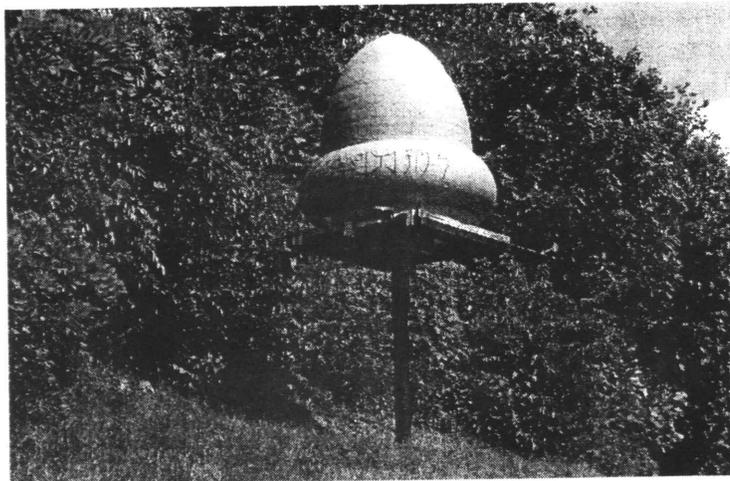


SEE ANNOUNCEMENT
ON PAGE EIGHT

SAUCER SMEAR



A mockup of the Kecksburg acorn-shaped UFO is displayed behind the Kecksburg Fire Department, Kecksburg, Pennsylvania. - Copyright: Stan Gordon

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HARK! A very worthwhile new book is just out, called "REALLY MYSTERIOUS PENNSYLVANIA - UFOs, Bigfoot & Other Weird Encounters - Casebook One". It is written by Stan Gordon, by far the best-known offbeat investigator in the state of Pa. Now at age 61, he has spent his entire adult life pursuing this hobby, limiting himself almost entirely to his home state.

This small book (5 by 8 inches, 135 pages) is divided into two main sections, "Encounters with UFOs" and "Creature Encounters". At first we thought that the entries are too short, but on second thought they are just about right, except in the case of the famous Kecksburg crash/landing. This occurred on the night of December 9th, 1965, while Stan was still a teen-ager. More about this classic case further along in this review.

Stan has fortunately stuck to the very best of the best Pennsylvania (only) cases of the past 40 years. Interestingly, the only thing that most of these UFO sightings have in common is no sound. All are close enough to the observer(s) for them to clearly see the size, shape, structural details, as well as the lighting patterns, all of which are significantly different in almost every case! This is just what we have come to expect. This unexplainable diversity is one of the main reasons that most people, including scientists, refuse to take UFOs seriously. The fact that these sightings are so different from each other in their details is in itself a mystery that defies explanation!

On the other hand, the Bigfoot sightings, all close enough to have been seen in detail, are similar enough to each other for us to say that they are of the same species of animal, whatever it may be. There are also a few sightings of giant birds as well as black panthers and other cat-like creatures that do not belong in the area in which they were seen. The giant "thunderbirds" are indeed anomalous, but the big cats don't interest us, as they are apparently normal Earth animals that are merely out of place for some reason.

Incidentally, one man actually shot at Bigfoot with a rifle and missed on purpose. There is a moral dilemma here. Should he have brought down a specimen of these huge hairy ape-like creatures? Had he done so, that would surely have caused a stir world-wide!

(2)

We believe that Stan Gordon is also interested in purely paranormal events (ghosts, etc.), but none are included in this book.

One unfortunate thing we noticed about this tome is that almost all of the witnesses are anonymous, by request. This trend keeps getting stronger as time goes by. Of course Stan has all these names in his files. He is an honest man, and we have no doubt that he really does have this important information. On the other hand, a cynic or a debunker would be justified in saying, "How do we know that any of these very strange things really happened? We have been given no way of checking out these stories for ourselves."

Finally, we must discuss the Kecksburg crash/landing of 1965, which is a sensational case indeed, written up all too briefly at the beginning of this book. In essence, a large acorn-shaped UFO apparently crashed (although under some degree of control) in the woods near Kecksburg one night, and was quickly hauled away by the military. There were many witnesses to various aspects of this event, though there are still some people who insist that nothing landed at all. As with the far more famous Roswell Incident, additional witnesses have come forward over the years, while many other witnesses are unfortunately dead by now.

