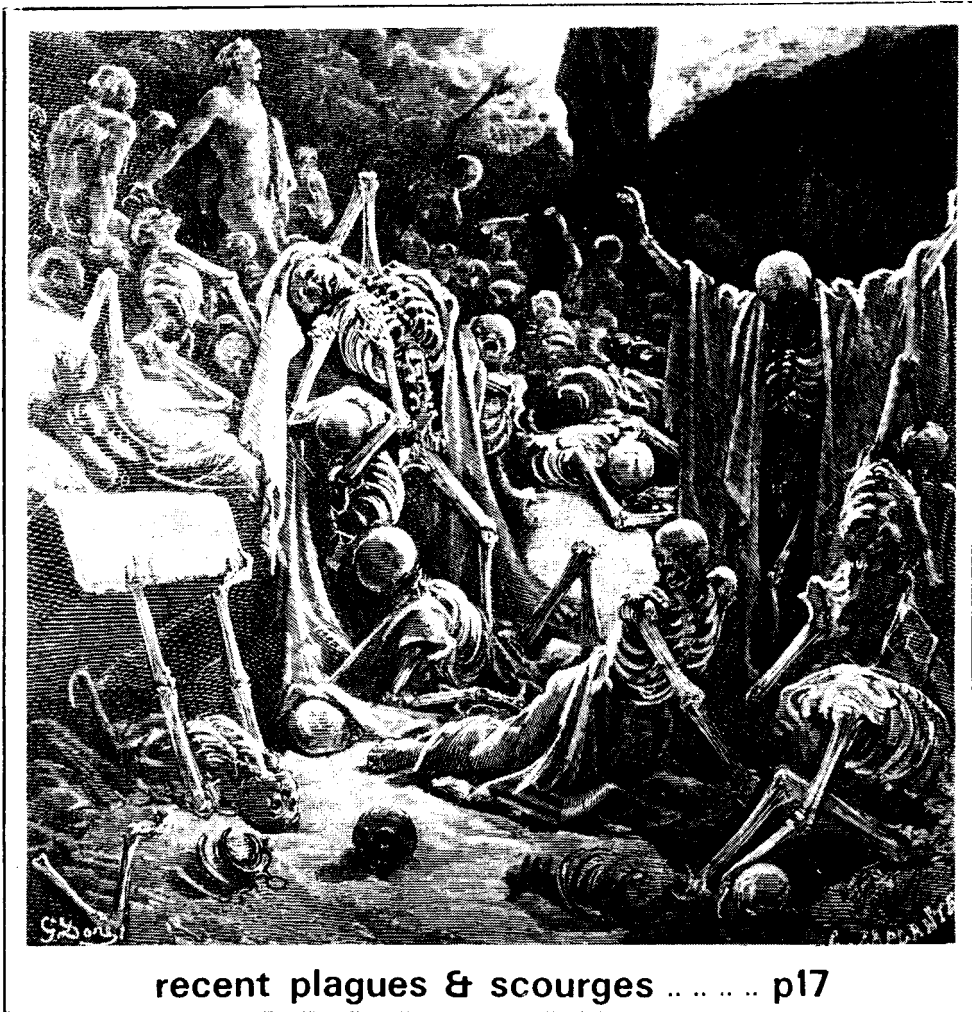


PORTAL TIMES

strange phenomena - curiosities - prodigies - portents - mysteries



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FORTEAN TIMES

A Contemporary Record
of Strange Phenomena

BOX 152, LONDON N10 1EP, ENGLAND.

FORTEAN TIMES is a non profitmaking quarterly miscellany of news, notes and references on current and historical strange phenomena, related subjects and philosophies. Formerly 'The News'. Affiliated to the International Fortean Organisation (INFO), and the Society for the Investigation of The Unknown (SITU), and other Fortean journals in continuing the work of Charles Fort (1874-1932).

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SUBSCRIPTION information and details of other deals can be found on the back page.

CONTRIBUTIONS of articles, artwork, notes and letters-of-comment on related subjects are always welcome. **YOU CAN HELP** by sending us a copy or clipping of any item you think will interest FT readers - just add a note of the DATE, the SOURCE and your NAME (for the credit). All clippings go on file to be published in due course. Please don't assume we must know about it already - there are surprisingly few duplications.

The editor regrets that it is not always possible to reply to all correspondence. Acknowledgements of money received will be sent via the following issue of FT.

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FT24, WINTER 1977.

Status report

As we begin another year your editor is about to embark on yet another round of personal upheaval - it is hoped that the only effect this will have on **FT** will be unavoidable delays on correspondence. There is a possibility too of a regrouping or restructuring which may mean a new address by the end of the year. We'll give you plenty of warning, if so.

This issue finds us with a new printer whose facilities allow us to process photos easier and to get over the 40 page thickness barrier that forced the Review Supplement to be bound separately last issue. We hope you'll take to our present format...the 'yellow pages' idea, pioneered by **MUFOB**, seemed a good solution. We hope to carry more advertising in the **RE**, though the response from publishing companies has been dismally low so far. Sooner or later they'll wake up to the fact that here is a platform to reach a hardcore of interested book-buyers in a specialist range of subjects that has limited advertising outlets elsewhere!

Truss Fund

...in which we gratefully acknowledge donations from Janet & Colin Bord; R Cotton; EW Crew; Richard Crowe; CS Ker-shore; CR Mather; Bob Pegg; Paul Pinn; Leslie Shepard and Mike Wuchitech. It all helps and is put to good use.

Fortean Picture Library (PPL)

The response to our announcement of our plans to set up a pictorial archive of pictorial Fortean material has been very encouraging indeed. It will perform a valuable function in preserving and furthering this long neglected aspect of our studies. We hope to send an information sheet out with the next issue. Meanwhile we express grateful thanks to Thames and Hudson Ltd for an unexpected donation to get us started.

FT - Value for money

FT continues to survive - but only just! Income just balances costs. Naturally we are grateful to be alive, but our position is quite insecure. We have no room for the growth we desperately need, and rely on donations. This is pathetic - we ought to be doing so much better. We have kept our subscription stable since 1975, when other prices have gone through the roof (especially the punitive postal rates). We have added more pages, more material, more book reviews - and published some great scoops (like the Nessie photos in **FT22**). We give you more than many other Fortean

cont on p12/



FROGS

Recent accounts

As part of the publicity for Phenomena, John Michell and your editor were guests on a morning phone-in on London Broadcasting (LBC) on 12 October last year. As the topic turned to falls of animals from the sky, a listener called 'Bill' rang with a singular story. He had experienced two rains of frogs in his life, one at Brisbane, Australia in 1922, and one at a lake at Rickmansworth, Herts, in 1945. Alas time did not permit us to question him at length, and the conversation moved on before it occurred to me to get his address - too late! He did have time to tell us that in neither case did he notice strong winds or whirlwinds dropping the animals around him, as the orthodox explanation demands. I have two other observations of dubious merit: firstly that the Rickmansworth fall was into a lake (looks like the mysterious teleportative forces were on target for once); and secondly, a quick glance at my atlas shows several large lakes just to the south of Rickmansworth at a place called Frogmoor. Hmm! If any reader knows, or can investigate, further details of these two incidents, we'd be obliged if you'd let us know - we have nothing more on them here.

There were two frogfalls towards the end of last year. On 29 August, thousands of "baby" frogs, "no bigger than a pea", showered upon the French village of Carnet Plage, near Perpignan, late that night. They were bouncing off cars and causing consternation generally. One local council employee said: 'Those falling on the grass survived. Those falling on roads were killed either by passing cars or by the impact.' Predictably the 'tornado' theory was trotted out - but we do note that there was heavy rain, and that there was heavy quake activity elsewhere in the world the days before and after (ie 29 & 30 Aug). Times, & Guardian 30 Aug 1977 (Cr: Sue Wagstaff, of T&H; Mrs Sylvia Mowday; Peter Rogerson.)

