norton as our President. Apart from the honour he has done the Association, his scientific, almost sceptical approach to the ufo phenomena is exactly in tune with Bufora's attitude".....

In the Volume 26 No 2 issue of Flying Saucer Review, it announced a further price increase, single issue price is now £1.00 and the subscription per annum is £5.70.

Mr.X of the Res Bureau in Canada, a publication dealing with Fortean events informs its readers that as of the end of July 1980 it will cease to exist. However, the Info Journal in the States has shown an interest in publishing the RBB material, and Journal UFO (see review section this issue) will be featuring the ufo material of the RBB.....

Researchers with a copy of Bufora's 'Investigators' Handbook' on their shelves, will be interested in 'BIG TOM', this stands for the 'Basic Investigators' Guide' and 'Training Officers Manual'. Compiled by Australian ufo Researchers they are both excellent publications and cover items not featured by Bufora. It is hoped that when Bufora revise their handbook they will consider featuring some of the chapters in BIG TOM. Anyone wishing copies must advise the ACUFOS as to which organisation they belong, either that or the organisation orders them on their behalf. BIG costs four dollars (Australian) surface mail and TOM costs two dollars (Australian) surface mail. So, investigators, researchers and training officers please note! Write to ACUFOS, Harry Griesberg, PO Box 546, Gosford, NSW 2250, Australia.....

Lindy Whitehurst of Dallas, Texas (no relation to JR) writes to inform me that he attended the Mufon Symposium mentioned in the March-April issue of Skywatch. He states there was a surprise announcement during the proceedings by Leonard Stringfield who is known for his crash/retrievals work. He said he now has photographs of captured dead aliens from a US military base. They have only been shown to officials of Mufon and may be shown to the general public later in the year. We await with interest, Lindy:

Bufora have just announced their 1980/81 London lecture programme, which is as follows:- 4th October - The Sirius Mystery by Robert Temple. 1st November - Pananormal Nuts and Bolts by Capt.Ivar Mackay. 6th December - Annual General Meeting and Odd Encounters of a Curicous Kind by Alan Watts. 3rd January 1981 - Life on Earth - a Fluke? by Martin Heath. 5th February - The Entity Enigma by Milary Evans. 7th March Research Evening. 4th April - Ufos Without Prejudice by Ian Watson. 9th May - The Jahos People by Frank Johnson. 6th June - What does it all mean by Sir John Whitmore. For further details send a SAE to The Hon.Secret ary, BUfora Ltd., 6 Cairn Avenue, London W5 5HX.....

Another book to look out for is Arthur Shuttlewoods "A Rainbow of UFOs" to be published this year by W.H.Allen and Co.Ltd.....

Another book to look out for is "Mysterious World" by Simon Welfare and John Fairly, published September 1980 by Collins, price £8.95p.....

News in from David Kay of NUFOR (Brighton) is that this Group and publication "Target" have ceased to exist.....

Fortean Times Summer issue is just out with plenty of good reading included. Sub has been increased to £4.00 for 4 issues - still a bargain. Write to Fortean Times, 9-12 St.Annes Court, London W.1.....

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE! IF A RED CROSS APPEARS ON THE FOLLOWING LINE, THIS INDICATES THAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION HAS RUN OUT WITH THIS ISSUE OF SKYWATCH!

..... Rates on back page.....

Reviews.....Reviews.....Reviews.....Reviews.....Reviews.....Reviews.....Reviews

BOOKS:

Sasquatch Apparitions by Barbara Wasson. Obtainable from the author at PO Box 5551 Band, Oregon, 97701 USA. 174 pages, large format paperback. Six dollars 50 cents.

