



PURSUIT

"SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNEXPLAINED"

VOL. 4, NO. 3

JULY, 1971

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

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ORGANIZATION

The legal and financial affairs of the Society are managed by a Board of Trustees, in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. These Officers are five in number: a President, elected for five years; two Vice-Presidents; a Treasurer; and a Secretary. General policy is supervised by a Governing Board, consisting of the five Trustees, and four other members elected for one year terms. General administration and management is handled by an Executive Board, listed on the inside back cover of this publication. The Editorial Board is listed on the masthead of this journal. Finally, our Society is counselled by a number of prominent scientists, as also listed on the inside back cover of this journal. These are designated as our Scientific Advisory Board.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in the activities of the Society is solicited. Memberships run from the 1st of January to the 31st of December; but those joining after the 1st of October are granted the final quarter of that year gratis. The annual subscription is U.S. \$10, which includes four issues of the Journal PURSUIT for the year, as well as access to the Society's library and files, through correspondence or on visitation. The annual subscription rate for the journal PURSUIT (alone, and without membership benefits) is \$5, including postage. (PURSUIT is also distributed, on a reciprocal basis, to other societies and institutions.) The Society contracts-- with individuals, and institutional and official organizations for specific projects -- as a consultative body. Terms are negotiated in each case in advance. Fellowship in the Society is bestowed (only by unanimous vote of the Trustees) on those who are adjudged to have made an outstanding contribution to the aims of the Society.

NOTICES

In view of the increase in resident staff and the non-completion, as yet, of additional living quarters, there is no longer over-night accomodation for visitors. Members are welcome to visit to consult our files, but we ask that they make application at least a week in advance to prevent 'pile-ups' of members who, as a result of the simple lack of facilities, as of now, cannot be properly accomodated.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society publishes a quarterly journal entitled PURSUIT. This is both a diary of current events and a commentary and critique of reports on these. It also distributes an annual report on Society affairs to members. The Society further issues Occasional Papers on certain projects, and Special Reports on the request of Fellows only. A four-page newsletter goes quarterly to members only.

RECORD: From its establishment in July, 1965, until the end of March 1968, the Society issued only a newsletter, on an irregular basis. The last two publications of that were, however, entitled PURSUIT-- Vol. 1, No. 3 and No. 4, dated June and September, 1968. Beginning with Vol. 2, No. 1, PURSUIT has been issued on a regular quarterly basis: dated January, April, July, and October. Back issues, some available only as Xerox copies, are available; those wishing to acquire any or all of these should request an order form.

Vol. 4, No. 3
July, 1971

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THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE
INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

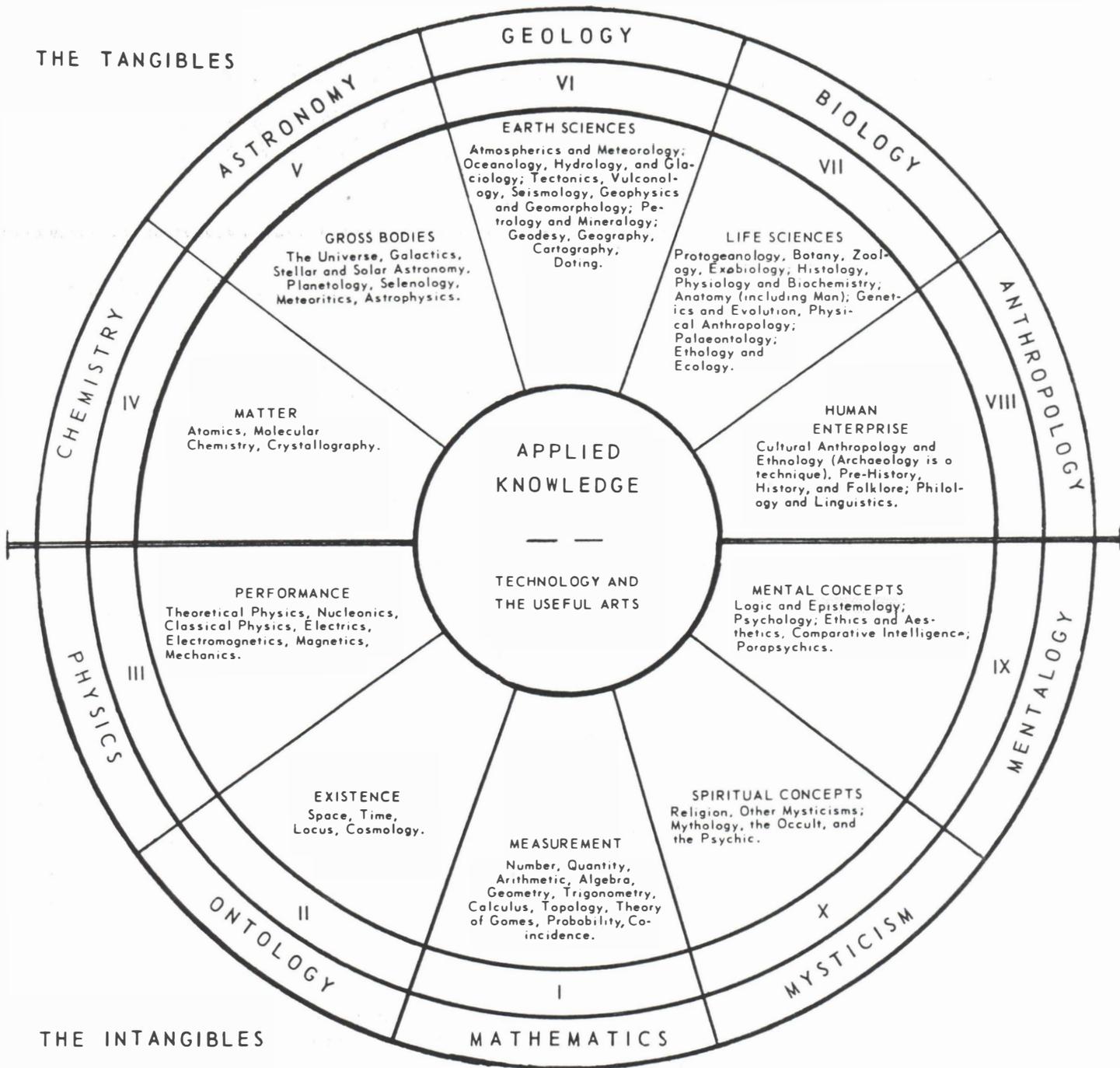
DEVOTED TO THE INVESTIGATION OF "THINGS"
THAT ARE CUSTOMARILY DISCOUNTED

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THE TAXONOMY OF KNOWLEDGE



Everything in existence, including "existence" itself, and thus all of our possible concepts and all knowledge that we possess or will ever possess, is contained within this wheel. Technologies and the useful arts lie within the inner circle, having access to any or all of the ten major departments of organized knowledge.

From the KORAN: "Acquire knowledge. It enables its possessor to know right from wrong; it lights the way to heaven; it is our friend in the desert, our society in solitude; our companion when friendless; it guides us to happiness; it sustains us in misery; it is an ornament among friends, and an armour against enemies." — The Prophet.

EDITORIAL

One does not enjoy taking one's own establishment apart; but on the grounds of common honesty, just such a 'taking-apart' would appear to be called for. Said establishment is commonly called "The Fourth Estate" — i.e. the popular press, and assorted dependents. The undersigned has for over forty years now considered himself honoured to be officially included in the ranks of both the working (news) press and the magazine field, and called a "science reporter". We have, however, all along felt that this would be better designated as "A professional writer who specializes in matters scientific".

Over the years in this — in any case — rather touchy profession, we have noted an increasing difficulty in interviewing working scientists. The reason given us would appear to be utterly legitimate: to wit, that previous reporters either just plain didn't know their stuff and/or made it up. Worse still, others persisted in mis-quoting the interviewee, to his horror and amazement, and often to his professional detriment. A working scientist is fighting for his life, as well as his reputation, just like anybody else. But his job is tougher. He may spend decades searching into, and then researching, his speciality. He may need another decade to digest his findings and write them up. Then, some chap who is an expert on Greta Garbo or some such, and whose science 'training' is limited to a course in "general science" taken in high school twenty years before, comes along and interviews him — and then goes away and publishes pages of tripe. It is not fair. Moreover, these so-called professional newsmen sometimes even sign guarantees that they will not publicize, or publish, without prior written permission from said research worker. But then they do; and without any permission. And what recourse has the poor scientist? Try and pen a refutation to the popular publication? Or write it up for a scientific journal that may not be able to publish it for two years?

The most horrifying example of this irresponsibility that we have ever encountered came to our attention only now. We picked this up from UPI last December and commented upon it in our January issue. It was an article on "thinking machines", written for Life Magazine by one Brad Darrach. We thought it a bit far-fetched at the time. Then comes from one of our members a tearsheet of a reply by the unfortunate scientist interviewed — Dr. Marvin Minsky of M.I.T. — in a journal entitled SIGART, dated December, 1970. This is published by the A.C.M. which is the official mouthpiece of the American Computer Society. From this, it transpires that a very substantial part of what Mr. Darrach claimed Dr. Minsky said is a pure pipe-dream. This is bad enough; but what nauseates and terrifies us is that there was, at a very minimum, what used to be called a "gentleman's agreement" to the effect that no story would be published until it had been submitted to the interviewee. It was never so submitted.

The field of (human) brain control and mind patrol is not pleasant; and when it comes to what we can but call "computerism", we are into a really sensitive and sticky area. (We know personally one Congressman who is so alarmed by developments in the latter that he is showing signs of leaving the House, after a most distinguished career and being re-elected for the Nth time; and going directly to the people.)

We have talked to Dr. Minsky, and he wishes us to make one point. This is that "mechanical brains" will most probably — the way things are going currently — indeed be developed some day. However; how, when, and where, as stated by Mr. Darrach, are not Dr. Minsky's thoughts; and Dr. Minsky never said the things anent this that he was alleged to have said in the Life interview. UPI, on the other hand, did show decent journalistic courtesy by clearing their version of the story with the interviewee, prior to its publication in Life Magazine. These are the facts of the case. If you want the details, get a copy of Life for the 20th November, 1970; and then a copy of Sigart for December, 1970. Said facts are bad enough; but what we are interested in is the background of all this.

Reporting on matters scientific is, admittedly, not easy. Further, nobody (just because they have the ability to write, and write cogently and understandably) should mix into matters in which they have not had proper training, and which they do not understand. We have laid it down as part of our policy — and in print — that we (SITU) will not presume to comment on various matters, such as the Law, Medicine, Politics, the Occult, et alia. That's one stage of veracity. The next, we feel, is that no writer, however erudite, should presume to write about (say) ecology unless he or she has studied the business for many years, and has had an appropriate amount of practical experience in it. And when it comes to such ticklish matters as mechanical brains and human brainwashing, one would strongly urge that all writers, except real experts, keep out of it.

If the scientific community is going to communicate with the 'lay' public, they are going to have to round up the editors. That is where the system breaks down. For pity's sake: if "editors" can get out the N.Y. telephone directory year after year without mistakes, and the big publishing houses can bring out medical texts, upon which the nation's health depends, can't a popular magazine with all its money and resources, get articles of real interest properly checked, corrected, and put forth? And why should any publication not stand by its guarantees — written or merely verbal — to at least let the interviewee approve what they propose to put out? We run a magazine, and we've also been an editor of others — and of textbooks. So, O.K.: scientists are notoriously slow, but they are busy people. And does a lapse of a couple weeks really throw your publishing schedule off? Phui!

Ivan T. Sanderson.