A brief note in the Sunday Times 18 December 1977, declared that sometime in the preceding week frogs had rained in the Moroccan Sahara. It ended tersely: 'Freak whirlwinds blamed.' One doesn't normally imagine pools bursting with frogs just lying around waiting for passing whirlwinds to cream off their excesses. We hold out a hope that one day a Fleet St editor will surprise us by including more details in such stories. 'Earlier' would place the incident provocatively near to more quake activity. I guess we will have to have another installment of 'Diary of a Mad Planet' sometime soon.

Some personal accounts

Since we had our last torrent of frog fall notes in these pages (The News 13/8-9) we have accumulated several personal accounts.

Firstly, a letter from Grace M Wright of Martindale Rd, Hounslow, Middx, which appeared in TV Times 12 February 1960: "More than 50 years ago, I was walking along a street in Hounslow with my husband and small son when a heavy storm broke. We first thought they were hailstones until we saw they were all tiny frogs and were jumping about. My son filled a sweet box to take home. The brim of my husband's hat was full of them while the storm lasted. They were everywhere." (Cr: Harold SW Chibbett.)

Secondly, in the woman's page column under the byline 'Veronica Papworth', a regular feature of the Sunday Express (in this case for 29 June 1975), is a discussion of bizarre excuses for turning up late at cocktail parties. Among encounters with circus elephants in a traffic jam, and a cloud of flying ants, the columnist says that she herself was once delayed by a rain of frogs. Curious, I enquired and received back a letter dated 7 September 1976. 'Ms Papworth' had been living on top of a high ridge in Penn, Bucks, at the time "seven years ago". "It had been a hot stormy summer

evening with rain in the air and very dark clouds. Suddenly there was a tremendous rain storm and when I looked out on the wide paving around the house there were hundreds of little black frogs the size of a thumbnail, jumping in the rain. The downpour continued for several minutes as the frogs fell on the paving and along the lawn. I was in a hurry and had to rush away so I do not know what happened to the frogs - by morning there was no sight of them. There is a long dyke running by the side of the house and I like to think this is where they vanished to. My husband saw them too."

In our third account the witnesses did see where the frogs went, but it is interesting for another aspect also. The fall described was mentioned by Fort (Books p545). It's not often that we can present an actual witness to one of Fort's data, and the credit must go to Colin Bord who noticed a reference to this event during his correspondence with the lady, Mrs JM Battell. She was with her parents and sister at the time and must have been six years old. They lived in Tottenham, north London, and were on a day's outing to Southgate, then in the country, but today built-up. On 17 August 1921, "We were walking along a country road, with hedges on either side and a ditch on the left. It began to rain very heavily and we took shelter under a tree standing beside a farm gate up a little farm track on the left of the road. When the shower stopped we emerged to find the road literally swarming with tiny frogs. The size of the body was about half an inch long with 4 little legs in proportion to the body size. They were crawling, not hopping, all over the road, and we couldn't walk about without treading on some of them. My father picked up a couple and we examined them closely. They appeared to be just ordinary tiny frogs. We stood and watched while they slowly made their way to the sides of the road, disappearing into the hedges and ditch until there was nothing to be seen of this extraordinary occurrence." (Letter dated 8 December 1977.)

More East Anglian frogfalls

In News 13 we presented some correspondence in an East Anglian newspaper on frogfalls, recovered for us by Nigel Watson and Ron Hill. This time reader Peter Christie has extracted letters from the East Anglian Magazine for 1958. Briefly, the later ones were responses to the first...

"About 60 years ago on a farm at Wetheringsett there was a shower of small frogs. The people called them 'Freshers'

or 'Threshers', I am not sure which. They were yellow or dull green and almost 1½ inches long. A local theory was that frog spawn was drawn up by the sun. When it hatched out it was heavy and fell to the earth. However, this could not have been so because the tadpole period had not been accounted for." Mrs A Blundell, Appletreewick, Yorks. (EAM January p167)

"I witnessed an incident of the self-same nature whilst serving on a farm at Stockton some 46 years ago...and like Mrs Blundell can assure readers that it was not a figment of the imagination. My friends and I were stack-making when a rain shower descended unawares, accompanied - much to our surprise - by a shower of tiny frogs. We called them 'Freshers'. Myriads of them swarmed over the top of the unfinished haystack. Incidentally, our visitors' disappearance was even more mysterious...I can offer no explanation." CE Riches, Heckingham, Norfolk. (EAM March p298.)

"My father was out cycling one dark night when he felt what he at first thought were large drops of rain hitting his face. Not being satisfied as to the real nature of this shower, he dismounted and examined the ground with the aid of his cycle lamp and found it covered with tiny frogs. The district was undoubtedly Suffolk and the time about 60 years ago." BG Palmer, Barkingside, Essex. (EAM March p298.)

"The letter in the January issue took me back to something I overheard in a conversation 25 years ago. An old farm hand was telling a group of workers that at West Row and Isleham, on the Cambridge/Suffolk border, when he was a young man, a waterspout was seen over the river Lark. Some hours afterwards there was a heavy thunderstorm and it rained frogs. They could be seen everywhere after the storm." H Bye, Burnt Fen, Cambs. (EAM April p310.) NB: It is suggested that the waterspout, in itself a rare and striking phenomenon in England, picked up the frogs and jumped them later. Apart from our usual objections to no other lebris of the size or weight of the frogs, the point fall, and the curious selection of only frogs of a similar species and stage of development usual in these cases, we observe that the spout preceded the fall by 'hours'.

FISH

Also in News 13 we gave some letters about frogfalls from the world syndicated column 'Dear Abby'. There were a couple of fish falls too...

"I lived on a farm 3 miles from Ashland, Wis. A storm broke suddenly and

afterwards I saw little tiny fish in the cowtracks around our barn. I am 80 years old." Richard Hagstrom, Zig Zag, Ore.

"A friend of mine named Ed Brady heard something strike the roof of his home during a severe rainstorm, and the next day he found a big eel in his rainbarrel. He lives at Ouaquaga, NY...and can verify it." HD Johnson, Walton, NY.

These notes appeared in the Camden, Ark, News 1 January 1973.

More recently, a letter appeared in the Daily Express 13 August 1977, unfortunately with no clue as to the date of the event. "Once when I was in Wales I left a white enamel bowl in the garden just before a very heavy storm. When it ended I found a dozen ½ inch long fish swimming happily in the bowl." CF Nash, High Wycombe, Bucks.

MISCELLANEOUS EXOTICS

Birds

On 3 June 1968, William Holmberg was in the garden of his Calgary, Alberta, home when Canada geese fell out of the sky around him. He had heard them honking as they flew overhead when suddenly 8 fell over a small area into gardens and the street. One crashed through the roof of his house. Officials, apparently puzzled, were making noises about poisoned grain. We have noted a fall of Canada geese before - in News 9/3. This one is from the Times 4 June 1969 (Cr: Janet Bord).

Erwin Bennes and his 2 sons, ^{were} out hunting on 9 November 1975 near their farm at Valparaiso, Nebraska, when a storm forced them to take shelter in an old machine shed. Moments later 13 mallards thumped to the ground outside. As they were all slightly burned we are asked to believe that they were killed by lightning. In my ignorance I've always believed that it was necessary to be grounded first! This is from the Harrisburg, Penn, Patriot 13 November 1975 (Cr: Larry Arnold, who will no doubt convince us soon that the ducks were spontaneously combusted in mid-flap!).