As someone interested in this subject, I was pleased to obtain this book for Review for in Britain the nearest thing we have to Bigfoot are the Wildmen stories from Scotland and other parts of the country, which are prolific in legend and folklore. Barbara Wasson's book is a comprehensive guide to the North American cases and the researchers of them such as Green, Dahinden and Haas etc, "The credibility of Sasquatch witnesses" is an excellent piece of work, which investigators of other subjects notably UFOs can draw parallels with. The famous colour movie film taken by Roger Patterson is naturally discussed. Ms Wasson feels that Patterson would have been a non-de-script cowboy, a juggle of people, and a hit and miss inventor had it not been for the film he shot in 1967! The comments she makes on researchers are very much her personal ones, and I'm sure there are people who will disagree with her. An example is the following description concerning one researcher: "A dashing and vibrant", "handsome" and "generating a rich supply of drive and magnetism", "his glance is swift and penetrating". Could she mean a Hollywood film star? No - its 5ft 8" wiry and compact researcher Rene Dahinden! I've seen Rene on television and in photographs and he in no way resembles these comments, as I'm sure he will be the first to admit. We expect this sort of thing in Romantic novels, but not in this sort of book and it is totally out of place. As someone who has been interested in this subject for the last 14 years, Ms Wasson has a good knowledge of the Sasquatch enigma as her statistical analysis of 619 reports shows. Should she write a second book, which I hope she considers, I hope she will keep her sentimental comments on other researchers out of its pages. Sasquatch Apparitions is nevertheless a highly informative book and well worth obtaining.....

UFO Magin in Motion by Arthur Shuttlewood - Sphere books - price £1.10.

A most interesting book, absolutely packed full from cover to cover with on the spot case reports of encounters of all kinds. Very well put together, it would make a good film. How much you may believe the material, of course, is entirely up to the reader. If you do get this book there are three pages to note: Nos.189-190-228. One of these pages contains remarks by one D.Rees and also a sighting by his mother in 1973.

Summing up: a good book and well done, again, Arthur.....

by Alan Openshaw.

UFO Occupants and Critters by John Brent Musgrave, published by Global Communications 303 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1306, New York, NY10016, USA. Write to them for price and postage details.

First of all I would like to say that I find the title of this book and some of its chapters such as 'Peeping Toms and Molesters' rather unfortunate. A more sensible title could have surely been found seeing that the Canadian Council, as part of their explorations programme, awarded the author a grant to prepare the book. Nevertheless although the book does not in my opinion 'document the social history of a phenomenon' it is a valuable addition to any ufo student's collection. Many Canadian ufo cases are indeed documented, some which I must admit were new to me. Musgrave admits in the book that one of the difficulties of ufo research is that the definition of a ufo is so broad that at one level all of human knowledge can be subsumed under the ufo research, and I'm sure in having said that he will watch with interest the progress BUFORA's working party has in coming years. Throughout the book are illustrations to the cases featured and these appear original witness drawings in most instances which is good to see. How I agreed with him that the quality of ufo reports depends on the individual investigators, in other words many reports in conclusion reflect with the investigator wants us to read, although I'm sure many persons will disagree with me on this point. The catalogue of occupant cases he has come across make interesting reading, starting in 1796 through to 1978 - 90 such cases in all. Well done, John, a very informative book!.....

THIS HOUSE IS HAUNTED by Guy Lyon Playfair. Published June 1980 by Souvenir Press, price £6.95. 288 pages with 16 pages of black and white photographs.

A very interesting study by Playfair and his collaborator Maurice Grosse, into Britain's most publicised haunted house in Enfield, North London. Telling us the full story of how a normal family became in 1977 involved in all types of weird happenings. I'm sure the authors fully understood the main problem with a book of this sort, and that was proving to the reader the authenticity of the events featured. The same problem exists, of course, in many other subjects, too, notably Ufos. No matter how hard the investigators tried for bonafide evidence, it comes down to the always remaining 'proof' - the testimony of the witnesses. So they had a very difficult job and to be fair the author does state in the preface 'if you are not sated by all the horrors and occult titillations of books or films such as the Exorcist and its hosts of imitations, and are still hungry for even more exotic thrills, then this book is not for you. You will find some of it rather dull, with not a very good plot and some pretty terrible dialogue'. Indeed in places the book is repetitive and hard going, but this has to be expected if numerous incidents were being repeated over and over again. Chapter two entitled 'Ten Coincidences' is quite remarkable and we are then taken through the day to day encounters the Harper family suffered, moving furniture, strange voices, apparitions, levitation and so on. When people have read this book they will be able to realise that paranormal activity is not confined to hilltop gothic buildings shrouded in mist with shaking shutters and owls hooting, but to normal homes like we all live in, in this case a semi-detached house in a quiet Enfield street. Whether you believe that this sort of activity is caused by ghosts or spirits of the dead who somehow are able to manifest themselves by absorbing energy from their victims and putting it to their mysterious purposes or by the equally fascinating 'Gilles De La Tourette's Syndrome', only you can judge that for yourself. I would recommend you to read this very down-to-earth study, which writers like Jay Anon would find helpful. A very difficult subject and case handled very well by Playfair and Grosse.