CHAOS AND CONFUSION

MORE ON THOSE DAMNED TRACKS

In our April issue we presented a preliminary report on tracks found in snow in a Mr. Fraser's back yard in Farnborough, England, with the statement that we would make further enquiries when the British postal strike ended. And so we did. Our correspondent, Miss Janet Gregory, wrote on the 6th May, as follows:

"I have made some enquiries about the footprints in the snow at Farnborough, as you requested, but what I have discovered is not very promising. I wrote to the Police at Farnborough, whose reply I quote. 'A report was received from Mr. Fraser on the 31st December 1970 that he had found strange footprints in the snow in the back garden of his house. One of my officers visited and found what he describes as about one dozen foot-marks in the snow confined to the back garden. The snow was melting, which appears to have exaggerated the size and shape of the marks. He saw no reason to think that the marks were caused by any unusual animal. I regret that I am unable to give you any possible explanation. The matter was possibly given more press publicity than was warranted. There has been no recurrence that would suggest anything out of the ordinary is happening.'

"Since receiving this letter, I have written to the man who reported the footprints, Mr. Fraser, but since I wrote on 16 April and have not yet had a reply, it looks as though he is remaining silent. If I hear anything from him, I will of course send the details on to you."

In a way, this would seem to have ended the matter. But Miss Gregory wrote again on the 5th June:

"I am very glad to report that there have been more developments in the 'Farnborough tracks' case, in that I have today received a letter from Mr. Fraser whose back garden they appeared in. I was beginning to consider the case closed, after the negative response from the police and the lack of response from Mr. Fraser, but I think you will agree when you read Mr. Fraser's letter that this case gets curiously and curiously! I won't leave you in suspense any longer. Here is what Mr. Fraser wrote:

'With ref to your letter of April 16th 1971 regarding "Footprints in the Snow". First, I wish to apologise for not answering your letter sooner, which I trust you will accept.

'What happened was: Just after Xmas and we had all gone to bed, my wife and I were awakened in the early hours of the morning by my black labrador dog

Sheena making a curious high pitched barking noise. Normally, if she is disturbed she barks very loud and fierce and I always make a point of going downstairs to investigate as I did so on this occasion. I would like to state at this stage we have two cats, the she cat Twinkle and black tom cat Fred. I did not go outside, but checked that all was in order in the house, and looked out of the windows but could see nothing so I returned to bed. A short while later, I heard a sound like something knocking against wood, the dog did not bark so we went off to sleep, and forgot the incident.

'The following morning, I had occasion to phone my wife, and she said that "I am glad you rang as there are some unusual marks in the snow", and she seemed concerned, so I came home immediately, and there they were. I have travelled a little in my time, but I had never seen anything like it. They were large, the shape of a human foot (base) but at the toe part, there were deep marks of claws in the snow, and fresh, they had not been there the day previous. I did not know what to think, at first I thought that some large animal was loose and as there is a playground near, and thinking that there was a danger to children, I rang the police. I then searched my garden and sheds, but found nothing except that the prints were clearly visible right up to the windows of the room where the dog sleeps. The footprints appeared to me, that the creature that made them was on two legs; I could not detect any place where they entered or left, but assessed that whatever it was had gone over our high wooden fence and that this was the noise I had heard later.

'The Police came, but were non committal and told my wife that it was probably a deer or a fox [!], the prints were later measured at 8-½" long. The local newspaper Farnborough Chronicle sent their reporter and photographer and I have no doubt they will supply you with copies of its photographs, but if you cannot obtain them, we have the cuttings [clippings to you in the U.S. — and it would be nice if our country had a name!*] from the papers at home and you are welcome to borrow them.

'In conclusion, referring to the cats, for about two weeks prior to this my she cat Twinkle had behaved in a very scared manner and was very jumpy, and would only go out when someone was there, and then not for long. My tom cat Fred seemed all right except that he kept prowling around a large lilac bush in the garden looking into it and sniffing around. Nothing

*In America, i.e. the Western Hemisphere, there are the United States of Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, and 'America'; several others (Colombia and Argentina, we think) are also technically "united states".

unusual has happened since, but my wife does not like going into the garden in the dark, since the incident, and for that matter, neither do I, but I have a good look round just in case. I trust that this may be of some assistance to you.

Miss Gregory again: "All I can say is, some fox! I don't know whether the added description given here will give Mr Sanderson any clue as to what species of creature left the prints, but if all Mr Fraser says is true, then it must have been a mighty peculiar one."

Miss Gregory wrote for photographs, and we are awaiting these. But a humanoid footprint – if one can trust Mr. Fraser's description; and he sounds like a solid citizen – with claws is very odd indeed; and we will continue to pursue this whatever-it-is.

MORE ON DOWSING

Somewhat regretfully this has once again to be put into the category of Chaos & Confusion because there is just so much of both involved in it. Like astrology, there could be the proverbial "grain of truth" underlying the business, but the exponents of both efforts are so stuck with ancient traditions, preconceived notions, and such, that neither of them will cut out the guff and even try to get down to the realities. Dowsing is neither a science nor an art. Also it does not work consistently – if a human being is in any way involved in it. If executed entirely mechanically, and without human interference, it apparently does so (see Chapter 11, More "Things", 1969, Pyramid Books, N.Y., by Ivan T. Sanderson). Please to absorb the following from Science News, 13th Feb., 1971:

"Dowsing Discounted. Using a divining rod to locate underground sources of water or minerals has a long history, and there are at present many practitioners of the art.

"R. A. Foulkes of the Institute of Industrial Research and Standards at Dublin reports that experiments with experienced dowsers obtained results that were no better than a series of guesses. The tests involved searching for various types of buried objects and for moving water, he reports in the Jan. 15 Nature.

"Foulkes says he went out of his way to make the experiments reliable, choosing only those who claimed and were recognized to be good dowsers and making sure that they agreed beforehand that the experiments were fair.

"One theory, says Foulkes, is that the dowser is sensitive to variations in the earth's magnetic field; a number of experiments showed that this was not so, he reports. He suggests that the extraordinary motion

of the divining rod in the hands of the dowser results from the way it is held, which makes any chance motion of the tip extremely difficult to suppress."

The point that has somehow to be rammed home is that humans and other animals are electrical machines, and they can produce, either deliberately or unwittingly, some most extraordinary electromagnetic effects. Whether flowing water, under-ground; stationary water; air in metal pipes; lumps of metal; or anything else, gives out "waves" of any kind – EM or otherwise – has not yet been determined; but there is no doubt that "L"-rods running mechanically over such items (linearly) do react regularly and consistently in certain manners; and consistent with whatever is below ground, at least to a certain depth. With a human running a "Y" twig, or a coat-hanger, or what else, anything can happen – and often wrong! We have also tried this with dogs, and things do happen – sometimes – but, as Dr. Foulkes found out working with humans, they were neither consistent nor accurate by any defineable fraction above the law of averages.

We would be more than just interested in seeing a similar scientific testing of the most extraordinary aspect of this so-called dowsing; namely, finding water, and other items, from maps. Is this also just a 50-50 chance hit-and-miss business? There are those who use pendula as well as twigs, rods, and other devices to do this. Should the "findings" of such operatives prove to be even a tiny percentage above the average, we really would have a problem on our hands.

GROWING ASHES

This is a new one to us; and, of course, we don't have one iota of firsthand evidence that any bit of the story is true. However, for what it is worth, here it is:

The Statesman, Salem, Oregon. 10th Feb., 1971, by Wilma Bonsanti. "The mystery of the 'growing' volcanic ash may never be solved. It has stumped Mrs. William Chisholm, 3208 Keen Ave., NE, and her friends and neighbors for years. It also has defied explanation by Dr. Harold Enlows, chairman of the Oregon State University geology department, whose specialty is volcanic rocks. Meanwhile, the ash apparently is continuing to expand.

"Mrs. Chisholm says she brought a tablespoonful of the material back from Kodiak Island, Alaska, in 1965 for 'a souvenir. When I first got it I had no idea it would grow.' She believes the ash came from a 1912 volcanic eruption at Katmai on the Alaska mainland. 'I had the ash in a medicine vial,' she says, 'and in about a year it filled the vial.' Mrs. Chisholm then put the ash in a baby food jar. When the ash overflowed that container, she 'transplanted'

it into a pint jar. 'It's not quite filled yet,' she commented.

"The ash, a fine powder, reveals under a microscope the tiny shards of glass characteristic of volcanic ash, says Dr. Enlows. 'As far as I can make out, it's pretty straight-forward material,' he says. 'I'd be most surprised if it suddenly multiplied.' But multiply it has, agrees Mrs. Larry Stormo, 1733 59th Ave., SE, who says friends and neighbors of Mrs. Chisholm have 'talked quite a bit' about her increasing quantity of volcanic ash over the past few years. 'It's kinda weird, all right — like a science fiction movie,' said Mrs. Stormo. Dr. Enlows noted that volcanic ash often contains various types of clay minerals which can expand by taking on water. But Mrs.

Chisholm says she has kept the ash containers covered and in a dry house. 'I remove the lid occasionally to let out gas. It smells like sulphur,' she said. Says Dr. Enlows, after studying a sample of the ash, 'it contains nothing unusual. I can't explain it in natural terms. She'll have to ascribe it to the supernatural.' "

We don't 'dig' this at all, and we are sending it on, prior to publication, to our adviser for all matters geological, for comment. Perhaps he might be able to contact Dr. Enlows; get a sample from Mrs. Chisholm; and come up with some suggestions.. Maybe he could even "plant" a sample in his lab (under armed guard, of course!), and watch to see if it does indeed "grow". Normally, we delight in commenting on these esoterica; but this time we positively decline.

JUST PLAIN CHAOS

ON TRASH PAPERS

We have a number of so-called "newspapers" in this country and in Canada that are more than just a menace. They are irresponsible and, from the point of view of the general public, deadly. We have subscriptions to all of them, and we have found out that they are sometimes just plain liars. Time and time again we have read sensational stories in them and then rung up, or written to, the persons named (and even quoted) in these stories, only to learn that said persons either do not exist; never said a word of that which they were alleged to have said; or were grossly misquoted, or quoted "out of context". Sometimes, however, there is an initial "grain of truth" in these ephemera. A good example came from a publication named Midnight (vol. 17, no. 46, 31st May 1971).

This was headlined: "Complete town is mystified when Man discovers 80-foot hole under his house... and finds Dog nursing her pups at the bottom". It then opens as follows: "To suddenly discover an 80-ft. hole under your house is enough of a surprise, but imagine finding a female dog and her healthy puppies at the bottom of that hole! Aaron Brasher of Birmingham, Alabama, heard the distant barking of dogs one day, and the sound seemed to be coming from underneath the house." and so on.....Big mystery! So we rang the Brashers and had a very friendly, personal, and interesting talk with Mrs. Brasher Sr. And here's the true story — from the main course to nuts, and without the "soup".

The Brashers have owned and occupied the house for 30 years and since it was built. They had always known that the constructors had drilled beneath the lot — in the hope of finding a source of water on the

land — and that they had gone down "some hundred feet". Over the years a variety of animals, both domestic and wild, had either fallen into this hole, or had resorted there to have their litters. However, it was solidly plugged and only about two feet deep. Aaron Brasher Jr. had often rescued said animals simply by reaching down and hauling them out. On this occasion, however, the combined weight of the dog — a stray mutt -- and her puppies had apparently caused the "plug" to collapse, and they slowly slithered down the shaft, undamaged. When puppy noises were heard, Mr. Brasher Junior said something like: "Oh! Here we go again; I'll go fish them out". But when he crawled under the house he was indeed somewhat startled to find that he could not reach the bottom of the hole. So he and his dad constructed a sort of grab-bag and, with a powerful flashlight, went 'fishing'. Mrs. Brasher tells me that they got the mother into the net very quickly and hauled her up, but that the pups didn't seem to know quite what to do. So they 'baited' the net with food and, after several tries, they got first one and then the other pup up safely.

Mrs. Brasher says that they still do not know how this "newspaper" got into the act, but the phone started jangling on the first of June and kept it up for a week. Within two days they had good homes for all three dogs. They had alerted the local ASPCA and the Humane Society, but neither rendered any assistance -- mostly because they had no experience of such an affair, nor equipment to cope with it. In our opinion, they should have got in touch with the local Grotto of the National Speleological Society who specialize in getting 'things' out of caves. Be that as it may, this great 'mystery' would appear to be solved as of now, and so we can all return to abnormal.