Insects

Peter Roberts has rescued this old note, whilst going through the backfile of the Exeter Flying Post, Devon, dated 27 August 1789: "London and its environs were on Thursday evening covered with a black insect, in an astonishing manner. They seem to have been engendered in the atmosphere, at a considerable distance from the earth, as they could scarcely rise their wings, and had little more than the signs of existence, when they had accomplished their terrestrial visit."

According to Le Progrès (France) 27 April 1977, a huge cloud of unidentified insects suddenly appeared near Luçon, Vendée, on 24 Aug. The dearth of details, both over the identity of the insect (said to be a little larger than the local black ant), and to the manner of its arrival, makes things difficult for us. We put it here, though it could be a swarming, of course. (Cr & translation: Margie Ledger.)

Crabs

Ron Dobbins sent us the following datum which is not in Fort: Morton St, San Francisco, was the scene of a rain of tiny crustaceans which came down with a light shower a day or two before the clipping date. The "infant crabs", ranging in size from that of a dime up to that of a good-sized Californian oyster, were alive, covering the sidewalk and gutter for 20ft - some filled the spitcoons being washed by a man on the sidewalk. Although "hundreds" came down on Morton St, a separate shower of the same animals happened between Sansome and Battery, at the same time, only involving a few. Lima, Ohio, Daily Republican 21 February 1890.

Worms

Another note that has come our way is likewise not in Fort, and although quoted in TB Henry's The Strangest Things in The World (Ace; NY 1958; p160) it is worth mentioning briefly as it will be new to many (as it was to us). According to the Levant Times 6 August 1972 (an English newspaper published in Constantinople) the 25th July 1972 was a cloudless stiflingly hot day in Bucharest. "Toward 9 o'clock a small cloud appeared on the horizon and a quarter of an hour afterwards rain began to fall which, to the horror of everybody, was found to consist of black worms the size of ordinary flies. All the streets of Bucharest were strewn with these curious animals."

*** Next time we run this column we will have a sprinkling of dust and soot falls; and a resumé of some recent cases of money falling from the skies. Providence indeed! ***

RJMR

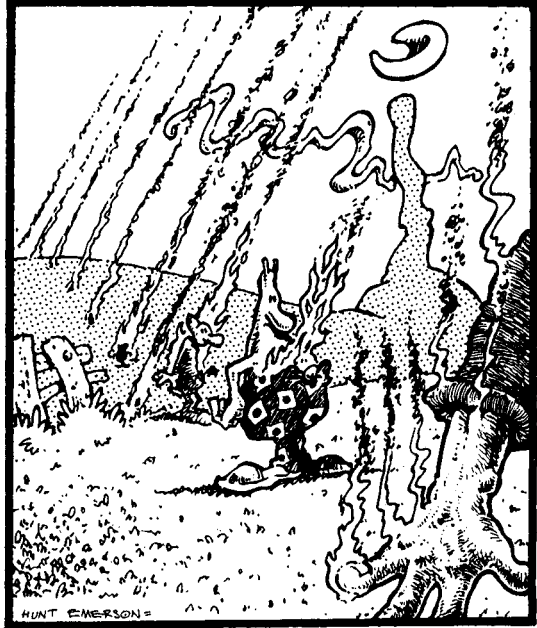
NEWS CLIPPINGS

If you see anything of interest to FT readers, please cut it out, add a note of the source, date, and your name... then send it in to us. It all helps and surprisingly there are very few duplications.

Part 3 of an article, specially extracted for us, by Larry Arnold, from his forthcoming book ABLAZE! The Case for, and cases of, Spontaneous Human Combustion.

FIRE LEYNES

by LARRY E ARNOLD



The Binbrook Triangle — towards a solution

Recalling that the fire-leyne under consideration runs a straight line route from Hull to Louth, one finds upon entering Lincolnshire the small town of Binbrook 7 km to the west.

Binbrook was not shown on the chart we first used to locate the fire-leyne; we discovered the proximity afterwards. Another example of Watkins' principle that lay plotting guides one to unanticipated revelations?

It may be that the distance involved is too great to associate Binbrook with this tellyne, but we don't know for sure. We'll mention the episode at Binbrook anyway —

Early 1905 again: a 'lonely farmhouse in the Lincolnshire Wolds', the Yarn Walk near Binbrook, belonging to Mr White. Uncanny events. Things are flying about; other things, like plates, disappear — for a while. A pan of milk is overflowing in the pantry; in the pan is found one of the missing plates! Rev. Custance writes to the SPR that things are bursting into flames.

There is a young girl. Aha, the culprit! This time one must reconsider such an 'obvious' perpetrator. 'A story that greatly dismays the unsophisticated people is that of the servant girl who, whilst sweeping the kitchen, was badly burnt on the back'. According to Mr. White, she was not near any visible fire and was not even aware her back was ablaze until he yelled out to her; nevertheless, she was 'badly burned' and 'in terrible pain' at the Louth hospital [47].

It is not so easy to blame the ubiquitous 'young girl' this time. Something, someone else, is afoot at Binbrook.

The newspapers have a field day with the event. The esteemed *Liverpool Echo* chastizes the peasantry for a 'firm belief in the resuscitation of witchcraft' and accepting the accounts of 'extraordinary terpsichorean [sic] performance' by objects that are supposed to lie where they are placed [48]. Quite naturally though, when a reporter makes the effort to check on these wild rumours, he finds them true [47].

A blanket catches fire in a room having no fireplace! So says a schoolteacher writing to the *Liverpool Echo* on 25 January, or so Fort says [1, 120], as do Price [46, 323] and Harrison [42, 167]. We have been unable to find this alleged letter in the holdings of the British Museum. Fort, amid his voluminous notes, is known to have made mistakes [49]; others perpetuate error.

Yet weird fires did break out. So too other things, like twisted and broken chickens. A vampire, or vampire-like force, is on the loose in the farmer's chicken coop; out of 250 fowls only 24 are left, the rest having their skin pulled off and their windpipes drawn out and snapped [47].

More curiosities. At Market Rasen, a few kilometres to the west (and sited on another proposed fire-leyne), the regional newspaper [50] notes that on January 16 a chicken coop fire consumed 57 fowls. Unnoteworthy, you think. We note that no-one discovered how the fowl-house caught alight, and that within 2 weeks Mr. White lost 90% of his chickens in a 'weird way'.

We see another link, unnoticed by anyone else. Fowls afire at Market Rasen; fowls attacked, but not burned, at Binbrook. Was the force involved trying not to ignite the hens the second time? We note a curious and equally unexplained 'rush of water' that flooded the kitchen of the Whites' house, the liquid coming from a tub that could hold less than half the volume that spewed forth from it [47].

Mysterious fires; a flood of water. Nature balances by overcompensating with one phenomenon the excess of another one. This event happened before the servant girl was burned. Was Nature or some *thing* so frustrated with a deluge of water intended for the chicken coop ending up on the kitchen floor that all further compensatory measures were dropped, after which a fury of pent-up fires was unleashed on whatever or whoever was unfortunate enough to be their targets?

This admittedly smacks of superstition, or, more sinisterly, black magic. The 'unsophisticated' at Binbrook, says the

Liverpool Echo (26 Jan), believe it's the latter. Yet only 3 days earlier this same paper admitted 'some curiosity as to the force which made the pots and pans jig about the kitchen, and we should certainly like to know the truth about the servant's burnt shoulders'.

So would the doctors at Louth Hospital, who in a little more than a week would be treating Ashton Clodd for burns of a similar and equally mysterious nature!