In our opinion Kecksburg is far more likely than Roswell to involve a truly anomalous event - yet gets very little publicity, and has no annual festival, etc. At least Stan is open-minded about the solution. Says he, "Among the many theories proposed has been a Soviet satellite, a Soviet ICM, a missile, a meteorite, a projectile fired from a giant gun in Canada, and a spaceship from another world." (For some reason we are glad that he puts spaceship last on the list!)

The debunkers say it was a meteorite, or else nothing at all (= no landing.) We happen to favor a Soviet satellite; but no explanation really fits, and we are left with a truly sensational mystery!

Stan Gordon keeps getting new information about Kecksburg even after all these years. He has already done a documentary on the event (which we have not seen), and plans to eventually write a book just about Kecksburg. We eagerly look forward to it!

You can buy the present book at STANGORDON. INFO. Go for it!...

One of the world's leading scientists, sometimes called "the smartest man on Earth", is British physicist Stephen Hawking. Sadly, Hawking is also one of the world's most physically handicapped paralyzed individuals, being able to communicate with others only by means of a sophisticated computer arrangement.

A recent statement by Hawking on the subject of alien life forms has received a great deal of attention in the media. Basically, he believes that the universe must be full of intelligent life forms, only a few of which would be capable of space travel and such. He takes the pessimistic view that aliens capable of reaching us would probably be very dangerous, and we should therefore avoid contact with them. Says he:

"Trying to make contact with alien races is a little too risky. If aliens ever visit us, I think the outcome would be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn't turn out very well for the Native Americans."

Hawking's viewpoint has received mainly negative reactions. Dennis Toth (whoever he may be) says: "Too bad this is a completely pointless notion. They already know that we are here, and if anybody out there is interested, they will find us quite quickly. So we need to be dealing with the best ways to prepare for global contact. The hiding option is no good."

Have aliens hijacked Voyager 2 spacecraft ?

Indecipherable data is being sent back from the Voyager 2 spacecraft, which was launched into space 33 years ago with a coded disk containing basic information about Earth and its inhabitants should an alien race find the spacecraft. Engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory have so far failed to decode the signals from the spacecraft. Some speculate it's been reprogramed by an unknown intelligence and is sending messages back in a secret code or one non-native to us. Seeing how the craft, and its sibling Voyager 1, are now at the very edge of the solar system and poised to enter interstellar space, it's probable that many technological scenarios could be to blame--including tinkering by alien hackers.

One organization that seems blissfully unworried about the personalities and motives of possible aliens is SETI - Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. These scientists, led by Frank Drake and others, have now been at their mission for exactly fifty years, according to a recent article in Discover Magazine.

In all that time, SETI has had no success at all in getting a response from space beings, if any. There were, however, at least a few exciting moments, most notably in 1977, when astronomer Jerry Ehman announced having received what is famously remembered as the "Wow Signal" - so named because it looked so much like an alien message that he wrote "Wow!" on the printout from his radio telescope. For some reason left unexplained in the Discover article, this signal was never received again, and is now considered to be unimportant after all.

SETI scientists are currently more optimistic than ever, in spite of fifty years of continual failure. The reason for this is that technology has advanced so greatly during that period of time that the odds for success are a great deal higher than before. Many planets in other star systems have already been discovered in very recent years, and it is now almost certain that we will soon discover smaller, earth-like planets where the possibility of some kind of life forms is extremely high.

What we find strange is that these SETI scientists, including also the late Carl Sagan, don't ever seriously consider the strong (but unproven) possibility that intelligent beings from other planets may be visiting us now. Flying saucers, wherever they may be from, are simply taboo for complex reasons. SETI and UFO researchers are on entirely different wavelengths, and it is likely to remain that way. Pity!...

THE WEIRDNESS OF COLONEL PHILIP J. CORSO: This long-retired (now deceased) military officer wrote a book several years ago called "The Day After Roswell". The exact meaning of the title escapes us, and (shockingly!) we have never read the book. However, our understanding is that the most sensational claim therein is that technology obtained from the Roswell crashed saucer was "back engineered" by certain American corporations, resulting in a "quantum leap" forward in our technology. Presumably this would put us far ahead of other countries which were not so lucky.