UFOLOGY

We are extremely pleased to be able to report that one after another of the serious-minded ufological journals are beginning not only to publish listings of reports but to analyze them statistically. The British, the French, and the Spaniards are hard at work, and we understand there are more such surveys upcoming from Denmark and Sweden. At least three groups in the United States speak of eventual computerization when enough material has been assembled to sort out the factors to be analyzed. This is all very encouraging, but we are once again beginning to have doubts as to the efficacy of all this because we more and more veer to the thoughts expressed in this column in our last issues.

Also, more and more, it comes to look as if these phenomena come from other universes, as opposed to astronomical bodies in our Universe. What is more, there could be either one of two (or both at once) reasons why this will make it impossible for us to identify them even taxonomically. First, as Einstein pointed out, there could be an infinity of other universes, so that there could be an infinite variety of UFOs from which no amount of statistical analysis will produce anything tangible. Second, we now have to contend with Vallee's theory, which is increasingly subscribed to by an ever growing number of scientists (see p.62). This, of course, would render any of our (human) efforts completely worthless, since they would be incomprehensible to us.

To reiterate, and to put the matter into the proverbial nutshell, this theory presupposes that not only are we dealing here with intelligencies immensely superior to ours (and technologies to go with these) but that these creatures can create, spontaneously, anything they like, anywhere — and animate

as well as inanimate — and any time. Further, they themselves may have no corporeal existence per se, but be more like "minds" and thus invisible to us. Comes then the next question.

Are what we call UFOs really "real" according to our definition of reality, or are they like those mirages which can be photographed? The electromagnetic effects that they cause are not incompatible with the second notion; likewise, thermal, chemical, radiational and even sonic manifestations could be explicable. And, speaking of mirages, most of them have not in any way been explained, notably those mediaeval-looking towns in the skies over Sweden in which people could be clearly seen going about their business. And how about the Spanish fleet that sailed over the Sahara, which was filmed by a French film crew that was on location in Morocco? Many of the ships were later identified from their pennants from sixteenth century naval records. Might these not be other constructs of a nature similar to UFOs?

All of this speculation leads us directly to consider two more well established phenomena: poltergeists and the so-called humanoids. They too could be mere constructs: the first invisible, the second visible to at least some of us. Cats, owls, and, as it now appears, many other predaceous animals, can see way out into the infra-red and so hunt warm-blooded animals in what appears to us to be total darkness. Some of the smaller wild cats can also see some things that we cannot, in bright artificial light. In fact, it begins to look as if our environment is perpetually loaded with all manner of entities. Some could be indigenous to this earth; others need not be — and quite apart from the constructs.

Irresponsible Journalism

An article entitled "Gov't Hides Facts To Head Off Panic" in the National Bulletin of the 10th May 1971, which "quotes" noted British astrophysicist Fred Hoyle on "alien minds that control our every move" is, according to Professor Hoyle, a "complete fabrication". He notes in a letter to us that he did give a press conference when he was in Canada last year, and that "possibly the National Bulletin reported all these facts incorrectly. As for the press conference in London — this is complete rubbish!"

Elsewhere in this issue we present some glaring and disgraceful examples of irresponsible journalism. But this menace comes in various forms. Edward J. Fortier, writing in the National Observer, notes that "Only last year a major American Publisher produced an expensive book on Alaska that is regarded by Alaskans as the definitive book of erroneous information about our state. Item: The book reports that Eskimo hunters are finding it difficult to feed the horses they use for hauling sleds because of a shortage of walrus meat, which, according to the book, is a staple in the horse diet. Most surprised by this revelation are the Eskimos, most of whom have never seen a live horse." One can only hope that the fact that the book is not named, means that Mr. Fortier is kidding; but we have a horrible feeling he isn't. He also notes that Alaskan companies "are resigned to having large suppliers in the smaller states [i.e. all 49 of them] ask them to please remit in U.S. funds".

Our technology is creeping up on these unseen worlds. Comes the question then: will we be allowed to take a look at them? Superior intelligencies might well prefer not. But then again, if they have such ultimate power over us, what would they want with us in the first place? Is it not possible that they have always been controlling our evolution, and educating us to a point at which we could be ready to take a peek at the greater reality. We have said before that there is nothing illogical in supposing that this planet is nothing more than a nursery; and old Charles Fort constantly remarked that we would appear to be owned, just like a herd of cattle.

ON INFIRMITY

About a month ago, as of the time of writing this, a Mr. Elliot Carlson, a staff writer for the august newspaper the Wall Street Journal, rang us to ask the very simple question "Whatever happened to 'flying saucers'?" Since this gentleman was a professional journalist, we endeavoured to answer his question, which we felt was realistic rather than purely rhetorical. It was really very simple because the only reason for supposing that the number of reports had dwindled away almost to zero, as most people seem to think, is that newspapers have given up printing them! However, to back up this contention, we sent Mr. Carlson quite a lot of material, and references to the massive summaries being published in Canada, Australia, Sweden, Denmark, Britain, France, and Spain. Last week [14 June], his story appeared on the front page of his paper. This is a very fine piece of reporting. Unfortunately, however, Mr. Carlson didn't do his homework; but, rather, relied on the now considerably infirm organization called NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) which apparently has not done its homework (or even the daily work for which it was set up to do) either.

It would seem that NICAP does not read other ufological publications and especially foreign ones. But then, Americans always were more than a little chauvinistic. Furthermore, from one statement in Mr. Carlson's story, it would appear that NICAP has, and for the third time in its sixteen years of life, de-

ecided to commit suicide. This remark is emphasized below:—

"Then again, the buffs expect UFOs to be around for a long time, one outgrowth of a theory that asserts the existence of another universe located very close to earth's. 'Only it's invisible because it's on another space-time continuum,' explains Ivan Sanderson, director of the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained. 'However, beings from this other universe sometimes choose to appear here physically, which they can do by manipulating various time warps.'

"NICAP derides all this as bunk, but nonetheless refuses to accept the validity of the Condon report's conclusions."

NICAP was founded by a professional promoter on on a somewhat grandiose scale and with a sensible-sounding prospectus, so that a number of prominent people accepted positions on its Board. Said promoter then set about to "murder" the enterprise by turning it into a sort of intellectual circus; and the thing would have foundered then and there had not Major Donald Keyhoe come to the rescue and managed to get this gentleman to resign. Serious-minded ufologists were greatly encouraged and the organization immediately assumed top place in the field — and internationally at that. However, the new approach to the subject almost immediately got into another rut. This was the adoption of a paradox as the basis of its policy: namely, that UFOs were/are machines, but that, at the same time, they did not, and could not, have occupants. This turned off anybody with any scientific training for, while we indeed had robot machines as probes, such as we used before the manned lunar landings, there could be no possible reason for asserting that such machine-probes could not be 'manned'. This ruling cut off any possibility of analyzing reports of said occupants — just as much as it did those of the so-called "contactees". Then Don Keyhoe got in an argument with the USAF, and for some years NICAP's efforts seem to have been devoted almost exclusively to lambasting that already embattled outfit, thus antagonizing not only it but most other departments of government. The organization also got into one hell of a financial mess.

Next, NICAP loosened up intellectually and realistically to the extent of admitting the possibility of 'occupants', and it even went so far as to announce

A Request for Help:

One of our members has a team competent to investigate reports of UFOs. He has asked that anyone having knowledge of such reports in Maryland, Delaware, northern and eastern Virginia, eastern West (by gosh!) Virginia, and southern Pennsylvania, get in touch with him. His group will investigate and will send full reports to APRO for their computerization program. 'Old' reports may be sent to him, addressed to Member #460, c/o SITU, Columbia, NJ 07832. 'Immediate' reports may be telephoned to area code 301, 435-0941.

that it would devote some time and thought to analysing the stories of the contactees. But, unfortunately, it appears to have been too late, since they didn't go far enough and face up to the new theory of the advanced established scientists, like Drs. Vallee, Schonherr, Michel, and others. Also, they either did not read, or failed to understand, Dr. Carl Sagan's Intelligent Life in the Universe, though that admittedly only added fuel to their own particular fire, which was to the effect that the constructors of UFOs must be what are called ETIs or extra-terrestrials. And with this concept they were so stuck that they just brushed off Messrs. Vallee, et alii — and, it would seem, ourselves — as per the quotes above from Elliot Carlson's column. This road leads to utter extinction, not just suicide. The truth of the matter is that not only NICAP but a number of other sincere and serious-minded organizations that started out on a one-theme basis (ufology) are not only infirm but have become senile. They are 'old-fashioned' and they have failed to keep up with current scientific thinking. This could be due to lack of basic 'scientific' training and knowledge of methodology.

In this country, it would seem to us that APRO (Aerial Phenomena Research Organization) alone has stuck to a pragmatic approach; while the new outfit, named "Data Net" is positively hard-boiled. In the other countries mentioned above, one organization stands out, and like the proverbial sore thumb. This is that which has published a magazine entitled Flying Saucer Review since 1955. They have been on to this "New Theory" — that NICAP and, regretfully, Mr. Carlson, has missed — for more than a decade.

UFOs have not faded away. To the contrary, reports of them have increased drastically since the Condon Report was issued. However, it is our contention that there are probably no more now than at any other time throughout history. It is simply that the general public is slowly becoming better educated and less scared of "authority". And now that Vallee et al, have propounded their theory, you are going to see enormous "batches" of other people, who were never before interested in the business, bobbing up. The working press had better keep its mouth shut but its ears wide open from now on.

II. ONTOLOGY

TIME TRAVEL

The following fascinating little ditty comes to you fourth hand, but we doubt that many of you subscribe to the British scientific weekly, New Scientist and Science Journal, or even to the American Journal of Physics. It's too good to miss, and goes as follows, in toto, from the former publication (issue of the 27th May, 1971):

"I was my own grandpa in a tachyonic way:- If tachyons, hypothetical particles which travel faster than the speed of light, really do exist, we had better start rethinking our concepts of time, free-will and history. According to L. S. Schulman, Indiana University, Bloomington, resolution of tachyon paradoxes about which comes first, the cause or the effect, can lead to a very static picture of history. Using physicists' parlance: 'history is a set of world lines essentially frozen into space-time'. (American Journal of Physics, vol. 39, p 481). "While we may feel strongly that our actions are determined by our past history, our present may also be a product of our future. Consequently, free-will may be tossed out the window. Schulman cites several science fiction writers who have dealt with this problem. They handle history in a tachyon-consistent way when confronted with characters who can travel back and forth in time. For example, in 'Behold the Man' by Mike Moorcock, Jesus turns out to be a twentieth century time trav-

eller who is so interested in the crucifixion that he goes back to watch--and gets crucified. Did you hear the one about the bloke who inherited his genes from his son?"

An oft neglected statement was made by Einstein shortly before his death, and in the presence of one of our members. This was to the effect that he had never said that the speed of light was the ultimate possible speed for anything and everything. Rather, he said, it appeared to him from his mathematical analysis of reality to be only a 'turn-over' point; and for photons only, as far as he knew. In simple terms, this means two things. First, light could surpass this turn-over point; and, second, 'other things' could do so without 'turning over' as one might say. Photons apparently have no existence until they start to move, but whether they (or anything else for that matter) were ever at rest is a moot point! This is pertinent to the further question as to what happens to them eventually. Do they accelerate comparatively slowly and so surpass the speed of light, or do they come to rest and just cease to exist, or do they go on forever around their universe? To oversimplify: should we have (say) a "picture" spreading out at the speed of light, does it go on forever, or does it eventually vanish?