Every author who writes on this case, except Fort who, he would say, non-writes about it, has lumped the Binbrook-Market Rasen episodes into the very broad category of poltergeist (discarnate) activity. Even Fort postulates 'a being was there' [1, 122].

This may well be the correct explanation; we admit the tendency to embrace it also. But can't something else be considered? Lines of force, tellaynes, fire-leynes, leys which channel poltergeist-like powers?

Nature seemed to have gone berserk in 1905, as waves of SHC and other paranormalities washes over the shores of this reality. Did the ley grid of the Earth, over-charged that year, discharge (corona-like) at power points or through zones of weakness along the lines of tellayne transmission? We believe so. As our editor notes: 'Evidence is slowly building up that there is indeed a correspondence between types of Fortean phenomena and proximity to Leys'. [2, 8].

We may be over-extending ourself now but since we've come this far, one more step, made together, won't matter —

We note Binbrook sits in the midst of a triangle formed by three proposed fire-leynes; on the east by the line presently being discussed, on the west by a 4-point line through Market Rasen and Stroud, and on the south by what may be a 6-point line from Louth westward through Liverpool (Fig 1 — see p 2; FT23/13).

The significance of this observation is found in material received by the writer from a higher level of consciousness, in which we learned that areas of turbulence in the Earth Spirit are to be expected at points opposite an intersection of 2 lines of force [51, 2]. Now, looking at the map, we find Binbrook is almost *precisely opposite each angle* of this triangle which, with sides of about 22 km, appears almost to be *equilateral!* (One can find the same arrangements in megalithic-formed leys.) In fact, the geometry is so striking that we can't help but feel we fudged something to make the neat fit (Fig. 2). Yet no matter what the detractors will say, we give assurance there was no manipulation — unless it was by some fiendishly clever fellow in the employ of the cartography firm who arranged the location of a score of towns so that we could 'stumble' onto a *pseudo-discovery* several years later.

The energies producing the documented pyrophenomena at 2 of the triangle's apexes (Market Rasen and Louth) would, according to our information, focus disturbing forces across from those angles — smack into the vicinity of Binbrook!

We now suspect the calamities on the White farm were not associated *directly* with the Nairn-to-Louth fire-leyne, but resulted from the concentration of 2 fire-leynes discharging their power simultaneously into a *center of fire* (Binbrook).

We point out that power generated within an angle is nothing new to the esoterist. Seth talks about all-pervasive energy flows that form 'certain invisible angles' where forces are channelled [20, 77]. Ross Nichols notes the connection between triangles and a witch's 'cone of power'. [52]. A cone is simply an angle rotated about its bisector. The white-witch Sybil Leek draws on her heritage to describe how 'cones of spiritual power' . . . always retain high vibrations of mystical power', and how during WW II the Horsa coven of 13 English witches banded together to utilize a cone of power to thwart a German invasion of their homeland. So much energy was

involved that 2 of the witches died, but so too did a small German invasion corps found in the waters of the English Channel [53, 9 & 20].

We point out here what may be a crucial factor differentiating the ley lines as discerned by Watkins et al, from lines of force possessing other vibrational-frequency natures. Whereas ley points seem (or only have been noticed) to lie upon ley alignments, telluric currents such as fire-leynes can focus their power not only along the lines per se but into zones that are formed from the intersection of several (maybe always three) tellaynes and activated when each component's energization exceeds a critical threshold.

If so, one begins to grasp the complexities of the 'lines of the world'. But at the same time progress in understanding the omnipresent but largely unseen forces that mould the environment is achieved through scrutiny of each type's specialized nature.

Now, as every occultist knows, under certain conditions the etheric realm will merge with (that is, bleed through) the human-perceived world. Have we been exploring one of these 'certain' conditions when discussing the Binbrook Triangle?

Let's hypothesize . . .

Late-December 1904, the fire-leynes are becoming active, as energy begins flaring off. A pan jumps off the shelf in Mrs White's kitchen. Mid January 1905; the leynes are crackling with power, as huge energy potentials begin breaking through the boundary between the etheric and the physical. A chicken coop and 57 hens at Market Rasen spontaneously combust, late January 1905; their capacities exceeded, the fire-leynes can no longer contain the tremendous forces flowing through them; the angles of intersection arc and incredible power is unleashed in violent bursts upon the point opposite each angle. The fabric of space is rent asunder at Binbrook's Yarn Walk, as Mr. White's farm tries to weather the brunt of a *multidimensional* storm. Pots terpsichorate; plates teleport; etheric flames sear objects of wood and of flesh; floods of water condense out of the ethers; vortices of frightful strength attack chickens and turn them inside-out.

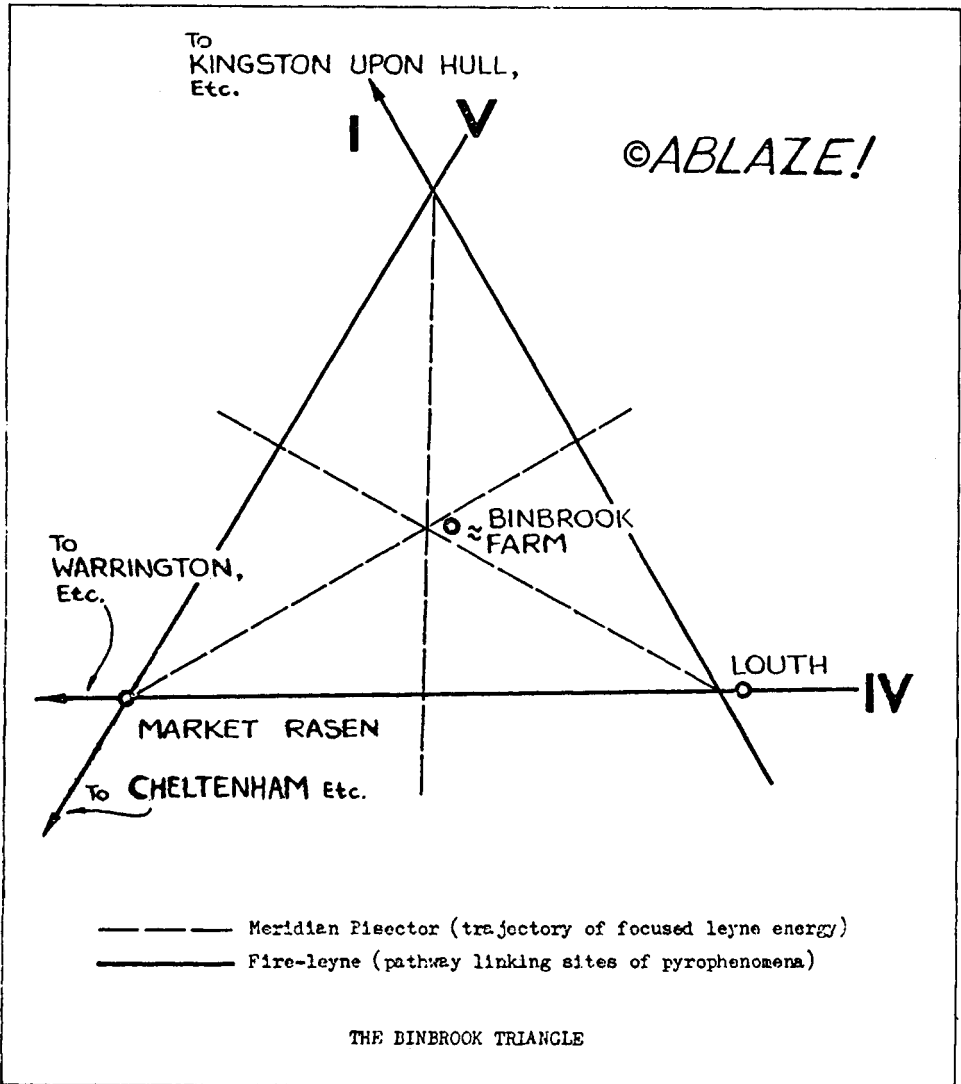
Then the fury abates; balance is being restored. The south-east corner of the Binbrook Triangle flinches as its flow normalizes. Ashton Clodd's frail old body happens to be in the inauspicious spot; his bio-energies are over-energized as the re-ordering process continues. He dies in Louth Hospital, probably never realizing another patient there was struck down by the same malady.