But here's the big news: In Colonel Corso's unpublished diary, he also discusses a face-to-face lone encounter and a telepathic conversation with an Extraterrestrial Biological Entity (EBE) while he was stationed at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico in 1957 - ten years after the Roswell Incident. The item we have, from the "Open Minds" web site, states that in this diary, "Corso mentions the event several times at random, giving the reader the impression that the episode had a fundamental importance in his life."

The "punch line" is: This sensational incident, so important to Corso and perhaps to the world, is not mentioned at all in his published book. Even stranger, the diary, called "Dawn of a New Age", has very recently been published on the web by "Open Minds", after all these years. Obviously much is missing from this story, but this is the essence of what we have learned. Strange indeed!...

BRITISH CROP CIRCLE SEEN FORMING?? We find this story by famed researcher Colin Andrews to be fascinating (if true), as it may be an important clue as to how crop circles are formed. Perhaps they are not all made by humans after all. (Even some of these humans claim they make the circles for spiritual and artistic reasons - not as hoaxes.)

In July of 1996 one of the most complex and spectacular crop circles ever seen appeared in a field opposite the famed ruins of Stonehenge. The design became known as the "Julia Set", because it resembles the mathematical fractal called by that name. We distinctly remember that, at the time, it was logically assumed to be the work of advanced engineering students at a nearby college.

A pilot crossed this field at about 5:30 p.m. that day and saw nothing unusual there. When he crossed it again at 6:15 p.m., the "Julia Set" was in place. This very short window of time is in itself astounding!

Police later reported that at 6:00 p.m. a large number of vehicles were pulled over to the side of a nearby road, causing a traffic hazard. According to a researcher named Lucy Pringle, an (unnamed) woman and her taxi driver were among these parked vehicles, and could not believe what they witnessed. They stood for about 30 minutes watching a large design forming under a swirling cloud of mist. Lucy Pringle writes:

"The witness mentioned that when people see maybe two cars or more pulled in and

looking down into a field, other cars stop and gradually the traffic builds up, and more and more cars draw in to have a look.". What the group saw is described:

"There was an apparition, an isolated mist over it (= the formation), and as the circle was getting bigger, the mist was rising above the circle. As the mist rose it got bigger and the corn circle got bigger. The mist was about 2 or 3 feet off the ground, and it was sort of spinning around and on the ground a circular shape was appearing, which seemed to get bigger as simultaneously the mist gets bigger and swirled faster. It was gradual and you are standing there and you are thinking what is going on, and everyone is discussing it, and more and more traffic is building up, and you just think that all the time you don't really realize what is happening, and then you think then that's it; and the thing is still getting bigger and you are thinking of the beginning and end. But you don't realize what you are looking at. I didn't understand what was happening." (Strange wording, but that's the way it is written. - Ed.)

It is important to note that there was always a clear space between the ground and the mist, and there was apparently no wind or dust. It seems that the crop circle took about 20 minutes to form, although the unnamed woman "can't be sure, as they lost all track of time."

Obviously no human or alien perpetrators were seen, and the time frame is too short for even an unconventional explanation to fit. If this account is true, we are dealing here with a true mystery!

Unfortunately no other witnesses have come forward, as far as we know...

A very well known ufological skeptic has recently expired, at the ripe old age of 95!

Martin Gardner was a co-founder and core member of CSI (formerly CSICOP), and had no patience for ufological nonsense or any other kind of unproven belief system. We met him just once, with other members of the CSI hard core. He said "hello", but without much enthusiasm at all; and that is as far as our conversation got. It would be fair to say that your editor did not really know Gardner personally at all.

Gardner had an absolutely brilliant mind, and if he overlooked flying saucers, etc., he can be forgiven. He wrote over 70 books, including books of mathematical puzzles. In CSI's Skeptical Enquirer magazine he for many years wrote a column called "Notes of a Fringe Watcher"...