Magazines:

Journal UFO edited by David Haisell, price two dollars seventyfive per copy. From PD Box 455, Streetsville, Mississauga, Ontario, L5M 2B9 Canada.

This new magazine is very well produced indeed and Journal UFO is incorporated with two other magazines, DeGraws "Ufo Examiner" and Magers "Canadian Ufo Report". Included in issue No.1 amongst other items are an abduction case in Toronto, JUFObits, which is a collection of sightings etc. Articles by John Magor, Don Worley, Betty Hill and Brinsley Le Peer Trench make it a good read with a lot of variety in its 30 plus pages.....

Booklet:

Stars and Rumours of Stars by Kevin and Sue McClure, price £1.00. From 8 Scotland Road, Little Bowden Market Harborough, Leice.

Here at last we have a genuine piece of original research work, published in the format of a 36 page booklet by two people who have spent a lot of time delving into the past via newsclips, etc. and they have come up with a superb insight into the religious revival in Wales in 1904-5. The booklet centres around one Mary Jones who was a leading figure in the revival and tells of strange balls of light and of weird happenings which occurred and accompanied her as she travelled the countryside carrying out her work. Telepathy, OOB experiences, apparitions and a man in black make this publication a real bargain at one pound! Kevin and Sue, well done, and I look forward to a possible sequel.....

to the cases featured and those whose original witness drawings in most instances which is good to see. How I agreed with him that the quality of the reports depends on the individual investigators. In other words many reports in conclusion reflect with me investigator wants us to read, although I'm sure many reports will disagree with me on this point. The catalogue of occult cases he has come across make interesting reading, starting in 1788 through to 1978 - 90 such cases in all. Well done, John, a very informative book!.....

The Loch Ness Enigma by Rip Hepple

1980, the start of a new decade - will it bring any new findings about the mystery of Loch Ness? If the present level of work being done on the Loch is maintained and the development of equipment is continued, further and better evidence is sure to be forthcoming.

My own interest in the Loch and the animals began more than 30 years ago, while I was still at school. It was brought along and strengthened by reading the book by Constance Whyte, "More than a Legend". It was first published in 1957, but it is unfortunately now out of print. I also saw a remarkable piece of film shown on BBC television. On Saturday 23 April 1960, the last day of a week spent monster-hunting, Tim Dinsdale took a four-minute sequence of 16mm film. This showed a large humped object lying in mid-loch some 1300 yards away; this then moved away across the Loch slowly submerging as it did so, then causing a large bow-wave. It turned sharply left and continued parallel to the far shore (northern shore opposite Foyers) slowing going deeper until the disturbance it was causing ceased. Later the same day Mr. Dinsdale had the foresight to have a 14 foot Loch boat, with outboard motore, cover roughly the same course as that taken by the animal. This he filmed from the same place and thus produced a very useful piece of comparative film. In January 1966, the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre (UK), a unit of the armed services, devoted to photographic interpretation, produced a report on the Dinsdale film. In this detailed report they calculated the length of the boat as 13.3 feet, and its speed at 6.5 mph, an indication of the high degree of accuracy they are capable of. Of the 'hump' they give the various calculations and the reasons for them, and come up with the conclusions as follows: It is not a surface vessel or a submarine; it travels at speeds between 7 mph and 10 mph; it is 5.5 feet wide at the waterline and stands 3 feet high from the surface and is probably an animate object. The apex of the back is a rounded shape, as expected if animate; the slope of the sides suggest that there will be some increase in width below the waterline; if this is slight, the width of the object becomes 6 feet. Even if the object is relatively flat bellied, normal body rounding would suggest that there is at least 2 feet under the water. This gives a cross-section through the 'animal' of at least 6 feet by 5 feet. So a respected professional body having examined the Dinsdale film says, it is probably animate with a cross-section of at least 6 feet by 5 feet. What more needs saying? This in my opinion is still the best piece of evidence we have.