The fire-leyenes dissipate the concentration of power away from the Binbrook Triangle's centre now, along a network that stretches for hundreds of kilometres. There may be other tottering, fragile souls living along the pathways, whose fiery fates remain undiscovered. Late-February 1905: the energy dispersal reaches Blyth, Northumberland, and aged Barbara Bell ignites on her kitchen floor.

Then, as *normalcy* is restored, the *inflammatory holocaust* ends — for the moment.

The plot thickens

Along the reasoning of the micro-to-macrocosm or 'As above so below' principles, an extension of the Binbrook Triangle concept can provide a solution to the global horde of paranormal phenomena in the period 1904-5 that Fort, Livingstone Gearhart [22] and others have noted. That as there are 'lines of the world' invisible to geophysicists, so too there are 'lines of the Cosmos' undetected by astronomers but nevertheless vital to the maintenance and performance of the universe. Their angles of intersection also form zones of interstellar — or intergalactic or interdimensional — disturbance, through which . . . can pass and be affected a planet or a star



or a galaxy, depending on the size and power of the cosmic leyne encountered.

Thus, whereas Binbrook became the focus for energies requiring one month to peak and another month to dissipate (approx. 31 Dec 1904-28 Feb 1905), the Earth needed 2 years to pass into and out of an interstellar (or whichever) area of tortured space-and-time.

One who wishes to pursue this suggestion will be amazed at the ease in which this theory finds confirmation, for the author believes that herein lies the clue, a key, to resolving so many of the perplexities that make a wreckage of Science. Out of the ashes arose a phoenix . . .

But we digress a bit . . .

There are other Triangles of Fire revealed on the fire-leyne map of Great Britain. It is not realistic to attempt a detailed analysis here (You'll just have to buy our book). But we draw

attention to Fig. 1 again and fire-leyne I and II. We already know about alignment I.

Alignment II had three points: Ipswich [54], Brandon and Carlisle. Was this a significant fire-leyne, though? Then, inspiration. 'Quick, Watson, the dividers!' Marking off the bisector between these lines, we found it cut right through Market Rasen! It also passed close to Scunthorpe (another pyrophenomenon site) and very near Hexham.

'Quick, Watson, the files!' Ah, here it is. *The Newcastle Journal* [55] notes that Albert Purvie found his wife, Isabella, in flames on (presumably) 25 Oct 1938. Along with the charred body was 'a mystery which haunted her survivors', for which the inquest jury could find no solution. The Coroner rendered the official verdict: 'Death from shock as a result of burns accidentally received'. About as illuminating as a candle under a basket . . .

On the basis that the meridian bisector of fire-leynes I and II parallels the performance of the bisectors of the Binbrook Triangle, we conclude that alignment II is valid. But this raises an interesting question: just where does this second Triangle, isosceles this time, stop? Its sides are 423 km long, if one places its base through Carlisle; or, if the 1852 SHC at Nairn establishes the base, then the Triangle engulfs nearly all southern Scotland in a huge geometric outline that began in Suffolk, England, and contains approx. 54,000 square kms (21,000 square miles)! Maybe it even goes farther north, into the Arctic Ocean, where the scarcity of human beings fails to provide more plotting points for pyrophenomena –

Then, too, what of the *inverse* Triangle (the one that proceeds south from the apex near Brandon)? The extended bisector enters France just to the east of Gravelines, then skirts Arras, Pas-de-Calais, and continues into the Marne . . . We check our files. No case having pertinence, or revealing such, is found. Our collection of French pyrophenomena is limited. Maybe someone will look into the matter . . .

But maps and newspaper files are available to any scholar who wishes to avail himself of the secrets they hold; a few hours of honest research can avoid decades of dishonorable slander. (Reflect on the abhorrent treatment accorded Dr. Immanuel Velikovsky!).

Meanwhile we'll take solace in the words of Descartes – 'There is nothing so far removed from us as to be beyond our reach or so hidden that we cannot discover it' – and go on to discuss something else.

A Crescendo of combustion in Cincinnati

The Earth Spirit remains alive. Power points pulsate as the alchemical fusion between celestial and terrestrial forces revitalizes the planet. While mankind begins to worry about the limitations of petroleum and fossil fuels he walks obliviously through an infinite reservoir of energy. Sometimes *too* much energy . . .

Due to unseen disturbance, Power Point 39°7.5'N 84°30'W is activated 16-17 Nov 1976. The Fairmount section of Cincinnati, Ohio, just happens to lie upon these coordinates.

16 Nov 1976, 8:00 am, 1711 Harrison Avenue, Fairmount. Engine Company 21 arrives at the basement residence of Mrs May Caplinger, aged 59. They find the woman lying on the floor, her clothing and the rug beneath her still burning. 'Nothing else in the apartment was burning', a firefighter told *The Cincinnati Post* [56]. She was covered with 2nd- and 3rd-degree burns over 70 to 80% of her body. Firemen, however, could not locate the cause for the fatal fire. Next day we learn from a doctor at the hospital who couldn't save the victim's life that 'She was apparently cooking breakfast. . . when her clothing caught fire' [57].

Firemen spend hours at the scene and find nothing rational; a physician pronounces the cause precisely – 'apparently'. It's amazing the advances that have been made in modern medicine! Shame on the fire department for overlooking a hot kitchen stove . . .

17 Nov 1976, 12:15 am, 2534 Liddell Street, Fairmount: A subterranean inferno rises from the basement of the Preston Sandlin family, routing all 8 members into the frigid night air. Fire Marshal James Eversole arrives with his men, and is mystified. 'I'm going to check today to see if we can come up with a reasonable explanation', he promises [58].

The reasonable inquiry begins with the children. Fort would have suspected as much, for after all children are notoriously clever with fires. Remember Rhoda and the Colwell fires in Brooklyn, NY, in 1895? Before scores of witnesses, her 'wild talents' enabled her to toss matches onto and through walls to ignite seemingly incombustible objects [34, 82-3]. But in the Sandlin case, the children are apparently absolved of guilt – unless a 'confession' was forced out of them. Twelve hours after the fire's outbreak,

the fire marshal still has found no explanation . . .

Two weird fires: originating below ground level, within a 16-hour period, in Cincinnati's Fairmount district. Two homes burnt, one inhabited by the Sandlin family, the other by the soul-entity named Mrs Caplinger. The power point beneath Fairmount has fulfilled its purpose for the moment; discharged, it returns to quiescence. There are no more weird fires.

Absurd? We think not. We know the Earth Spirit still functions, and remember a comment given psychically to the author on the nature of fire: 'Fire-heat is the product of combustion (chemical), Heat can be created also when the energy comes in a certain *predescribed, predetermined pattern* . . . Energy itself has no heat; energy creates heat *only* as it reacts and interacts with other energy patterns'. [59].

Rapid and intense heating can produce 2nd- and 3rd-degree burns, like Caplinger suffered; high temperature leads to dehydration (as occurs in many SHC cases). Likewise, a superheated area will produce a flashover if a fire seat is established.