These hypothetical tachyons -- tachy means "quick" in Greek -- present us with a somewhat different hypothetical question, as outlined in the above

quote. Just what might they 'carry'? Time? Gravity? What we call Mentality? Or perhaps Progression, as opposed to Time? But then, would they hit a turn-over point too, so that their future becomes their past, or vice versa? The essential point is, just what does happen if (say) photons can exceed the so-called "speed" of light? Does your backside catch up with your front-side, and then keep going so that you become inverted; and if so, would you then be going backwards in time, or just go on going forward but "arse-end-befront" as the British say? In either case, what's the net result? Methinks this might be of more import to mentalogists than to cosmologists because, if science fictioneers can conceive of the results, they would seem, at least to an old fashioned philosopher, to have made the jump already, and at a far greater speed than that of light.

BLACK HOLES

We seem to be becoming excessively ontological but this item too falls within the fortean purlieus of reality. Ontology encompasses cosmology and, as per the taxonomy of knowledge displayed on page 54, also the ultimate basics of space, time, and locus. What is more, year by year, unexplaineds both great and small are falling ever more into a recognisable pattern. The clue to the whole business, moreover, would now appear to be the thing we call "time", which we seem to have apparently so grossly misinterpreted until now. And here it comes again.

In Science, vol. 171, p. 1228, Allen L. Hammond presented an article entitled "Stellar Old Age III: Black Holes and Gravitational Collapse", in the regular section entitled Research Topics. This starts off by saying: "According to the present understanding of stellar evolution, dying stars that are too massive to become white dwarfs or neutron stars collapse into what are called black holes" [emphasis ours].

There has been a lot published on these mysterious phenomena in recent years, and not only in scientific literature but in some better popular magazines, and the science columns of newspapers. It is an abstruse and highly technical matter and the average layman, even if deeply interested in the sciences, may well have given up on it after the first paragraph, as it is not one that can be made readily understandable without calling upon quite a lot of knowledge of cosmology, astronomy, physics, and nucleonics.

We do not presume to attempt an exposition of this ourselves, for even if we felt competent so to do, we would never be able to get a clear up-to-date statement into a quarterly — things are moving too fast. On the other hand, we feel we should bring to your attention certain aspects of what has been published about these black holes that are of material interest to forteans, and we have not seen these better or more lucidly expressed than in this article. They bring us squarely back into this distressing field of time anomalies. In this respect, Hammond goes on to say: "Black Holes were so named because no mass or light can escape from them, but it has become clear that as much as half of the energy of 'rotating black holes' could be extracted." He then goes on to explain that: "Apparently there are four kinds of black holes. The simplest — named after Karl Schwarzschild — has no charge and is not rotating. The more complicated geometry that results in the second type, which has both mass and angular momentum, was first worked out by Roy Kerr; this type of black hole has an inner surface known as the event horizon, from which no light or mass can escape, and an outer surface known as the stationary limit. These two surfaces coincide in the Schwarzschild type. A third type of black hole is characterized by mass and charge. The most general type, the fourth, combines all three properties — mass, charge, and angular momentum. According to Wheeler and Ruffini, transitions are possible from one form of black hole to another by, for example, the accretion of particles." But the most fascinating observation goes as follows:

"The interiors of Black Holes are believed to have some remarkable properties. Inside the outer surface of these collapsed objects, for example, distance and time switch roles [emphasis ours] according to the theory. Distance becomes a timelike coordinate, so that the distance of the particle from the center of the hole must always decrease in the same way that time must go forward under ordinary circumstances."

These quotes are admittedly "out of context" but they are not invalid as a perusal of the whole article will prove. The point is that, once again, though purely theoretically, what we can call 'time' can behave in a manner other than that which we have thought up till now, and this is just the point that such scientific thinkers as Drs. Jacques Vallee, Luis Schönherr, Aimé Michel, et alii. have considered. If there can be "time stretch" or slow-down, or inversion, a great many enigmas could be explained. We come back to this again later.

I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant.

III. PHYSICS

A TRULY HAIR-RAISING STORY

by Michael R. Freedman

Much more than being just plain fun, the following story is significant because of its apparently fortan nature. The incident was related to us in a letter from Mrs. William L. Ashby, a resident of New Jersey:

"Every summer we go on a family fishing trip out of Clayton, New York, on the St. Lawrence with a Captain [name withheld] as guide.

"It was a gray rainy-looking day, altho not raining at the time. There were 3 teenagers, 3 adults, and our experienced guide, whose 28' cabin cruiser we were aboard. We were drifting, fishing for bass and pike. Since for the most part we were watching our fishing lines, we didn't realize anything unusual until we happened to look at each other. Our hair was standing straight up! As we started to laugh at each other, one of the teenagers, a girl who had long hair and was under the shelter in the cabin, stepped out onto the open deck to find out what the joke was. As she stepped into the open, her hair stood straight up (and I mean straight up to heaven!). But when she stepped back under the roof of the cabin, her hair would return to normal. We all thought this a great joke and took turns stepping back and forth under the cabin to have our hair raise and lower as we did so — until the guide discovered our hilarity and came aft to see why we were all laughing so. He was born and brought up on the St. Lawrence and has been guiding parties for years. He had never seen the like before and became alarmed, taking the metal fishing poles away from us immediately and making us all go into the shelter of the cabin, and started up the motor saying 'Let's get the H--- out of here'."

Mrs. Ashby knew the cause was some kind of electrical phenomenon, but she was puzzled nonetheless. We circulated her letter among our Advisors who were easily able to pinpoint the cause of this strange effect.

This phenomenon is quite common on the water and is popularly known as "St. Elmo's Fire", an effect manifested as visible radiated electrical energy from the tops of masts and other spars on a ship. [It was used effectively in the motion picture Moby Dick.] This results from the build-up of opposite electrical charges which can originate in clouds. During magnetic storms, the effect may be even stronger and more spectacular. Whether or not the captain knew what he was doing and why, his decision to have those in his charge avoid the metal fishing rods and seek cover was a wise one, as the enhanced electrical character of the area can act as an attraction for lightning. Lightning need not be accompanied by thunderstorms, you know! It can pop out from a perfectly clear sky.

To sum up and simplify, what Mrs. Ashby and the others on the vessel experienced was nothing more than a static charge held by the immediately surrounding atmosphere and bled off through the most convenient path.

Though most non-experts tend to assume that this occurs only on water, and particularly at sea, skiers at "Hyak's Big Blue Chair" near Seattle, Washington (Seattle Times, 28 March 1971) were quite literally shocked, and also astounded when their ski poles lit up. One witness reported "lightning hit the mountain and the whole mountain lit up. I felt a small shock. Then there was a really big flash and I got a bigger shock. My sister's ski poles lit up." Weather service officials opted for St. Elmo's fire; and the manager of the resort noted that "There were no marks or burns on any part of the lift or its terminals" [as there would have been had 'ordinary' lightning been responsible].

TRI-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTERS

by Michael R. Freedman

Holography is a new technological innovation. Or at least one that seems new because nothing much

Murphy's Laws Again

Our Board member, Walter J. McGraw, called us in some desperation to say that Murphy was a contemporary of Charles Darwin, and promulgated three laws: "If anything can go wrong, it will"; and two others, generally to the effect that "Everything will prove to be more difficult then it appears at first" and "Everything will take longer than you think it will". We explained to him — and we now explain to you — that we are speaking of Edsel Murphy — not Sean — who published in 1967. Murphy's Laws, by the way, are proliferating: one of our subscribers has sent us Murphy's Marketing Maxims. These cover advertising, market planning, market research, publicity, and sales. The Managing Editor of this publication will shortly be working on Murphy's Laws on Publishing.

was really heard about it before 1970. The fact is that holography has been with us since the late 1940s! Only recently, however, have the technologists been able to come up with a practical way to put it to use. And now we have "holophones", as reported in New Scientist and Science Journal last January.

Before we lose nearly everybody, we had better explain in the simplest terms what a "hologram" is. Essentially, it is a picture (photograph) which can be projected into the air and which has three-dimensional properties. One may look at this "photograph" from any angle, even from its "back" and see an "object" just as if it were solid. Of course, it really isn't. The photographic buffs call this a "virtual image". Since this isn't meant to be a technical paper, we will not attempt to illustrate just how this is accomplished. Instead we will press forward to "holophones".

The holophone has the ability to record a "pattern" in time somewhat similar to the ability of a hologram to record a pattern in space. This effect was first noted by Dr. C. J. H. Watson (not the Dr. Watson of IBM, or of Baker Street either) of the Atomic Energy

Association in Great Britain, as a consequence of his studies of the atomic plasmas. An appropriately excited plasma has the ability to hold information in such a way that a "cue" from the original message will stimulate immediate recall of the entire message. This differs from present-day computer storage methods in that information must be "located" and cannot be recalled until the proper location has been fed in.

With the use of the holophonic principle, all one need do is give the computer the "cue" and it will dispense the information. Simply telling the computer "Hickory Dickory Dock. . ." will result in its immediate recall and a reply without pause, ". . . the mouse ran up the clock". Quite a time-saver! Might put a lot of key-punch operators out of business, though!

Application of this new principle is yet to be realized, since further research and design are needed to put it to practical use. But when such a method has been found, we will have a computer that can "think" in terms of concepts instead of the present "information bits". That is where the battle of the wits will begin — man vs. machine!

IV. CHEMISTRY

MERCURY AGAIN

This little item was found in the 23rd March issue of the respected daily The Express, of Easton, Pa.

"Vapor Finds Gold. Valuable deeply buried deposits of gold, silver, copper and other metals can be spotted by the presence of escaping mercury vapor, says U.S. geochemist J. H. McCarthy of Denver. 'Most metallic ore deposits contain mercury — tiny amounts of which continuously escape to the earth's surface and enter the atmosphere,' he says. 'This "leaking" mercury can be detected not only in soil gas at the surface but also in the earth's atmosphere above the deposit.'"

Every time we turn around, or even sit still and read, it seems that mercury crops up again. We've had old German U-boats floating in and allegedly loaded with mercury — and this story we can confirm from our official duties during W.W.II; excessive mercury in oceanic fish; mercury "engines" alleged to have run ancient Indian "Flying Carpets"; mercury engines run by modern physicists; mercury popping up in rivers; mercury poisoning of many kinds; and so on and on. Now this. It's up to the chemists and notably the geochemists to pronounce upon all this. We reserve even comment, but we are deeply intrigued. Everything about this element is odd. Is there such a thing as a true "mercury expert"?

VI. GEOLOGY

A HOLE AT THE BOTTOM OF A SEA.

The following fascinating little story appeared in the USN's publication All Hands, for May 1971. And we quote:

"Weather Reconnaissance Squadron Four from MAS Jacksonville, Fla., may be the only squadron in the U. S. Navy to have found a hole in the ocean.

"One of the squadron's planes was sent to investigate a chasm in the ocean floor which appeared to be a source of fresh water about 30 miles east of St. Augustine.

"The matter was of immediate interest to the communities of St. Augustine and Jacksonville because they feared a connection with freshwater artesian wells ashore and their eventual saltwater contamination.

Sign seen on the back of a 5-axle truck: "Before I die and turn to dust, just once, let me pass a Greyhound Bus."

"The VW-4 aircraft located the hole by using radar and navigational equipment. Sea surface and under-water temperature readings were taken by dropping bathythermographs (temperature recorders) into the water.

"The hole, scientists discovered, is oval-shaped and measures 75 by 175 feet. Cables one thousand feet long have been dropped into the center of the hole but preliminary investigations failed to establish its depth.

"Marine biologists took samples of marine life and marine geologists studied the earth's crust in the area. Navy photographers attached to VW-4 used a newly developed color film to photograph the hole and a television camera was lowered into the hole from a support ship for pictures to be used in a future documentary.

"The hole may have been formed during one of the earth's ice ages and may be the only phenomenon of its kind on the east coast continental shelf."

Quite a lot of comment is called for on this. First, it is not a "hole in an ocean". It is a hole at the bottom of a sea, being on the continental shelf. Second, the suggestion that it "may have been formed during one of the earth's ice ages" is pure drivel. The

last batch of southward ice-advances in North America did not get south of the Delaware River on the eastern seaboard. Should some so-called "ice-age" have had drastic effects on the climate and geology of southern Florida, by just what means could it cause a deep hole to appear on the bottom of the continental shelf, 30 miles off the coast? Come, now!