RECENT UFOLOGICAL WEIRDNESS: Our long-time friend ufologist Gene Steinberg, currently living near Phoenix, Arizona, is founder and co-host of the popular off-beat internet radio show called "The Paracast". Till recently his co-host was a fellow technician & saucer fan named Dave Biedny, whom we do not know at all except through the program.

For many, many weeks now, Steinberg has been experiencing acute financial problems in his personal life. This is not an unusual situation for someone to be in, especially in light of the current recession; but what is very unusual is that Gene has sent out an endless stream of updates about his financial situation to his internet mailing list. The text of these many messages is almost identical, except that the problem is described as getting worse & worse for him. He therefore solicits loans and/or donations in an annoyingly persistent way. He never reveals just how much money he actually owes or how much he has received from his desperate pleas, but we would certainly suspect that "the law of diminishing returns" must have set in by now; i.e., you can't keep going back to the same well, or whatever.

We can understand that Biedny was "turned off" by the above-mentioned situation, but if there were not other problems between them, he would not have quit so abruptly as co-host and then gone on to attack Gene harshly on the net.

Anyhow, more details on this subject can be found in Gene's ravings in our letters to the editor section of this issue...

Meanwhile, "The Paranet" continues to be recorded once a week, featuring Gene and various co-hosts and guests. On June 19th your humble "Smear" editor was once again a guest thereon, together with occultist Allan Greenfield, saucerer Greg Bishop, and off-beat film producer Bob Wilkinson, creator of "Shades of Gray", the current documentary about the late ufologist Gray Barker of West Virginia. The show went well except for some technical problems. We were glad to have the opportunity to once again express our admiration for Barker - a sadly flawed individual, as are we all...

'High' wallabies being blamed for Aussie crop circles

SYDNEY — Wallabies snacking in Tasmania's legally grown opium poppy fields are getting "high as a kite" and hopping around in circles, trampling the crops, a state official said. Tasmania Attorney-General Lara Giddings told a budget hearing Wednesday that she had recently read about the kangaroo-like marsupials' antics in a brief on the state's large poppy industry. Tasmania is the world's largest producer of legally grown opium for the pharmaceutical market. "We have a problem with wallabies entering poppy fields, getting as high as a kite and going around in circles," The Mercury newspaper quoted Giddings as telling the hearing. "Then they crash. We see crop circles in the poppy industry from wallabies that are high."

SUNNY DISPOSITION

Here's a jolly fatwa from Sheikh ibn Baaz, Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia from 1993 to 1999: "The person who maintains that the Sun does not move should be condemned to death after being called upon to repent, as his denials of the motion of the Sun constitute a denial of God's Word." *Independent*, 26 Nov 2009.

MORE MJ-12: Hopefully most of you have a working knowledge of the endless MJ-12 controversy. It all began in 1987 when UFO proponent William Moore publicized the first batch of these mysteriously "leaked" government documents, including a "Presidential Briefing Document" for incoming president Eisenhower, in which the landing of a spaceship at Roswell in 1947 is confirmed. Interestingly, this confirmation is rarely cited by pro-Roswell people, maybe because it is a suspected fraud. As we recall, the late arch-skeptic Phil Klass questioned the government about this document and eventually received a written verdict from them: **BOGUS**.

Over the many years since then, literally thousands of pages of "leaked" MJ-12 material have surfaced, much of it sent to a shadowy former Marine named Timothy Cooper, who receives it from various murky sources. He then sends everything to Dr. Robert Wood and his son Ryan Wood, a knowledgeable pair who spend most of their time publicizing and attempting to verify the authenticity of all this information. We can only say that if all the MJ-12 claims are true, the government is withholding an unbelievable amount of extremely important ufological information from the public, and they have gotten away with it for all this time. It is indeed unbelievable!

Now, a new twist: The June 2010 MUFON Journal has a long and interesting article about the true but little-known "Battle of Los Angeles", which occurred in the early morning hours of February 25th, 1942 - just a few weeks after Pearl Harbor, when America's nerves were indeed jittery. Your editor was at that time a 10-year-old boy living in Tucson, Arizona. We don't remember reading or hearing anything about the incident, but newspaper accounts and endless witnesses vouch for the fact that something, presumed to be enemy aircraft, did fly over Los Angeles that night, and left without doing any damage at all.