We propose the fires discussed in amazement by Cincinnati's firefighters resulted when telluric currents manifested similar energy patterns in spaces bounded by the walls of the Sandlin and Caplinger basements, patterns which climaxed in a crescendo of combustion and flash of flames.

What do you think?

The fire department sounds mystified. Then too, they haven't been trained to consider telluric and aerleyne and power points when investigating fires. In fact, they generally aren't even aware of the weird blazes that we've been detailing. Fire experts . . .

The corollary to fires associated with sites is that certain *shapes* could equally well create energy patterns capable of igniting fires within a body or a house. But to develop the evidence for this aspect of 'pyro-architecture' would require another three-part article in *FT*. Maybe another time . . .

Perhaps it's best to close with a quote from the avatar himself: 'I don't know whether these data are enough to jolt our whole existence into a new epoch, or not. From what I know of the velocity of thought, I should say not'. [1, 235].

Hopefully, the velocity of thought has increased since Fort's day, just as evidence accumulates that the velocity of light can increase beyond its assigned boundary. That fire-leynes and points of combustible power exist, looks pretty conclusive to us. Maybe fire officials will begin investigations with a broader understanding of the forces that affect their work, and affect all our lives. On the other hand some may think that our *personal* 'velocity of thought' has retrograded. Maybe – but with massive changes in the global/solar system energy patterns intensifying daily as we enter a New Age, we suspect that weird combustions will be on the increase as the fire-leynes become increasingly charged.

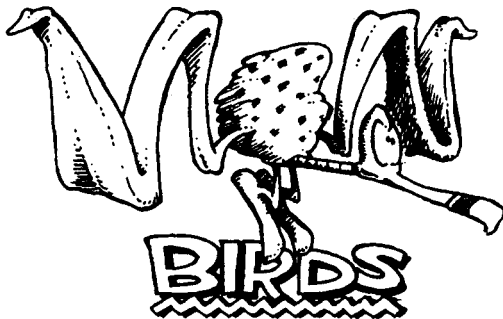
And so far the statistics are supporting us . . .

LARRY E. ARNOLD. 1977.

REFERENCES

- 47 'Bewitched Binbrook Farm'. *Louth & North Lincolnshire News*, no 1596, 28 Jan 1905, p.5
- 48 'Village Witchcraft', *Liverpool Echo*, no 7850, 26 Jan 1905, p.3.
- 49 X, address to Fortfest 76, Arlington Va., personal interchange, 8 Aug 1976.

cont on p16/



BIG BIRD 1977

Late July 1977 saw another Big Bird flap in USA that lasted into August - this time in Illinois which has a strong indigenous tradition of giant birds (see the Piassa booklet in our review section).

It burst upon the world about 8.30pm on Monday evening 25 July, when two giant birds swooped down on 10yr-old Marlin Lowe, playing in the yard of his home in Lawndale, Logan County, Illinois. One gripped the 65lb boy by his shirt and carried him 25-30 feet about 3ft in the air. When it released the screaming struggling boy, he ran indoors. His parents and two neighbours, working in the yard, all looked up at the screams and saw the birds clearly. They described them at first "like overgrown vultures", dark and with white rings around their long necks, curled beaks and a wingspan of around 8ft. Mrs Ruth Lowe, the mother, thought they might have been condors, but when Logan County game warden AA Mervar showed her pictures of large birds, neither she nor the other witnesses could identify any with the pair they had seen.

The official responses were as dire as usual. Firstly, based on the description, they pronounced the birds to be "immature turkey vultures". Then, after advice from "experts", State Conservation knowalls said "there is no known bird on earth that could lift Marlon's weight." (They sound pretty confident don't they?) This statement, by people who weren't there, virtually accuses the witnesses of lying or misapprehension...it also brought in the nasty crank calls. A disillusioned Mrs Lowe said later: "I know what I saw and I'm not exaggerating - all four of us stood and saw it. I tried to be a good citizen and report it, but I'll never do it again. It doesn't pay off. It brings only heartache and misery."

Later still, Mrs Lowe was again convinced it was a condor - the game warden apparently had only shown her pictures of turkey vultures. A condor specialist,

from the National Audubon Society in California, said that the only known condors, perhaps 40-45, were in California, and not known elsewhere. Besides, swooping on people is not in their nature he added, suggesting instead that the attacking birds might have been trained hawks or even a Great Horned Owl.

Mervar, in a longer interview, still claimed that the adults only thought they saw the boy in the air, when he must have been running with the bird on his back. Discrediting the witnesses is the only way officials in tight spots can cling to their pathetically unimaginative theories. Apparently, unaware of exactly what he is saying, Mervar, sticking to his turkey vulture belief, added: "We have turkey and king vultures here, but they are considerably smaller than the birds described by Mrs Lowe." !!!

And there the mystery lay, deadlocked by intractable witnesses and pigheaded experts, until the end of the week when Stan & Doris Thompson and some friends saw a giant bird - a 6ft body with a 9-10ft wingspan - flying over their farm at Lincoln, Illinois, heading for Bloomington. They swear it looked like a condor. The next day, another witness in Lincoln, Mrs Norma Knollenberg, said a giant bird had landed in their yard "a week ago", which puts it just before the attempted snatch of Marlin Lowe. Mrs Knollenberg described it as "the size of a turkey with a 4ft wingspan, long neck and small beak. It made a loud trumpeting sound." The paper said it looked like an African crowned crane! It's quite possible that the witnesses really are describing different birds, lumped together as one kind by the media.

Dr William Beecher, Chicago Academy of Science, jumps in by insisting that it can't be a condor because they are a type of vulture and quite ill-equipped for swooping and lifting. Again: "There has never been in the history of the world, living or extinct, a bird big enough to lift a person." He thinks it might be an immature bald eagle and that someone might shoot it. He likens the rash of reports to UFO sightings and urges people not to take the threat of skyward abduction seriously. Meanwhile, young Marlin and his mother have to drug themselves to sleep without nightmares.

On Saturday, 30 July, a 6ft wingspanned bird is seen on a telephone pole at Downs at 2 am. That same morning 'Texas John' Huffer, an experienced fisherman and naturalist writer sees two birds while fishing at Lake Shelbyville, and manages to shoot some blurred film. He describes the larger of the two as

about 260lb with a 12ft wingspan. Experts could not identify the bird from the film but it certainly wasn't turkey vulture. Also that same afternoon a Waynesville resident saw an 8ft wingspanned black bird hovering around, at 2pm.

At 4pm the next day, Sunday 31st July, Mrs Albert Dunham saw a giant bird for 30 mins and also managed to film it, outside her home in Bloomington. As it circled 20ft over her head she noticed its long straight bill, black body with

white marks on its neck and fan-like tail. Her husband and son also saw the creature.

By the 7th August, the story arrived in a horribly garbled version in the Sunday Express, here in England. The boy was said to be "Rodney Galton", playing in a field near Tuscola, and actually fought the bird in the air forcing it to release him, as it clacked like a Hollywood pterodactyl. This report bears so little relationship to the real events that SE reporter Dudley Freeman

The learned men, quoted above, denying that birds have ever been large enough to carry off people, don't seem to be aware of historical cases. I found the following in FA Pouchet's encyclopedia of natural history, The Universe (Blackie, London 1870). Pouchet writes:

"The last known fact of this kind took place in the Valais (French Alps) in 1838. A little girl, 5 yrs-old, called Marie Delex, was playing with one of her companions on a mossy slope of the mountain, when all at once an eagle swooped down upon her and carried her away in spite of the cries & presence of her young friend. Some peasants, hearing screams, hastened to the spot but sought in vain for the child, for they found nothing but one of her shoes on the edge of a precipice. The child was not carried to the eagle's nest, where only two eaglets were seen, surrounded by heaps of goat and sheep bones. It was not until 2 months later that a shepherd discovered the corpse of Marie Delex, frightfully mutilated, and lying upon a rock half a league from where she had been borne off."