One might suggest that this is an underwater cenote, a circular or oval "sink-hole" such as are to be found all over the limestone (and lime marl) plateaux of Yucatan, Quintanaroo, and substantial parts of Florida. These areas are riddled with a network of caves, and many of these contain saltwater, though many miles inland. Further, we have seen aerial photographs taken from low altitude over shallow waters off the east coast of Quintanaroo, where the water is as clear as the air above, that show innumerable such cenotes; and going right out into deeper water. Just as saltwater leaks in under the adjacent land masses through some of these, so also can fresh water bubble up through them from pressure on said land.

What the Navy and the oceanographers ought to do is borrow a bathysphere, or bathyscope, or deepwater minisub, or some such, and go down to the bottom of that hole and look around for lateral "entrances" with a powerful spotlight.

VII. BIOLOGY

IVAN MARX'S FILM

In our April issue we reported very briefly on a film taken of an alleged Sasquatch (or Bigfoot, or what you will). The initial reports were favourable, and a number of veteran ABSM-'hunters' stated that so far as they could tell, the film seemed to be genuine. Our Director, Ivan T. Sanderson, talked to Mr. Marx by phone, and Mr. Marx stated that he planned to come to the East in late June or July; he asked if we could set up a showing for a panel of scientists,

as had been done for the film taken by Roger Patterson. He was informed that we would be delighted to do this. However, our investigation of Mr. Marx and his film continued -- primarily through the good auspices of Mr. Peter Byrne, Director of the International Wildlife Conservation Society, Inc., a long-time friend of Mr. Sanderson's and formerly associated with the late Tom Slick who spent literally millions in an attempt to capture at least one kind of ABSM (he had groups both in our Northwest and in the Himalayan area). Just after the April PURSUIT went to press we re-

A Note of Thanks:

We received, some time since, two books from a Mrs. John Tindall. We are delighted to have these, but we frankly haven't the foggiest notion who Mrs. Tindall is or where to reach her. Can any of our members help?

The Wilbert Smith "Coil"

One of our members is trying to collection information on this. If any of our members are interested in, and/or working on, this, it would be appreciated if they would write to us. We will put you in touch with this gentleman.

ceived the following report from Mr. Byrne, which we quote herewith:

"I am sending you half a dozen slides taken from the Marx film of the 'sasquatch'. For your interest, the 'creature' in these pictures, which is either Ivan Marx or another man in a fur suit, is no more than six feet in height. The lowest branches of the locust tree, under which he passes in picture No. 273 are between 6 ft 1 in and 6 ft 2 ins from ground level. You will also notice in the picture a white 'glimmer' in the left background. This is water, a small lake in the trees. Marx claimed that he took these pictures at a distance of between 20 and 30 ft with an ordinary lens. However, if this had been done the water would not show in the picture. The water can only be seen from a higher elevation and this elevation can only be obtained by backing up a small hill (which does not show in the foreground) and shooting the scene from this hill with a telescopic lens. This is what Marx did. He used a telescopic lens, with a tripod. But he did not have a tele[photo] lens with him on the day that he supposedly photographed the sasquatch (Oct. 7th).

"The actual points of proof that we have that the Marx film is a hoax are these:

"A. It was not made where he said that he made it. (And where, on the day, he took ten or so people up with him, went in, talked on the radio back and forth, said that he was in sight of the creature, was getting pictures of it, that it was turning towards them, to try and head it off, etc., etc.).

"B. It was not made at the time that he said that it was made (Oct 7th) but at another time, probably some time in September, when he was twice seen in the actual area of the movie (where it was actually made) supposedly gathering mushrooms with another man called Red Moon.

"C. The movie was made with a tele[photo] lens at a distance of from 30 to 40 yards from the subject, using a tripod. Marx had no tripod with him on the 7th Oct.

"D. Marx claimed to have leaned his camera against a tree to get the smooth pictures that he did get of the sasquatch. There is no tree where he stood to take these pictures.

"There is more. . . .but it is circumstantial and cannot be regarded as proof positive.

"1. Marx bought old fur coats at the Goodwill Store in Spokane in August of last year, a month before the film. He was seen there by a man called Gordon Izacks, of Evans.

"2. When he emerged from the forest on the day of the movie, when he supposedly had been following a sasquatch for four to five hours (and he told me that he had great difficulty in keeping up with it) he wore a shirt buttoned up to the neck and was not sweating. John Suismehil (name spelling uncertain), a Border Patrol man, with experience in human observation, noticed this.

"3. When he gave us (IWCS) the slides of the film to look at, he carefully removed all slides that contained the apple tree. This stunted apple tree was an identification mark that worried Marx. A small boy, the child of the people who actually discovered the place of the hoax,* had noticed this in Marx's house when he first showed the film to some local people in November. Marx remembered this and presumably was worried about it being noticed and so it was not included in the slides of the film that he gave to us.

"4. We learned, some time in February, that he had also taken some stills on the day of the filming. He

*[Footnote from Peter Byrne: "Don Byington (who found the place where Marx made the film, after a search that started when his young son, viewing the film in Marx's house, thought that he recognised the site and said so. The search, carried on quietly, without telling anyone, by Byington and his wife, took four months.) Byington is a rancher at Evans, near Bossburg.]

"The 800th Lifetime" from Future Shock, by Alvin Toffler.

"... if the last 50,000 years of man's existence was divided into lifetimes of approximately 62 years each, there have been about 800 such lifetimes. Of these 800, fully 650 were spent in caves. [sic]

"Only during the last 70 lifetimes has it been possible to communicate effectively from one lifetime to another--as writing made it possible to do. Only during the last six lifetimes did masses of men ever see a printed word. Only during the last four has it been possible to measure time with any precision. Only during the last two has anyone, anywhere, used an electric motor. And the overwhelming majority of all material goods we use in daily life today have been developed within the present--the 800th--lifetime."

never showed us these stills. Presumably he was worried that we might blow them up and see whatever it was that the National Film Company in Salt Lake City saw. . . .we heard that it was stitching in the fur joints.

"5. Under the terms of his contract he was to hand over the master copy of the film to us for safe keeping. He gave us a canister, which we, trusting the man, never did open. (In any case, master copies of film should never be handled.) When we heard, in late March, that he was in the process of releasing and distributing the film in Canada, we opened the canister, which contained mostly blank film."

We have not heard from Mr. Marx since Mr. Byrne queried him about these items, and there is no indication whatsoever that he plans to come east to show his film to experts in physical anthropology. In fact, he left Bossburg and returned to Burney, California, (rather quietly, apparently), stating that the people in Bossburg (one must assume that he is referring to various investigators) "were not very nice to me".

There are those who still believe that Marx's film may be genuine, though even they admit that there are discrepancies in his story. Some of the facts, in no particular order (!), are as follows.

Marx has owned good camera equipment for a good many years. His 'business' is taking people on cougar hunts, and one of his gimmicks is to film the hunt from start to finish, providing the hunter with an additional 'souvenir' of his hunt. (The fact that cougars — or pumas, mountain lions, 'painters', 'panthers', etc. — should not be hunted because they do preserve the so-called "balance of nature" is distressing in this context, but not relevant here.) He has a motion picture camera, identified as a Bolex 16 mm, and a 35 mm camera; the latter is identified as a Nikon in various newspaper articles, though our member No. 292, who is himself a photographic expert, states that it was his opinion that the 'still' camera Marx owns is a very old Argus (he did not examine it, but notes that that camera had a very good lens indeed).

We are also told that the reason that Marx has been unable to find a 'buyer' for his film is excessive greediness: his price is reportedly based on "How much per head for 200 million viewers?"! [emphasis ours] No television or film producer is going to even consider such a 'deal'.

Also, Marx has told some people that this particular Suskwatch is the one known as the "Old Cripple" who has been known for years in the Colville area. At the same time, he has also contended that it was

one recently injured: According to The Statesman-Examiner of the 13th November, 1970, in an article by Denny Striker, "On the night of Oct. 6 [1970] an unidentified person [who said he knew Marx] called the Marx home, leaving a vague message that either a car or a train had struck a large, upright creature on the highway about seven miles north of Bossburg." Somebody apparently changed this story somewhere along the line, since our member No. 292 reports that he was told that the person reported that he had hit the creature and thought it was a Suskwatch. Now, Denny Striker stated that "Probably the most impressive part of the film, besides its extreme clarity [this we are not sure of; John Green reports the film to be "badly underlighted"], is the fact that the Sasquatch is visibly injured, holding its right arm tightly to its chest and using its long muscular left arm for compensating balance. Also, both ankles appear badly skinned, the wounds showing plainly raw against the black hair of the legs and feet. In watching the frames singly, the injured or skinned area appears to extend onto the bottom of one foot, and possibly on both feet which would account for the apparent pain-filled movement of the frightened creature." This clearly implies a recently wounded ABSM, not the "Old Cripple" who has been wandering around for years near the railroad tracks.

Marx reportedly has 35 mm still shots of this alleged ABSM as well as 35 mm film, though he has been extremely cagey about letting anyone see the stills. They are reported to be extremely clear by Rene Dahinden — who, oddly enough in view of his activities, doesn't believe in ABSMs! — but we have not seen them, nor have casual visitors, all of whom are apparently expected to pay for this "privilege"! That Marx was able to get both excellent motion pictures and stills indicates really exceptional ability on his part. This author (MLF) is pretty fair photographer, but she would not attempt to do both at once!

There is no question at all that Marx expected to "make a million" on his film. He lives in what has been described as a "Tobacco Road Shack"! He does have a rather nice guest house for the hunters he takes out to look for pumas; but his own home is, we are told, put together with bailing wire and string. And his first move on 'getting' this film was to check various color TV sets for reception in his area. He had formerly owned a radio.

It is also reported that, rather than treating this film as valuable, he sent it off by mail to an outfit that processes film and sends a new roll with the processed film. This is hardly the way one treats a unique bit of work!

Let's face it. Marx has lived in the area a good

many years; he was associated, however remotely, with Tom Slick who spent millions searching for a Suskwatch; and he is, so far as we are able to determine, "money hungry". The movements made by a Suskwatch have been described in detail by Amerinds, and are also shown in Roger Patterson's film (!) which no one has been able to prove is a hoax.

John Green intends to make some experiments with a camera come next fall, to see just what is visible, etc. on the day that Marx says he filmed it — and the day that Peter Byrne specifies. Until proved otherwise, I'm afraid we accept Mr. Byrne's report.

Or would Ivan Marx like to "report in" and let us see everything he has?

There would seem to be a general impression that if one can get a motion picture of an ABSM, one will automatically make a million dollars. Patterson and Marx have now found out otherwise. In fact, films -- though facts in themselves, even if genuine (which Patterson's seems to be) -- are not proof of the existence of these creatures. The only real proof is a specimen, living or dead. And anent this: we receive innumerable letters from members and non-members, asking "What happens if I shoot one?". If you do so

in Skamania County, Washington, you can get five years in jail and a \$10,000 fine. So far as we know, this is the only formal ordinance that has been passed, but . . .

Fish and Game Commissioners in a number of western states have pointed out -- rather emphatically -- that because an animal is not specifically listed in the fish and game laws does not mean that one may take pot shots at it: it is, in fact, automatically not "fair game" until a ruling has been made concerning it. And if an ABSM, of whatever kind, is determined to be human or hominid rather than pongid, then it's murder. "Self-defense" is unlikely to impress a jury in view of the known number of chaps traipsing cross country looking for one.

Insofar as Canada is concerned, the Sasquatch is Royal Game. In other words, it belongs to the Crown; in addition to which, gun regulations are very stringent in Canada. So, brother beware!

We do not reproduce here the slides we have from Marx's film, partly because of legal complications but primarily because, unless blown up to about 8 x 10 feet, you cannot really make anything of them.