We always presumed this was just a strangely intriguing "unknown" incident (like so many other UFO stories); but now we learn, from five alleged high-level government documents of that era, that two presumed interplanetary craft were recovered and eventually "reverse engineered" as a result of this event. Few details are given. So now we are supposed to believe that our government was somehow interacting with aliens as far back as five years before Roswell. This indeed boggles the mind!

The first of the above-mentioned five documents may actually be genuine. It is a memorandum from Army Chief of Staff George Marshall to President Roosevelt, mentioning that 1430 rounds of ammunition were fired between 3:12 and 4:15 a.m.; No bombs were dropped; there were no casualties among our troops; no planes were shot down; no American Army or Navy planes were involved. As many as 15 unknown airplanes may have been involved, flying "very slowly" and also, at times, as much as 200 miles per hour, at altitudes of 9,000 to 18,000 feet.

From a previous version of this story we remember reading that one balloon-like object was flying very slowly at high altitude. It sustained several direct hits from our anti-aircraft guns, but was apparently unharmed by this. It proceeded slowly in a more or less straight line till it disappeared from view in the direction of nearby Long Beach, California.

Surely this is strange enough without adding the fact (??) that two "interplanetary craft" were recovered.

P.S. (to fill the remaining space below) : We vividly remember that in those early days of World War II, many believed that the evil Japanese might soon invade the west coast of America. A student at the University of Arizona in Tucson was expelled for running the Japanese flag up a flagpole at said institution. Those were the days!.....

MORE ROSWELL: First we have an article with the dire headline: "City (of Roswell) may withdraw from UFO Festival". It seems that their City Council has recently approved a preliminary budget for 2011 that does not include any funding for next year's festival. The funding for 2010 is \$150,000. Might we say that \$150,000 to \$0 is quite a drop. But reading on, we see that the Council will probably eventually restore at least part of the money needed for next year. The Council is in a state of flux, or whatever.

Sadly, the Council's hesitation, so close to this year's July 4th Festival date, has caused needless confusion and the cancellation of some of the planned events....

Next we have a long diatribe by dear old "Uncle Stan" Friedman severely knocking a new book entitled "Roswell and the Reich: The Nazi Connection". He also takes another swipe at Nick Redfern's somewhat recent book "Body Snatchers in the Desert". (We like the title, however!) Remember, this book was about semi-illegal experiments involving the U.S. government and ill-fated Japanese prisoners of war. Uncle Stan is a hard-core ET man, and nothing else will make him happy. Mogul balloons are not even mentioned in his article...

Next there is an article by the above-mentioned Nick Redfern called "Why Roswell Will Never Be Solved" - an excellent rant which boils down to "IT'S JUST TOO DAMN LATE". Obviously he is admitting that his own above-mentioned book is nothing more than an unproven (but interesting) theory...

Finally, Anthony Braglia is at it again, this time claiming that various Roswell firemen, from the military base and from the town, responded to the crash, and some saw a saucer-looking badly damaged object, charred dead little bodies, etc. Nothing remotely like this ever happened at the well-known Foster Ranch site, so all this must refer to one of the other suggested crash sites, if there is any truth in it at all. Egads!

...From long-time ufologist Tom Benson, former New Jersey MUFON State Director, we have received the following gem, originally published in the Trenton (N.J.) Evening Times on Tuesday, April 27th, 1897. (We have a photocopy.) This incident was apparently part of the legendary 1896-97 UFO "flap", though it may well be a fabrication - especially as we had not heard that the "flap" in question ever reached all the way to the East Coast.

The headline reads: "WAS IT AN AIRSHIP? Peter McAuley Finds a Mysterious Note Hidden in a Can, signed 'We Are Four'. The finder (is) directed to communicate with Maurice Porter of Greenwich, N.Y., which has already been done. A strange story."

Unfortunately, though it is explained that Peter McAuley is a reputable local businessman, no mention is made of just who Maurice Porter might be, or what if anything happened after he was contacted. We are led to believe, from the "mysterious note", that "there are four men in the boat (= airship) and that they, having completely lost control of their machine, are drifting helplessly about the ether". Of course, one might wonder why they could not somehow come down, irregardless of what might be wrong with their ship!