In my English edition (above) Pouchet's translator has added a note of a case that occurred in the USA in the year after Pouchet completed his work. It took place at "county Tippah, Missouri, United States of North America" in the autumn of 1868, and was related by an unnamed teacher from an unfortunately unnamed source (perhaps US researchers might like to track this down?):

"A sad casualty occurred at my school a few days ago. The eagles have been very troublesome in the neighbourhood for some time past, carrying off pigs, lambs etc. No one thought they would prey on the children; but on Thursday, at recess, the little boys were out some distance from the house...when their sport was interrupted by a large eagle sweeping down and picking up little Jemie Kenney, 8 yrs-old, and flying away with him. The children cried out, and when I got out of the house, the eagle was so high that

I could just hear the child screaming. The alarm was given, and from screaming and shouting in the air, etc, the eagle was induced to drop his victim; but his talons had been buried in him so deeply and the fall so great, that he was killed - or either would have been fatal."



Eagle makes off with Marie Delex, 1838. (Fortean Picture Library.)

should be reprimanded. Tuscola was the home town of John Huffer - at least Freeman got the boy's age right (10)... that's all.

We learn that 2 days after the Lowe boy was attacked, Frank Jackson, a Lincoln farmer, claimed that a huge bird carried off 2 piglets weighing about 20lbs each "one in each claw." Interestingly, we had on file a note that at Rabbit Hash, Kentucky, a 5lb puppy was wafted aloft for 600yds and dropped in a pond by a large bird. The only witness to this incident, probably 16 May 1977, was a 7yr-old boy, and no identification of the bird could be made. Lima News, Ohio, 19 May 1977 (Cr: Mark Hall, Loren Coleman.) We have a file a-building of similar animal abductions, but we'll keep that til later.

The last report we have of the Illinois Big Bird was that it was seen heading southwest toward Centralia. At 7am on Thursday 11 August, John Chappell, of Odin, noticed a huge grey-black bird circling his pond. "It was so big it had a hard time finding a tree-imb big enough to land on." He said he was quite familiar with turkey buzzards and this was not one - he described it having a 6ft. body with a 10-12ft wingspan, and about 8 inches from beak-tip to the back of its head...which sounds reasonably consistent with previous accounts. Some might think that suspicious!

Our sources include the following Illinois papers: Lincoln Courier 26 July; Decatur Daily Review 23 July; Chicago Daily News 27, 30/31 July; Bloomington Daily Pantagraph 27 July, 1 August; the Champaign-Urbana Courier 31 July, 1 Aug. Also: Billings Gazette, Montana, 29 July; St Louis Post-Dispatch, Mo, 30 July; San Antonio Sunday Sight, Texas, 31 July; Alamosa Valley Courier, Co, 1 Aug; The Star, Tx, 23 August. (Cr: Thomas R Adams, Mark A Hall, W Ritchie Benedict, John Peldyak & NJ Kautzman, Valerie Martin.)

Getting the bird...

Several times during this flap we detected the sure hand of the Joke God.

Firstly; on the afternoon of 4 July, six men wrestled with a tired ostrich found wandering in the road in Wichita Falls, Texas. No one knew where it came from, and there were no reported escapes. The next morning it was found dead in the pond in which it was being kept temporarily, with its head in a bucket of water (true!). Jim Goodner, of the Animal Control Center said: "It looks like it went down to get a drink and just stayed down." Wichita Falls Record News 5 & 6 July 1977 (Cr: TR Adams; RBB21/4.)

Secondly; on 30 July an African Maribou stork escaped from Brookfield zoo, in Illinois, to add to the giant bird confusion. This bird with a 6ft wing span was one of six imported from Kenya just 2 weeks before, and was the only one whose wings had not been clipped to prevent flight. It was captured the next day at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, shot by a tranquilizing dart, and is said to be doing well. Bloomington Pantagraph, Il, 31 July; Springfield State Journal-Register, Il, 31 July; Bryan-College Station Eagle, Tx, 1 August 1977. (Cr: Thomas R Adams.)

Thirdly; a spotted rail, a notoriously poor flyer, was found in a driveway in Brownwood, Texas, several thousands of miles from its usual haunts in Cuba, Central and South America. This little creature has a green beak, red legs and silver spots on its dark plumage. It only survived a few days, dying on 9 Aug, leaving yet another bird mystery on science's doorstep. Paris News, Tx, 11 August 1977 (Cr: Thomas R Adams.)

Lastly (and I'm sure you noticed it really) the last sighting of the Illinois Big Bird was at Odin - a fitting deity for cryptozoologists. Odin was master of the Wild Hunt; god of magic and inspiration; boss of the Valkyries; owner of a 6 (some say 8) legged horse and 2 large black ravens, Hugin & Mugin, who flew to the 4 corners of the world reporting back to their master; associated with wily wolves, and whose totem (probably after Roman influence) was a giant Golden Eagle.

Food for Thor...eh?

RJMR

Editorial Stuff cont from p2...

and UPC mags in terms of value for money and we'd like to give you more. The only practical alternative to cutbacks and price increases is to get more readers. As we have no budget for advertising this is where you come in. A personal recommendation is the best advert. Write to your friends; mention FT; give a gift sub to FT for birthdays or Christmas, or just because it's the best damned Fortean mag in the world. We'll extend your sub by a free issue for each new sub (including gifts) you bring in. Remember to claim it!). INPO and SITU claim a combined membership of 3000-4000...it's a crying shame that we have only 10% of that and yet are extolled as the brightest, most data-filled, dynamic journal by established Fortean who regard us as really essential reading. Help us grow! Act now!



As we have frequently said before in these pages, the repetition of events seems more curious than the events themselves. Sometimes the 'Great scriptwriter in the sky' appears to be running out of ideas; so he serves up the same old plot over and over...only the names and locations have been changed. And so the time has come to pick up some more hitch-hiking ghosts...

We have covered the subject before (NEWS 10/4 & 5, FT 21/32). However, clearing out our back-files, we come across an archetypal case that we'd previously missed:

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

Every year, on the anniversary of her death, so the story goes, the ghost known as "Resurrection Mary" appears. An 18-year-old girl who died in the 1930s, and was buried in Resurrection Cemetery, she hitch-hikes a lift from a young man to her home on Archer Ave, and arranges a date with him for the following weekend. When the unfortunate driver turns up on the following Friday, he's informed that Mary is dead: having had an argument with her boyfriend, she decided to hitch a lift home, was hit by a car and killed. Every year, she is supposed to give a repeat performance.

(Chicago Sun-Times 9 Aug 1975) ((This story appeared in this paper as part of a write-up of the 1975 Portfest held in Chicago; the reporter was given the story of 'Resurrection Mary' by Chicago Fortean Richard T Crowe. Rich also points out that the route of 'Mary's' haunting is one of the longest straight roads in the city and from the earliest settled times was built upon a sacred Indian trail. Rich runs one of the most successful of America's 'ghost tours', in Chicago, which includes this haunted route. For details write to him at: Box 29054, Chicago, IL 60629, USA - Ed.))

From a somewhat folkloric case, we move on to some recent news-clips:

NUNNEY, SOMERSET.