We remain convinced that there is an as yet uncaught, unidentified hominid in the montane areas of our Northwest, across the forested parts of Canada, and elsewhere; and eventually someone will get one -- for information on stun guns, write to Red Palmer, Palmer Chemical & Equipment Co., King Drive, R.R. #4, Douglasville, GA 30134.

VIII. ANTHROPOLOGY

THE CHAIN IN THE ROCK

by Richard T. Grybos

Way back in 1966 two of our members, #17 and #49, went to Renovo, Pennsylvania to investigate reports of Thunderbirds in that area. As is the way with such fortean enterprises, they learned little on this score, but ran into something else: a report of a chain allegedly embedded in rock, and embedded so deeply that it seemed that it must have been 'dropped' there before the rock formed. This chain was alleged to have very large links, not to rust, and to be gradually weathering out of what was described as a granitic-type rock. The area in which it was located is extremely 'wild' -- and mostly straight up and down! -- and we were cautioned that no attempt should be made to find it except during that very short period after the leaves dropped but before the snows come in the fall, or after the snow melted but before the leaves came out in the spring. And from 1966 through the fall

of 1970 we tried; and each time something happened and we didn't make it.

In mid-May of this year we received a somewhat desperate note from our member #459 which said, in effect, "NOW!". Accordingly, Marion Fawcett, our member Mark Van Horne, and I loaded our gear and headed for Coudersport, where #459 resides. We were treated to the most extraordinary hospitality by him and his entire family and, frankly, without their help, we would probably still be there, trying to find our way either to or from the chain.

On the evening of our arrival we talked by phone with both the original informants -- whose stories had changed considerably over the years -- and laid plans for the following day. The next morning Bob and Mary (#459 Jr. and his wife) appeared as scheduled and drove us to see a sort of local "lore master" who provided additional information and excellent advice. They then drove us, using a topographic map and a compass, through a maze of State Forest roads (and even then we got lost once!) to the trail that leads down to Paddy Run. Bob and Mary very sensibly -- and fortunately, as it turned out -- stayed with their

Volkswagen Camper, while the three of us trekked down the trail to the spot where Dark Hollow meets Paddy Run. We searched this area thoroughly but found nothing to indicate the presence of said chain, although there was evidence that a chain could possibly have been placed in one of the boulders near these streams, this in the form of a groove in a large boulder which was definitely not natural in origin and seemed to have some type of concrete remaining at its base. On returning to our rendezvous point, we found that Bob and Mary had solved the 'mystery'. A local resident on whose land we were parked, happened to stop by, and they had asked him about the chain.

He knew all about it, having owned a cabin there for nearly 50 years and having played along Paddy Run as a child. It is (or, probably -- by the time you read this --- was) about 200-300 yards up Paddy Run from its intersection with Dark Hollow Run, and is nothing more than an old logging chain. There was a sawmill there many years ago and white pine logs were cut and floated down the streams when the spring floods were on. They were stopped at the mill site by logs chained together and stretched across the creek. As #459 told us, "At times, the chains were anchored into solid rock. A 2" hole was drilled into the rock. A chain attached to an eye-bolt was dropped into the hole, which was then filled with hot lead. If the links entered the hole, so much the better for a firm grip." Member #459 had seen an old logging chain and had described it to us; and, on our return Marion Fawcett called the owner of the cabin and asked very innocently "Are the links round?" -- a 'leading' question which, if she were a lawyer, would have brought a reprimand from any judge in the country.

There is no question that this is a logging chain: the links are not round, but rectangular; these logging-chain links were made with squared-off corners, so that they would bite into the logs. Mr. W., who lives in Williamsport, also offered to get the chain for us when he is next at his cabin. We have dropped him a note and will pick it up, or have one of our members do it for us, and add it to our "museum". We have had serious doubts about it for some time, but in view of the various and conflicting reports about it, it seemed worth investigating. It turned out not to be a mystery, but we will not soon forget the extraordinary help and hospitality of #459 and family!

FOOTPRINTS IN THE. . .

We have dealt before with apparently human footprints impressed in solid -- and very ancient -- rocks. Footprints, or tire tracks, or practically anything else in (surface) sandstone are one thing; footprints from a deeply buried stratum overlaid by a variety of other strata, are something quite else. However, some of the prints that have turned up were definitely "manufactured".

Paul Bonneau of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan, Canada, owns a rock which was found originally in or about 1910 by one Curtis McCammack who was digging a 68-foot well on his farm near Gravelbourg. It is not clear whether the rock was found in the well or simply near it, but the footprint was not noticed until the light happened to strike it at a particular angle. The rock was taken to the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon where it was estimated to be thousands of years old. Paul Bonneau, in an article for True West (Jan.-Feb. '71) implies an expression on the part of the University experts that "The footprint was made by pouring drops of water on the heated rock by the Incas people who lived in the Rockies of Western Canada. They were wiped out by the Second Ice Age" [emphasis ours].

We have no idea who these "Incas" were, and we are even more puzzled by people bright enough to produce an excellent footprint in rock by the method alleged above -- who presumably simply sat there and shivered until "wiped out by the Second Ice Age". Also, the onset of the Second Ice Age was certainly hundreds of thousands of years ago. (The geologists keep pushing everything ever further backward in time, and have not yet reached any agreement on any dates for the various "Ice Ages".)

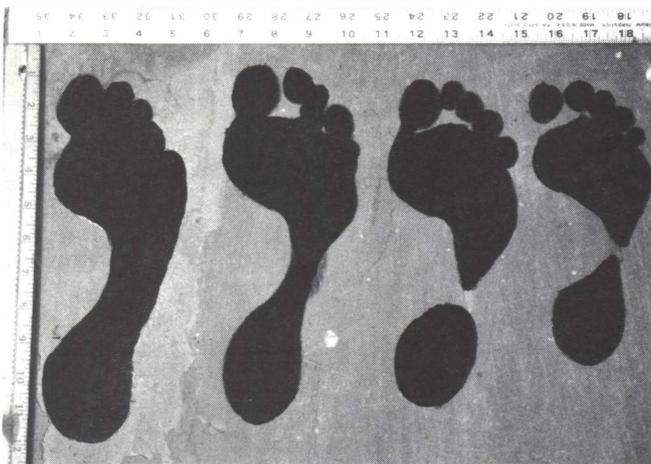
The rock, which measures 14" long by 9 1/2" wide, is described as granitic in Mr. Bonneau's article, though he told us on the phone that it was "black lava rock". It weighs about 50 pounds. The print itself (see cut) is 10 1/2" long from heel to toe and 4" wide across the widest portion of the ball of the foot. Now, someone made the comment "It can't be a policeman's footprint because it isn't flat"; and Mr. Bonneau noted that "The foot which made the imprint was never, according to the measurements of the ball of the footprint, restrained or held in or tamed by the invention of civilization, the shoe. . .". However, in the first place, it certainly is flat, showing no sign of any "arch" at all. Footprints are funny things. A chap named Ray Pickens has been having fun in our Northwest with wooden "Bigfoot" prints nailed to his boots. The prints have fooled a good many people in the Colville (Washington) area, some of whom refuse to believe that the prints made by Pickens are not genuine. There is no doubt at all that some of the tracks which have been found are fraudulent; but jokesters should be warned that wood doesn't bend or do a number of other things that "live" feet do. Fakes may fool a "layman" but they won't fool an expert on feet (apply to Dr. John Napier!). Then, there is another aspect to all this.

Few people realize the variation there is in the imprints left by ordinary human beings. To exemplify, we had the resident members of our staff oil the soles of their right feet and then step on to a large slab of slate, with the results shown in the accompanying cut. The persons concerned were:--

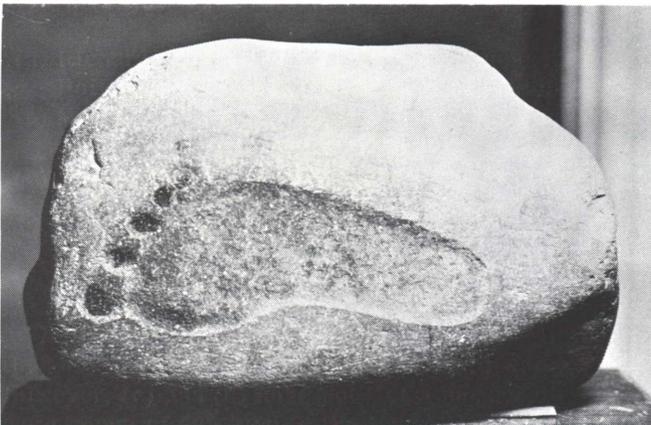
- (a) Richard Grybos, male white Caucasoid of Polish extraction; 6 ft. tall, weighing 140 lbs.
- (b) Michael Freedman, male white Caucasoid of Hebrew extraction; 6 ft. tall, weighing 140 lbs.
- (c) Ivan Sanderson, male white Caucasoid of Scots extraction; 6 ft. tall, weighing 160 lbs.
- (d) Marion Fawcett, female white Caucasoid of German-Polish-English extraction; 5 ft. 1 in. tall, weighing 91 lbs.

It should be noted that all four persons listed in the above were, from the time they could walk, shod. However, (c) and (d) have not, for a number of years, worn shoes of any kind, either summer or winter, and both wear only soft-soled mocassins when travelling. It is not suggested that this is the cause of, or reason for, their very pronounced "arches". However, there is no doubt that their toes have "expanded" due to the release of their feet from the confinement of standard footwear.

It should be noted that none of these imprints in any way resembles that of the "Yeti", while they could, by deeper impression, coincide with those of the "Suskwatsh" (page 73).



a b c d



Photograph courtesy of Paul Bonneau.

There can be little doubt that early man "carved" footprints into rocks for some purpose or other, just as the artists who did the cave painting seem to have delighted in making hand-prints either by stamping a hand painted with red ochre or such, or by squirting colouring matter around a hand adpressed to the rock face. This could explain the footprints found all over the world in igneous rock. However, it still leaves a mystery. This is how some of these got so deeply buried under sedimentary strata – not lavas, please note – if the reports of such are valid. Naked footprints are bad enough, but when we come to apparent shoe imprints (see PURSUIT, Vol. 3, No. 4) one does indeed become confused.

Section – HISTORY

Sub-Section – Modern

AMERICANISM?

This is not normally our stuff since it is primarily technological; and it could be construed as having political implications. However, we contend that the following are purely historical.

Two items have been brought to our attention. One concerns the "invention" of the airplane; the other of television. From records that we have in our private and family files, some claims concerning the latter, would appear to be travesties. [The Russians some time back claimed the invention of the first electric light bulb and – like Pharaoh's daughter and her story about the bullrushes – they apparently got away with it! This, too we happen to know is nonsense, because the undersigned's mother turned on the first such bulb in Europe, in a tearoom on Bond Street in London, when she was twelve years old (1894). It was supplied by a fellow named Edison!]

The matter of the first-heavier-than-air machine that flew, we know nothing of. The story goes as follows, ex the Edmonton Journal of Canada, and was sent us by a member who, in turn, got it from Gene Duplantier, a most respected Canadian author.

"Auckland, N.Z. (CP) – A relic of intense interest in the history of aviation is lying neglected and slowly deteriorating in Auckland. It is an aircraft, or the remnants of one, built by Richard William Pearce, a New Zealander who, many people believe, may have flown a heavier-than-air machine before the Wright brothers. Something of a recluse, Pearce made his experiments on a remote New Zealand farm without fanfare or publicity. He was undoubtedly a natural mechanical genius and the aircraft he built were marvels of ingenuity. It seems certain that they were equipped with ailerons earlier than any other aircraft.

"Opinions differ about the time of Pearce's first flight. Some evidence points to 1904, a little later than the first flight by the Wright brothers, but some

people firmly believe that Pearce made his flight before them – in 1903. In any event, the remnants of Pearce's third aircraft have been preserved and for the present are housed in the Museum of Transport and Technology in Auckland. But they have been there since 1964 without work being done on them. The museum authorities are fully aware of the need for action, but lack of funds prevents a full campaign of restoration. In any case there are two schools of thought – that the machine should be restored, or that it should be preserved as far as possible in its original state and a replica made. The machine was found more or less intact many years after Pearce's death in a hangar used by the Canterbury Aero Club [we assume that the machine was found in the hangar, not that Pearce died there: words should convey meaning. MLF]. Both the Smithsonian Institution in Washington and the South Kensington Museum in England have said they would be happy to take over the aircraft as a machine of major historical importance."