This airship was seen in the night sky by more than a hundred people, many of whom had binoculars. The sighting included "shooting stars", which might be construed as distress flares from the craft. One of the witnesses was Peter McAuley.

The next morning, McAuley saw his little girl (presumably outdoors) kicking a package that included a Boston baked bean can. Inside the can was a note which was soaked with water from the previous night's heavy rain.

The note reads as follows: "In the clouds, April 26th, '97 - Night - To whom it may interest: A terrific wind and rain storm has just abated. Our airship revolved like a leaf in a miniature whirlwind. Nearly three weeks ago we descended upon a vast prairie, evidently in western states (U.S.) Since then we've been sailing, we know not where. We've been out of water frequently, and we often melted snow for relief. Please notify Maurice Porter, Greenwich, New York. He knows who we are. We hourly expect to perish. (signed) We Are Four".

What this account may lack in truth is indeed made up for in weirdness. Even the late Gray Barker could never have come up with something as bizarre as this. Our thanks again to Tom Benson...

POSSIBLE NEW INFO ABOUT TWC CLASSIC CASES: Our long-time acquaintance Lt. Col. Kevin Randle, (mail order) Ph.D., runs a blog called "A Different Perspective". When he is not being absolutely obsessed with every minute detail of the Roswell Incident, Randle has some worthwhile opinions on other ufological subjects.

First, there is the notorious "Philadelphia Experiment", a tale from World War II that would have us believe that a Navy ship somehow teleported from one seaport to another. This story became the subject of a book of that name, written by William Moore and the late Charles Berlitz of Bermuda Triangle fame.

Principal proponent of this outlandish tale was one Carlos Allende, born Carl Allen. He was supposedly one of the sailors who had been driven mad by the electromagnetic aspects of the Experiment, and there is little doubt that Allende had been driven mad by something. For many years he was a legendary figure in the UFO field, traveling around the U.S.A. mysteriously. Gray Barker was one of the very few researchers who actually met the man. Luckily this was on a weekend that your editor was visiting Barker at his apartment in Clarksburg, West Virginia. (Long story here!)

Our point is that Kevin Randle now reveals that "Carl Allen admitted, in a written statement to Jim Lorenzen (then International Director of APRO), that he had made up the whole tale." We have followed the Philadelphia Experiment fairly closely over the years, and not till now have we ever heard about this alleged confession by Allende. Is Randle making it up?? Probably not, but who knows?...

Then, there is the 1897 incident, in which an interplanetary pilot was supposedly killed when his craft crashed into a windmill in the town of Aurora, Texas. His remains were then respectfully buried in the local cemetery, with a headstone showing an outline of his craft. This headstone definitely is not there now, but if it ever existed it would have been stolen at some point, just as all the original headstones at Boot Hill Cemetery in Tombstone, Arizona have been stolen over the years (and replaced with replicas.)

We believe, as stated elsewhere in this issue, that many of the 1896-97 incidents are true, but certainly not all of them. Aurora seems about the least likely, for several reasons.

The main investigator was a ufologist named Hayden Hewes, who in the 1970s was director of the now defunct International UFO Bureau, based in Oklahoma City as we recall. Even Walt Andrus, former director of MUFON, got sucked into visiting Aurora.

Now we learn from Randle's blog that the original reporter of the event, named H. E. Hayden, later "claimed to have invented the story in a vain attempt to put his dying community (= Aurora) back on the map." We have never heard of any such confession till now. Strange indeed!...

ANOTHER GEM FROM JERRY CLARK: Jerome Clark (aka Jerry) has just come out with his first off-beat book in five years. He will be remembered for his multivolume "UFO Encyclopedia" in the 1990s, and his many other literary contributions to the field of Fortean research.

Now comes "Hidden Realms, Lost Civilizations, and Beings from Other Worlds". This is a 300-page tome from Visible Ink Press, printed on high-class paper and with many beautiful illustrations.

Clark's extensive research on all of these rather obscure topics, plus his professional way of putting it all together, are little short of amazing. Here are, among other things, the imagined inhabitants of the Moon, Venus, and Mars - some of whom were publicized by well-known saucer contactees such as George Adamski. Others are much more obscure, going back into the 19th century & even before that.