On November 23rd 1961, Mrs. Whyte, Richard Fitter, Peter Scott and David James, set up the Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau. Over the years this became known as the LNI, its original function was to carry on the work of Mrs. Whyte, recording and analysing eye-witness accounts, as she had retired and left the area. But over the next 10 years LNI became a major factor in the search for an answer to the Loch Ness mystery. The field work headquarters at Achnahannet became not only the base for the teams of volunteer watchers, but a focal point for tourists as well as the media. With journalists and film and television crews from most countries in the world working there over the seasons. In retrospect it is possible to see the mistakes that LNI made and the faults in its programmes, but I believe that at the time they did a very necessary job very well. I found the LNI on my first trip to the Loch in 1965; I returned as a volunteer the next and subsequent years. The attraction was the chance to spend a fortnight with a group of people from many different backgrounds all with the common interest in the Loch. Also there was the equipment you had the chance to use - 35mm movie cameras with 1000mm lenses, taken to pre-selected sites along the loch by vans every morning. Or the Bolex 16mm movie cameras that were carried by anyone going to the shore or onto the water. Then as the years went on there was the opportunity to work with, or have first hand knowledge of, various groups funded by 'World Books'. There was Dan Taylor with his submarine in 1969, which produced more publicity than work. Bob Love and his extended period of work on 'Rangitea' with sonar equipment, which produced positive results on a number of occasions. Also Professor Roy Mackal received funding from the Chicago Adventurers Club and did a great deal of valuable work. In 1968 Professor Tucker, Head of the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering at the University of Birmingham, along with Dr. Hugh Braithwaite and Dr. D.J. Creasey, brought some new sonar gear to the Loch to test it. The gear was mounted on a rig off the end of Temple Pier, the beam was directed across the

Loch giving a 'curtain' which would reveal the movements of objects through it. This it did, showing at one time two large targets moving in and out of the beam, and rising and diving at a large rate of knots. Although Professor Tucker and his team made no attempt to identify these objects their work was strongly criticised in the distinguished scientific journal 'Nature'. In 1969/70 the Birmingham team returned to the Loch but refused to make public any of their results. After many years of lone expeditions spent on the water in his boat 'Water Horse' Tim Dinsdale took over as field director of the 1970 LNI expedition. This was also the first season that Bob Rines brought a team over from the Academy of Applied Science, of Boston, Massachusetts. Among them was Dr. Martin Klein, designer of the Klein side-scan sonar. This was used in stationary mode off the end of Temple Pier; it was also towed from 'Water Horse' in the region of 'Horseshoe Scree'. In both instances contact was made with large, moving underwater objects. I was fortunate to be on the resident staff at Achnahannet for the 1970 season. I returned to the site to do the improvements required by the County Council at the end of January 1971, and was able to stay on when Tim returned as field director for his second and last season. Bob Rines also came back with improved equipment, as he has done with various groups every year since. They had photographic success in August 1972 with the underwater gear. This was a sonar controlled 16mm time-lapse motion picture camera with synchronized strobe light, which could be set to take photographs from 3 to 90 seconds apart. During the night of August 8th the Academy's team were out on URQUHART Bay in two boats monitoring the sonar and camera equipment. They had responses from both and when the film was processed the results were the 'flipper' pictures, and a frame that could possibly have the fuzzy image of two bodies on it. The 'flipper' frames were taken 45 seconds apart and show a diamond shaped flipper that is calculated to be some 6 feet long and 2 feet wide. In the two frames the flipper is in different positions, indicating movement. At the end of the 1972 season LNI had to cease its field operations. The Inverness County Council brought to an end the necessary planning permission for the Bureau to remain on the HQ site at Achnahannet. There were plans to build a new complex to contain LNI living quarters and research buildings along with tourist facilities. This was to be a joint project with the Landmark people being among those interested, unfortunately the scheme fell through owing to problems financing it.