When it comes to the next one, however, we really do have to take issue. This is the little matter of television. A "combined dispatch" from Salt Lake City, Utah, dated the 12th March of this year, read (in part) "Philo T. Farnsworth, 64, considered by many the father of television, died last night in the Hospital of the Latter Day Saints. Farnsworth transmitted the world's first TV picture in 1927 when he was 20 from a laboratory he set up in San Francisco after securing his own financial backing. In 1929, he made his first effective transmission of motion – showing cigaret smoke – in a Philadelphia laboratory. . . . He had developed a complete theory of electronic television by the time he was 15, and applied for a patent on a television system when he was 18. . . . His development of a working system of television transmission occurred simultaneously with that of another American inventor, Vladimir Zworykin, who was working separately, but Farnsworth always got credit for the first transmission. . . . Following development of his system, he was granted the

first television broadcasting license in 1934. . . ."

If you will read any good modern encyclopaedia you will find that the principles of television were worked out by a German physicist in the late 1800s. However, nothing was done about its practical application until 1913 when one Dr. Baird of London, England, started experimenting. Now, as it so happens, one of my godfathers, by the name of James McKelvie, who was in charge of all fuel supplies for the Allies in World War I, and who was also a partner of Marconi's, put up one fifth of the money for this work. My mother put up another fifth, Marconi another, and a gentleman named Weaver another. Who put up the rest I do not know.

Baird single-handedly developed television broadcasting; and, by 1918 he was able to give his first demonstration to his sponsors. My mother was present and I have her account on file. They were first shown his lab, in which a young man sat on an inverted bicycle bolted to the floor. He had a pedometer and had to maintain a certain speed by peddling. One wheel of the bicycle was elevated and had four transparent segments, coloured red, blue, green, and yellow. Dr. Baird projected certain pictures, and a scan of his lab, through this spinning wheel. The sponsors then went five houses up the street – actually Frith Street, in Soho, London – and viewed what Dr. Baird was projecting – on (and get this) a 36" X 48" ground-glass screen – and in full optical color!

It may surprise Americans to know that there were six hours, six nights a week, of TV broadcast by the BBC in England in 1934, which reached about sixty miles around London. I made my first TV cast in early 1938 – with a live elephant on the first floor of the old Alexandria Palace, incidentally – and half a dozen others before the outbreak of W.W.II in Europe.

Mr. Farnsworth may have been the first American inventor of television, but I am afraid the United States can't claim a first on everything. And also bear in mind that amazing "parallel evolution" of ideas that has happened so often in history.

Ivan T. Sanderson.

CURRENT PURSUITS

ENTOMBED TOADS (AND OTHER ANURA)

Marion Fawcett continues to plug away at this and is currently carrying on some rather lugubrious experiments. Member #66 has reported that a friend of his claims to have found some dessicated frogs underneath his refrigerator and to have placed them in water in the sink, where they allegedly revived in a matter of hours. Dessicated, and definitely dead, frogs are a fairly common 'phenomenon' in the basement of the Old House at our HQ. Thus far, experi-

ments have failed to provide the slightest confirmation of the claim reported above.

CHAIN IN ROCK

No. 5 is being 'scratched' – see page 68 for our full report. However, we would still like to know more of the alleged enormous chain reportedly used as a 'ladder' somewhere up the Amazon River. Member #300, where are you?

THE BOSSBURG SASQUATCH: See page 65.

THE THUNDERBIRD PHOTOGRAPH

This is becoming ridiculous! Can't somebody find this #*¢%# photograph. We know of dozens of people who have seen it; and in fact have just received a letter from a member who says "Not two months ago I saw the thunderbird photograph but for the life of me I can't find it now!" Our member who works at the NGS says he has looked at all National Geographic magazines for the 30s and cannot find it. On the other

hand, recent reports from a particular area have led us to ask a fairly "footloose and fancy-free" couple—the husband with biological training and both with extensive experience in camping — to try to park in that area in an attempt to locate a thunderbird and at least get photographs if not a specimen. They have promised to try.

TIME ANOMALIES AND VILE VORTICES

We are gathering information and ideas by the bucketful, but until all of this is fully analyzed and correlated, we will make no further report.

The Society is unable to offer or render any services whatsoever to non-members. Further, the Society does not hold or express any corporate views, and any opinions expressed by any members in its publications are those of the authors alone. No opinions expressed or statements made by any members by word of mouth or in print may be construed as those of the Society.

There have been a number of articles recently on the problem of junk mail and the way in which one's name gets on such a mailing list. We should like to assure our members and subscribers that our mailing list is available only to resident staff at our headquarters.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Marion L. Fawcett

Odette Tchernine. In Pursuit of the Abominable Snowman. New York: Taplinger, 1971. \$6.95. (Published in England as The Yeti. London: Neville Spearman, 1970. £1.75)

We know virtually nothing of Miss Tchernine except that she is of Russian descent and was brought up in France. Her publisher is not very helpful, simply describing her as "a student of her subject for many years". Her English is delicious, and her editor, if she had one, had the sense to leave it alone; though there are a few passages which defy interpretation completely, and these should have been queried. She also makes some classic statements, one of which I cannot resist quoting: "Nobody ever succeeded in catching him [an ABSM], apart from the very few cases of 'wild men' being captured." She also credits our very old friend Gerald Russell with having advised one expedition "on the choice of essential equipment, such as lamps, flying syringes to fire sedatives, and other articles useful when camping in remote and difficult terrain". But, to be serious, her book, though enchanting to read, has some value but many very serious defects.

She begins with a discussion of the Bozo or "Iceman" case and makes the most frightful muddle of it. She seems to have acquired most of her information from one or two newspaper articles, though she has read Bernard Heuvelmans' paper. She dismisses this whole business as a hoax, primarily on the basis of inaccurate information; and some of her "research" methods are a bit odd. She states that she followed a "hunch" and wrote to Vancouver, B.C., for "a clue to the mystery." One can only presume that she does not read the London Sunday Times — it carried detailed accounts of the progress of the 'case'. She reproduces one of Heuvelmans' photographs of 'Bozo', and Ivan T. Sanderson's very careful drawing, made after lying on top of the 'coffin' for six hours, making technical sketches — this is labelled "an artist's drawing of the Iceman", and is attributed to Heuvelmans in the text!

Having disposed of this, she launches into her main text, namely, the Russian, Mongolian, and Chinese findings. Her information comes mainly from Professor Boris Porshnev and is largely in the form of quotations from his letters. Were it not for this, we would be inclined to be even more sceptical of her material than we are. She is, in fact, abysmally ignorant of affairs in the western hemisphere generally, and has obviously never read Ivan T. Sanderson's book Abominable Snowmen: Legend Come to Life (Philadelphia: Chilton Books, 1961, \$7.50). [She quotes Porshnev as saying that "His book has had no effect on the public. People avoid it and shrug their shoulders". Ha! Judging by our mail, and by the fact that after ten

years the book is still selling over 800 copies a year (unless you are in the publishing business you may not realize just how phenomenal this is), it has had considerable impact.] She states that “The last report I received about that cousin of Bigfoot [the Canadian Suskwatch], was a rambling story that circulated some years ago” – she is referring to Ostman’s story! And she mentions a “Victor Birn” who worked with the late Tom Slick; this was Peter Byrne (see elsewhere in this issue for his report on Ivan Marx’s film). In other words, she is so inaccurate, and uninformed, about affairs on this continent, that one must be wary of statements she makes about other areas.

When she quotes directly from Professor Porshnev, she is undoubtedly accurate; and the same may be said for material quoted directly from Academician Rinchen of the Mongolian Academy of Science; and, so far as we know, also Professor Jeanne Josefovna Kofman (who was born in France but has adopted Russian citizenship, and has done a great deal of work in the Caucasus). However, the information and even reports that Odette Tchernine quotes, are extremely vague and general in nature. She does not include the full technical details included in the original ‘official’ reports, or the publications of any of these authorities.

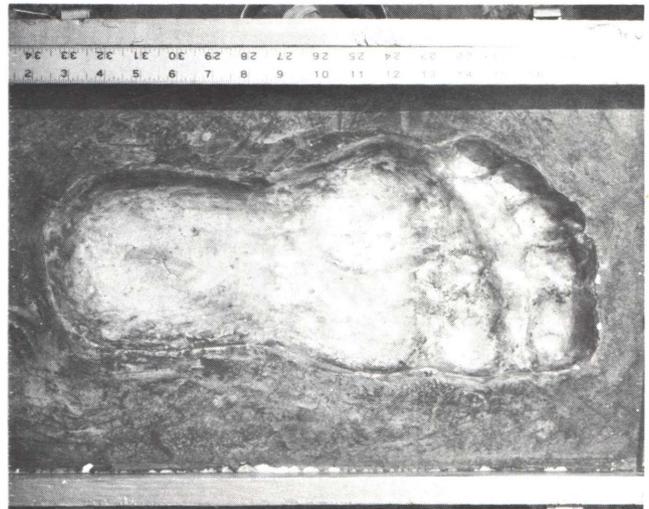
This makes interesting reading and does provide considerable information on ABSM affairs which has not hitherto been available to the general public, or readily available even to the most devoted ABSM ‘addict’. However – and this is an extremely ‘large’ “However”: Odette Tchernine’s book was published in England as The Yeti and in the United States as In Pursuit of the Abominable Snowman. Let us get this straight once and for all: this book has virtually nothing to do with the Yeti or ‘original’ “Abominable Snowman”. The author babbles happily about several types of ABSMs, giving their local names in great detail on occasion, but makes no distinction whatsoever between the various types, lumping them all as “relic Neanderthals”. (She may have got this bit from Professor Porshnev who tends to lump all ABSMs in this category.)

Take a look at the two illustrations below. That on the left is an imprint of a Yeti, a giant, rock-climbing APE or Pongid; that on the right, the imprint of a Suskwatch (or Bigfoot, or Oh-Mah, etc.) found in mud on the banks of the Frazer River in British Columbia, Canada. The latter is the footprint of a HOMINID or man-type or human-type ‘creature.’ There is not the slightest resemblance between them. The Yeti or “Abominable Snowman” is an APE; the others are all “MEN”. The Yeti is restricted to south central Eurasia – i.e. the Nan Shans, the Himalayas, and the Karakorams. They do not live on the snowfields; they live in the upper montane forests where there is something to eat!