We can't help noting that your "Smear" editor and "Saucer News" (former name for our zine) are mentioned only once each, and this is on Page 69. Jerry could hardly know that the late Gray Barker found some excuse to mention us on Page 69 of each of his later paperback UFO books - of which there were many. We are not sure just what this proves, if anything.

Most of the entities described in Jerry Clark's current book are not likely to exist or ever to have existed. The exception is the last section, called "Mystery Airships: Aeronauts from the Twilight Zone". This is the part of the book that we enjoyed far more than the rest, because of our own personal bias. Here we have over 30 pages of detailed, carefully researched info about the 1896-97 "flap". We think that many if not

most of these reported events actually happened, and apparently so does Clark.

Remember, powered flight through the atmosphere had not yet been invented at that time. Nevertheless, there were several alleged landings in which nearby earthlings conversed briefly with the occupants of these mysterious crafts. The startling aspect, to us, is that there was little if any thought about ET visitors. These ufonauts were apparently ordinary Americans who spoke briefly in ordinary English about their recent travels and their future plans. Names were even given, though investigation 0 so many years later has been basically fruitless.

We propose, semi-facetiously, the theory that these entities were real ufonauts (whatever that may mean), pretending to be earthlings. If so, they did it quite well, but not perfectly.

Clark sums it up much better on Page 284: "It is likely...that if mystery airships are not poorly described UFOs, they are something almost infinitely stranger. To all available appearances, the airship sightings and related experiences of the latter 1800s are not just unexplained but inexplicable - an unpenetrable enigma, a shadow fallen on history, its source invisible to science and understanding, vanished but for the testimony of the long dead."

That's "purple prose", as Gray Barker might well have called it. Way to go, Jerry!

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES :

GENE STEINBERG of "The Paracast" has (somewhat) recently sent this message out to his list of fans on the Net. The title is "About That Hate Campaign!" It reads in part as follows:

"Some of you have been made aware of an online hate campaign against me. Someone whom I once called a friend (name: Dave Biedny. - Ed.) is now busy trashing me both privately and publicly, claiming that I'm asking readers and listeners for donations while living large or something like that. All this comes at a time when, as most of you who have read these newsletters know, I've been flat broke for reasons that I've clearly explained. What's more, my extravagant lifestyle is, in reality, a pretty modest existence, and I hope you will agree with me that kicking a person when they're down is a really nasty and inexcusable thing to do...

"Meantime, the money you have so generously donated (or loaned) to me is meant to keep us going until the situation is resolved, as it will be. More to the point, I have ad renewals and ongoing consulting gigs that will soon begin to restore the lost income. A key new business opportunity just opened up to me - an agreement with a network to syndicate both (our) radio shows. But today the situation is scary..."

Conspiracy expert KENN THOMAS writes:

"You say 'I am not a conspiracy person'. Haha! As if we ever had any choice about these matters.

"Thank you for your recent post card. That review of 'Shockingly Close to the Truth' was quite old, and originally appeared in PARANOIA Magazine. The issue of Smiles Lewis' zine in which it was reprinted also was quite old, and not current as you surmised. Nevertheless, I did enjoy your book very much when I wrote the review, and it has only grown in my estimation since.

"I recently lectured at the UFO conference in Aztec, New Mexico, and I met Art Campbell, a researcher who has been around since the days of Donald Keyhoe, who's a fascinating guy. Even if it turns out that there's nothing to the UFO phenomenon at all, I think the people who have persisted with the topic deserve great respect. As Tim Leary told me, you can't understand a culture without having some understanding of its dissenters, which is what I take the UFO subculture to be - a community of dissent from established scientific and governmental authority. Your portraits of its constituents in 'Shockingly' help a lot in coming to that understanding..."

ANNOUNCEMENT ON PAGE EIGHT:

This issue of our non-scheduled newsletter is a bit behind schedule, due to a physical problem (= accident), now resolved. There may be only 8 or 9 "Smears" this year instead of the usual 10. And remember, at age 79, neither your editor nor his zine can last very much longer. We will hope for the best.