The next successful expedition was the June 1975 one, when with improved gear the Academy succeeded in getting a number of photographs of unidentified objects. Among them was a single frame of what appears to be the upper torso, neck and head of a living creature. After various measurements were done, the indication was that the object was 25 feet away from the camera and some 20 feet long. Six hours later the camera went through a period of major disturbance, swinging around on its mooring ropes below the boat. During this time the camera was activated and took pictures showing the boat silhouetted on the surface, in the middle of seven of these frames was one of a 'bead'. This has bilateral symmetry which strongly suggested that it was the head of a living creature. The object was about 5 feet from the camera, and about 2 feet long, although precision is impossible, because the entire object is not in the frame. So once again the Academy had obtained evidence of large animals in Loch Ness, and once again it proved to be not good enough to convince the 'establishment'. This has been the problem all along, the zoologists and biologists of such establishments as the British Museum have refused to accept what evidence there is, they have also been very reluctant to help in any search to find more conclusive evidence. In this matter I feel that short of catching an animal, or finding a body, the only thing that will really do is a superb piece of movie film. Unfortunately all the very good work done by Bob and his Academy teams has been more or less limited to still photography and sonar. In the field of sonar they have come up with some good results, but these are just marks on a sonar chart and sceptics explain them away as shoals of fish, reflection from the steep underwater Loch sides, faults in the equipment, or anything else as long as it is not a large animal. Although in another area of sonar work the Academy has found some unusual stone circles in the shallower part of the Loch near Loch End, they have also located the remains of a crashed Wellington bomber in some 200 feet of water and two targets in deeper water that have the characteristics of skeletal remains. These latter are too deep for normal diving techniques but could be worth further investigation of some sort. The still pictures are good, but think about a movie of a creature swimming past the camera instead of 'flipper' shots taken 45 seconds apart

that 'indicate movement'. I realise that the technical problems connected with sonar triggered movie cameras are immense, but I feel that if they could be overcome it could produce startling results.

One major problem that has to be overcome when doing any work on Loch Ness is one of size, the area of the surface or sheer volume of underwater. When you go underwater the peat particles reduce the field of vision to a minimal level, but even without the peat, cameras cannot 'see' very far. When doing surface watching, it is just that, a surface, to be seen, an object must break the surface. This limits you to a large area that is glasslike, anything below the reflection stays out of sight. For 5 weeks during the summer of 1970 an experiment to overcome this problem was staged - it involved an autogyro. After visiting him at his home in Norfolk and seeing the autogyro, Tim Dinsdale engaged Wing Commander Ken Wallis to bring his machine to the Loch during the 1970 season. Ken Wallis who designed and built the aircraft, the 17th in the line, fitted still and movie cameras and an improved silencer to the Rolls Royce powered WWA-117 and duly arrived at the Loch. After looking over a number of fields two were chosen as suitable and Ken took to the air. An autogyro cannot hover but with a minimum airspeed of about 12 mph it is possible to bring groundspeed to zero with a light headwind. During his early flights Ken was feeling his way to find the best method of operation. With the narrow fuselage of the machine he had a very good field of downward vision, he found that at a height of some 2000 feet over one shoreline gave him a complete view of the width of the Loch. A patrol from Loch End to Fort Augustus could be done in 20 minutes. He also found that with calm surface conditions it was possible to see 15 feet below the surface - he was able to judge this by the length of mooring ropes visible on boats and the amount of bottom he could see found the Loch edge. Despite logging very many flying hours Ken did not connect with an animal; if he had, the plan was to circle lower and use both the movie and motor-wound still cameras. These were adapted gun-cameras and easy to use and built for the job. Although the experiment was not a success from the point of view of 'monster', it did prove that from the air, thus reducing the reflection factor, it was possible to vastly increase the volume of water under observation. This was in my opinion a worthwhile experiment and one well worth someone trying again.