The other ABSMs – an abbreviation coined simply because there is no general term for these hominids – constitute a rather bewildering array, but can be confined to three primary categories: sub-humans in East

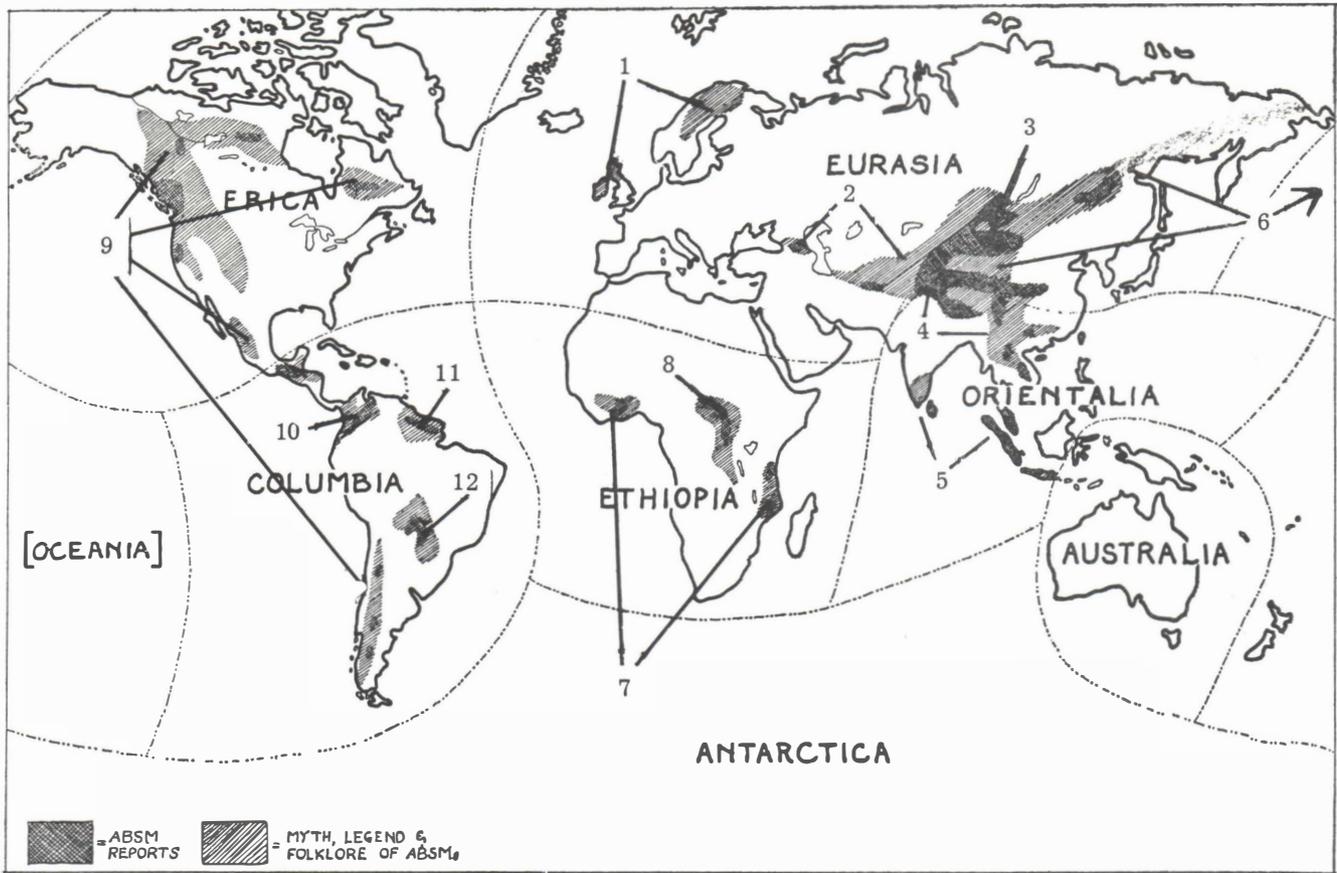


Imprint of right foot of the “Yeti”, taken from a plaster cast made by Eric Shipton in snow on the Menlung Glacier in 1951, on his reconnaissance of the route to conquer Mount Everest.



Imprint of right foot of “Suskwatch” taken from mud on the banks of the Frazer River in British Columbia in 1959.

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF "ABSMs"



- (1) The Wudewasa: Probably a Neanderthaler, and extinct, except for certain recent reports from northern Norway and Finland.
- (2) The Guli-avan: Namely, the man-sized, broad-but-human-type-footed creature that ranges from the Caucasus to southern China.
- (3) The Almasty: The very human type of the open country; leaving footprints almost exactly like those left by Neanderthalers in caves in Italy and the Crimea.
- (4) The MEH-TEH (or YETI): Manifestly not a hominid, but a pongid, and probably a residual of Gigantopithecus, but too heavy to climb trees, and thus a rock-climber.
- (5) The Orang Pendek: A tropical pigmy form, with long head hair. (The Malayan, white skinned type might be a larger form of this species.)
- (6) The Dhzu-teh: A very large hominid, with completely human-type feet, but fully webbed toes, that is distributed all around the Pacific Arc, from southwest China, via eastern Siberia to Alaska, down and across Canada (as the Suskwatsh), and then on, via California (their 'Bigfoot'), to Mexico, Guatemala, and the Andes to Tierra del Fuego.
- (7) The Agogwe: A fully-haired, tropical pigmy hominid.
- (8) [Of doubtful provenance]: Described variously as of very large size but with an opposed big toe. More likely a lowland forest ape.
- (9) (See No. 6 above)
- (10) The Shiru: A pigmy, fully-haired hominid.
- (11) The Didi: This sounds very much like a form of Nos. 6 and 9, but practically nothing is known of it. The footprint is definitely hominid, with opposed big toe.
- (12) The Mapinguary: This is ill-defined; but Dr. Bernard Heuvelmans seems to feel that it is at least a giant primate.

Eurasia and Orientalia, i.e. Malaya, China, Central Eurasia (possibly a Neanderthaler) and eastern Eurasia (also possibly Neanderthalers); proto-cigimies in Central and South America, Sumatra, West and East Africa, and the valley forests of the Himalayas; and neo-giants in Indo-China, East Eurasia, North and South America (this includes the Suskwatch, Bigfoot, Oh-Mah type).

If you will take a look at the footprints of our resident staff (see p. 70), you will see that the Suskwatch print is very human in appearance, though much broader and longer. As noted there, the business of footprints is a sticky business. But no one can fail to see the extraordinary difference between these human (or hominid) prints and the print of the Yeti. The latter has not just one but two widely spaced opposed "big toes", and three tiny (three, four and five) closely spaced toes. This does not fit any known pattern but is certainly pongid rather than hominid. Photographs of these prints do not really give any idea of their size. The first sight of an actual cast of a Yeti print is an awful shock; they are not really very long but they are enormously broad — about 8½" wide!

As a supplement to the photographs of tracks, we add a map showing the areas inhabited or allegedly inhabited by the various types of ABSMs.

All of this Odette Tchernine simply ignores. I am sorry to say that it is probable that she has no knowledge of it and does not have proper training in zoology, let alone physical anthropology, to correctly analyze reports in any case. We recommend that you read Ivan T. Sanderson's book before tackling Odette Tchernine's effort; you may be able to sort out some of the reports. But her opinions and general comments should be taken with a large bag — not the proverbial grain — of salt. She does not read Russian (Prof. Porshnev does speak and write English, though the latter is sometimes a bit stilted) and there were times when I doubted her ability to read English — i.e. she completely misunderstood Carleton Coon on the subject of the so-called "hairy Ainus" (and in fact, has apparently not read his book either!); and she makes an utter shambles of Ivan T. Sanderson's comments on Darwin vs. the Bible: i.e. that Darwin can not be denied, and that a careful reading of the latter confirms him.

There is an appendix by Gordon Creighton (readers of Flying Saucer Review will be familiar with his name) an eminent linguist among other things, of names and terms possibly referring to "Remnant Hominids"; and an utterly ridiculous and useless "index". There are a number of illustrations, quite a few of them photographs of skulls and reconstructions of these "fleshed-out" — which are not even referred to in the text! And there are no references or bibliography.

Miss Tchernine is undoubtedly charming and, in a way, delightfully naive, but she is suspect even as a reporter, apparently believing anything that comes from Russia, Mongolia, etc. (also a few British reports from Africa which she tosses into the middle of the book), and disbelieving anything from the U.S. and Canada, though she seems to be a bit confused here: ex p. 75 "The situation regarding the Californian legends may now in the late sixties have altered, and alleged developments there will be examined in later pages [not really], though the reports of America's fruitful West Coast in this case, rather remind me of the famous James Thurber cartoon: 'All right, you heard a seal bark!' "For the benefit of the 0.00001% of our membership who may not know this cartoon, the whole point is that there is a seal leaning over the back of the bedstead! So what does she mean by that???

Ole Godfred Landsverk. Ancient Norse Messages on American Stones. Glendale, California: Norseman Press, 1969.

For quite a number of years there has been going on a rather acrimonious debate concerning the authenticity of Norse runic inscriptions found in North America, one party contending that they are fraudulent, the other that they are genuine and provide evidence that Scandinavians not only visited this continent but travelled extensively through it, primarily via its waterways. Runic inscriptions have been found in our Northeast and in Oklahoma. The most famous inscription is, of course, the Kensington Stone.

The "anti-Norse", if one may so call them, have contended that the inscriptions are forgeries because some of the runes "don't make sense". Dr. Landsverk and his associate Alf Monge, a cryptanalyst, have worked on these runic carvings for a number of years and in 1967 published a preliminary report on their discoveries. The current volume, by Dr. Landsverk alone, brings up to date their discoveries.

The 'phoney' runes are, in fact, a "lost art" and are puzzles rather than a code — i.e. they do not require a 'key', but simply a knowledge of the way in which dates could be indicated with a minimum amount of carving or chiseling in rock (ever carve your initials in tree bark?).

This book is not easy reading and requires considerable concentration; but the experts on runes who

have been asked to find fault with the author's findings and conclusions, have been remarkably quiet for two and one half years! In other words, those who contend that North American runic inscriptions dated between 1008 and 1362 A.D. are forgeries, have had to shut up.

Robert Charroux. One Hundred Thousand Years of Man's Unknown History. New York: Berkley Medallion Book. 95¢.

This really is bilge. It contains a few interesting grains, but the major portion of it is unutterable rubbish. The author begins, after a sort of general introduction, by stating that Tiahuanaco was built by Venusians. The vast majority of his conclusions, speculations, etc., are based on this totally unproven "fact". One is reminded of the saying, "If it weren't so tragic, it would be funny"; but the fact is that this is the kind of book which is read and believed by those with little knowledge and inadequate education. The author castigates Churchward — and then proceeds to emulate his faults. He interlards the text with reference numbers, but when one checks these, most prove not to be references at all! His knowledge of physical and cultural anthropology is almost nil, and most of what he does 'know' is wrong anyway: e.g. he refers to "a little pile of ash for Zinjanthropus" (as the only evidence of this species), etc., ad nauseam.

His thesis — like von Daniken's — may be, in some respects correct: that this planet has been visited, even 'planted' by extra- or ultra-terrestrials; but this author would appear to be arriving at a possible right answer by all the wrong methods and for all the wrong reasons. I am reminded of a doctor in Georgia in the late 18th-early 19th century who was alarmed by the incidence of malaria in his district; he promulgated an eukase that everyone should tack thin muslin 'screening' over windows and doors to keep out the 'miasma' that caused malaria, and the incidence of the disease dropped almost immediately. As we now know, what he was keeping out was mosquitoes, not 'miasma'. But, for heaven's sake, don't consider Charroux an expert on anything.

Vitus B. Dröscher. The Friendly Beast. New York: Dutton, 1971. \$8.95.

The title of this book is ridiculous, but the book itself is absolutely fascinating; I could not put it down. I suppose the majority of zoologists have been braying for years that one must not "anthropomorphize" 'animals' — i.e. animals other than Homo sapiens — attributing to them "human emotions". This book is devoted almost entirely to "human behaviour" on the part of animals. I admit to having been a bit bored with the very short section concerning humans but one can always skim or even skip this. The author is primarily a journalist but has obviously checked his material thoroughly; and the observations he reports were made by truly qualified ethologists, almost all of them working in the field rather than the laboratory. So you think you're human!

Note: The excellent and rather vital book Intelligent Life in the Universe by I. S. Shklovskii and Carl Sagan, is now available in paperback for \$2.95. The publisher is Delta, a division of the Dell Publishing Company.

A Note on Obtaining Books:

A number of our members have complained that they cannot find books reviewed here in their local bookstores and that said bookstores have been apathetic, to say the least, about ordering books for them from the publisher. No bookstore can stock copies of all books published during the year, let alone books published last year, etc.: thousands of books are published each year. All bookstores ought to be willing to order books when requested to do so, but apparently many 'cannot be bothered' to do so. If you cannot find a book locally, and your local bookstore does not have one of the various directories listing publishers' addresses and refuses to order for you, we will be happy (well, at least willing!) to forward your order direct to the publisher. The publisher will, of course, add a certain amount for postage and handling.

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