What of the future? Bob Rines will continue to work with various scientific bodies, and bring teams to the Loch, but for how long, who knows? Roger Parker of Partech Electronics Ltd. of St. Austell, has been conducting his own expeditions with sonar gear for a few weeks a year, for the past four years. He had had success with this equipment and doubtless will be back. Along with these larger expeditions there are a growing number of individuals who visit the Loch with cameras from time to time during the season to do their own surface watches. I am getting more feedback from NIS members now than I used to. NIS, in the Ness Information Service which I started in 1974 and I edit the bi-monthly Nessletters. The Loch Morar Survey last year extended its project and have programmes for both Lochs. Over the past few years the number of sightings seem to have been getting less. This could be due to a number of reasons. When LNI was forced to cease operations, the 'average tourist' had nowhere to go to report anything strange that they may have seen. Another possibility is that the growing numbers of motor cruisers are causing an increasing amount of disturbance or pollution, and keeping the animals away from the surface. This is a widely held belief among 'Nessie-Hunters' but I am happy to report that a sighting last year seems to disprove this. In September 1979 the McNish family were aboard a motor cruiser hired for their holidays. They were making their way back to Inverness and had just left the canal at Fort Augustus along with a number of other vessels. About a mile on they passed another cruiser that was moving slowly and trolling a salmon lure. Mrs. McNish saw two humps 25 feet behind it; they were about 50 feet away from them. She brought them to the attention of the rest of the family. Mr. McNish turned the boat to the left, as he did so the humps changed course and came towards them, slowly submerging and in fact, the animal must have gone under them. Mrs. McNish had the chance to examine the humps through a pair of binoculars; they were 15 inches high, with a texture of moist skin; they were dark brown in colour, but she had the impression of grey mottled effect in the colour and they seemed to merge into a much larger shape underwater. The weather at the time was warm and sunny with a calm Loch surface. So it seems that there is at least one animal in the Loch that is not too disturbed by the motor cruisers. I feel that the answer to the mystery must be found - let us hope that it is sooner than later.

(Rip runs the Ness Information Service, and he also edits its newsletter. Subscription rate is £2.00 p.a. Write to him at Huntshildford, St.John's Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co.Durham, CL13 1RQ).

SIGHTINGS

Well, once again nothing of great interest to report regards UK sightings, - its still very quiet and since th last issue of Skywatch cases we have investigated have been evaluated as IFOs. So below you will a small overseas collection of sightings and news:-

GREECE: Omiros Karajas of UPIT informs us that on the 1st April 1980 at 22.20 hrs. an Olympic Airways pilot reported observing a strange light, which was also seen from the ground by airport personnel. The aircraft was flying at 8.500 ft over an area called Pireefs

POLAND:- Youths Terrorized by 3 UFOs.

Warsaw: A young couple at Lodz (in the middle of Poland) told the police they had been terrorized by UFOs. The two youths asserted they say, on the night between Sunday and Monday, three bright balls hovering and spreading a blinding light. Frightened,the couple locked themselves into their house and came out only on the following morning, when the three mysterious sphers had by then disappeared.

'Il Rest Del Carlino' April 8th 1980 vial UFO Newsclipping Service No.131 June 1980.

USA :- Though there's no trace - HUNT FOR SPACEMAN's BODY GOES ON. by Tom Tiede. This is another in a series of articles regarding events from America's past.

AURORA, Texas (NEA)

There's almost nothing to do in this north Texas farm community. The nearest city is Dallas, 45 miles to the east and the nearest beach is on the Gulf Coast, down towards Mexico. The only business in town is a service station - and its not open much any more.

Yet each summer, when Americans are touched by warm weather wanderlust, hundreds of tourists motor into Aurora. They bring their sun glasses, their cameras and their walking shorts and they stay for a few hours, or a few days, prowling roads and observing natives as if it were Tampico.

They aren't looking for a good time, however. They are locking for the man from outer space.

The tourists in Aurora are UFO watchers. They believe this wide spot in the road is a shrine to their convic tions. Many years ago, they say, a great space ship fell from the sky and crashed here; the pilot of the craft was supposed to have been killed and then buried for the ages in this place.

The tourists, then, come to find the body, or what's left of it. They search the reported crash site, on a hill behind the gas station, and they study the grave markers at Aurora's small cemetery. If even a bit of bone can be found, they say, it will change the course of human thought.

A bit of bone? Most locals snicker up their sleeves at the visitors. The opinion among townsfolk is that the story of the deal spaceman is a hoax. At the same time, residents admit the hoax is founded on a vague fact; records indicate that something of this sort may indeed have happened here.

The year was 1897. And though the first flight of the Wright brothers was still eight years away, people across American were sighting propelled objects in the sky. For example, several Texams reported seeing a cigar-shaped vehicle, lighter than air cruising low over cowboy country.

No one in Aurora paid attention to the sighting reports. This was a bustling region at the time, growing with the nation, and there was little pause for nonsense. Then, on April 9 of that year, reportedly at 6 a.m. a UFO allegedly slipped from the heavens and exploded in the middle of town.

The record of the occasion was compiled by a Dallas newspaper correspondent named F.E. Hayden. He apparently got most of his information from Aurora resident T.J. Weems. The latter told the former that the crash was observed and verified by numerous early risers in the community.

Hayden wrote that the UFO was a space craft, and smashed into property belonging to J.S. Proctor, a judge. He quoted Weems as saying the explosion lit up the morning sky, and left debris over three acres. Weems added there was a body among the debris, and it was "not....of this world".

The body was thought to be the ship's pilot. It was identified as being dressed in a blue uniform, not unlike a sailor suit. Weems told Hayden the corpse was badly mangled, but, happily, "The men of the community gathered it up, and it was given a Christian burial in the Aurora cemetery."

The grove is said to have been small and round. It is also said to have distinguished with a hand-made stone which was inscribed with a drawing of a cigar-shaped object. Aurora residents say the marker was not really handmade, and that the inscription closely resembled the shape of a plow.

The residents concede the crash of 1897 probably occurred. But that's as much credence as they'll allow the story of the dead spaceman. They believe the town was hit by a meteorite and Weems and Hayden embellished the moment; they say Hayden was a well-known writer of satirical fiction.

This last opinion was bulwarked a few years ago by Dr. Alfred Krause, a Texas researcher he dug at the crash site and found nothing more extraterrestrial than a 1932 license plate. As for the spaceman's grave, its "officially" occupied by an itinerant named Carr who died of yellow fever.

True believers have their own side of it, of course. For one thing, some visitors have reported finding "odd metals" at the crash site. One piece of metal was aluminium and the oddity is that it was said to be buried too deeply to be of modern origin. Aluminium was not in common use in 1897.

Additionally, the spaceman theory is supported by the only man in Aurora who personally remembers the crash. Charles Stevens was just a child then, but he says his father saw something fall into Judge Proctor's property; and, he adds, "There might have been two or three spaceman, I don't know."

No one knows. And its unlikely that anyone ever will. The spaceman's grave stone was stolen years ago, and the grave itself has been eroded and lost. Rest in peace, whoever you are.

SULPHUR SPRINGS NEWS TELEGRAM 1979 - Credit: Lindy Whitehurst.

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THE ENDBITS

QUOTES:

Money doesn't buy happiness, but it enables us to look for it in a lot more places.

Credit: ?

What really interests me is whether God had any choice in the creation of the World.

Credit: Albert Einstein.

Modesty is the gentle art of letting people discover for themselves, just how important you are.

Credit: Gordon Irving.

He who asks a question is a fool for five minutes; he who does not ask a question is a fool forever.

Credit: Magic Saucer No.9 1980.

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