This tale, which received a surprisingly large amount of coverage between the 4th and 30th August 77, gives a good example of how these stories build up. In essence, the story is this: in the previous year, 'several' drivers stopped to pick up a hitch-hiker on the road leading from Nunney to Frome, 3 miles away. The 'Ghost of Nunney Lane', a man of between 30 and 40, wearing a check jacket, climbs into the car and then disappears. Examining all the clippings available to us reveals only two actual encounters, however, both by Mr Gerald O'Connor. On the first occasion, apparently taking place earlier in the year, the hitch-hiker climbed into the back seat, and Mr O'Connor locked the door for him. The stranger remarked how cold it was. Mr O'Connor asked him a question, received no reply, looked round, and saw that his passenger had vanished.

On the second occasion, also undated, Mr O'Connor saw the 'man' standing in the middle of the road, swerved to avoid him, and hit a lamp-post. Both encounters were reported to the police, who found nothing.

Alas, the only other reported encounter is rather of the third-rate kind. Mrs Valerie McPherson, 46, of Frome, dropped off a friend in the Lane, but had a strange feeling that someone was still in the car...but she dared not look round to see.

Regrettably, all else seems to be rumour and hysteria. There are 'stories' of the phantom appearing suddenly in the back seats of cars. Allusions are made to the Bloody Assizes of Judge Jeffreys, who hanged his

victims along Nunney Lane; and it is said that some nights the creaking of the gibbets can still be heard... though it seems unlikely to me that any of the judge's victims would have been wearing a check jacket! Then the phantom was accused of spoiling Nunney's Silver Jubilee celebrations: an unpardonable crime which resulted in 24 men combing the lane with tape-recorders, light meters and a net (the logic of the latter escapes me).

The story hit the national papers on the 14th. A week later brought a letter claiming that 30 years ago one or two truck drivers met what could have been the same ghost at the same place: the story being that a man knocked off his cycle cursed all motorists with his dying breath.

Before the month was out, hoaxers were at work: an arrangement of strings between two high walls and a white sheet with a grin on it scaring motorists on two occasions. The 'real' phantom ceased to appear, as always seems to be the pattern, and we have heard nothing since.

(Bath Evening Chronicle, 4 Aug 77; Sunday Express, S. People, 14 Aug 77; S. Express, 21 Aug 77; Bath Chronicle 30 Aug 77. Cr: AJ Bell, J Michell, GTM Meaden, P Screeton, N Watson).

CHATHAM, KENT.

The London Evening News, 12 Sept 77, carried a story of another phantom encounter, presumably occurring within the previous couple of days. Insurance broker Barry Collings and

his friend Stephen Pope were driving up Bluebell Hill Chatham, when they saw a girl standing by the side of the road. She had long blonde hair and wore a white evening dress, which was in disarray, carrying a handbag. There was a strong wind blowing, yet the girl's hair did not move, and she was perfectly still. At first they thought she was in trouble; then they decided she was a ghost and drove off.

It seems that in 1965 a bride-to-be and her 3 attendants were killed in a crash on the hill, since when there have been at least 6 accounts of the girl being given a lift. Once in the car, she vanished. Churchmen have exorcised the hill, but the reports keep coming in.

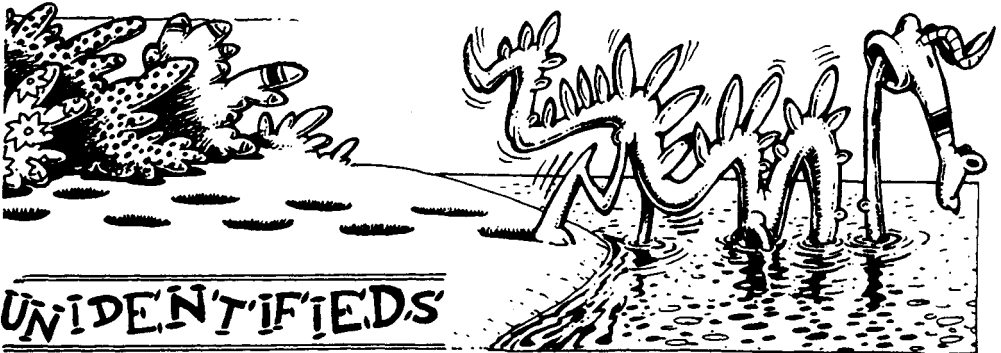
SEAFORD, SUSSEX.

A road with a history of car crashes produced, not a phantom hitchhiker, but a phantom car. Gordon Spooner and his wife saw the car in their headlights: then it swerved toward a 3 foot high sea wall, and vanished. There was no trace of wreckage, damage to the wall, or sound. (Daily Mirror, 22 Oct 76).

BRADFORD-ON-AVON, WILTS.

A final snippet: an unnamed road, again with a history of cars plunging off the road for mysterious reasons. A television engineer and his girl-friend were driving along when the girl saw a woman crossing in front of them. She screamed. He saw nothing, and drove on. (Reveille, 13 Jan 78).

SM.



UNIDENTIFIEDS

GSW examines Doc's Nessie photos

The photos of Nessie, taken by our confidante, colleague and friend, Doc Shiels, at Urquhart Castle, at 4pm on 21 May 1977, have provoked quite opposing reactions. Some have vehemently den-

ied the photos are proof of anything at all, and in the other corner some of the world's top monster hunters (eg Jim Dinsdale, Sir Peter Scott, etc) judge the photos truly show a living creature as yet uncatalogued by science (no one

is quite sure if it is a Nessiteras rhombopteryx) lurking in the Loch. There seems to be somekind of law operating here - that vehemence of opposition is in direct proportion to the degree of detail in the challenging evidence - and there is no doubt these photos (see FT22/pp24-5) are the most detailed yet.

To forestall anticipated criticism, and because Doc - a long-time monster-hunter himself; see his article PT23/20-22 - is keenly interested in the question of proof of Nessie and other aquatic monsters, Doc agreed to have his films professionally examined. Through Jerry Clark, Associate editor of Fate magazine, a copy of the main colour-slide (photo A on FT22/24 - now designated 'ANS 1') was forwarded to Ground Saucer Watch (GSW), a Phoenix, Arizona, based 'civilian' UFO group who have made a name for their efforts to analyse UFO photos with modern computer programmes. Through Tim Dinsdale, a copy of the same slide was sent to the Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Center (JARIC), the RAF team that studied Dinsdale's movie-film of Nessie taken in April 1960 (see Dinsdale's Loch Ness Monster, RKP, revised 1976).

GSW verdict

Doc forwarded to me a copy of the GSW report on ANS 1 in early Oct 1977. Following a summary of the techniques they used, they list 10 points, which I'll abbreviate.

1) analysis reveals an "alarming" feature - the wave ripples can be seen through the creature's neck and head, suggesting the creature is transparent or translucent "in construction".

2) the image was "relatively flat".

3) lack of "natural shadows."

4) an absence of water displacement.

5) analysis of wave-size and reflection suggest a 300mm lens was used, not 150mm as Doc states.

6) bright areas on creature's neck and mouth appear "unnatural, as if painted on".

7) indications that image is "smaller" than apparent size...possibly further away than Doc estimated.

8) time and camera direction were confirmed, agreeing with Doc's statement.

9) photo shows "patterized similarity" with others taken in the area.

10) wave-ripples seen through image - repeat of item 1 conclusion.

The report was signed by William Spaulding, Fred Adrian and Gene Price and they express their opinion that Doc's slide does not "represent a bonafide creature of large proportions."

In effect they imply that Doc has given

wrong information about his lens (thus making the image look bigger); that it could easily have been double-exposed (ie creating the wave overlap effect - though GSW admit this could only be resolved by examination of the original slide); and they make a reference to fakery for profit which, because of its context, can only impute such a motive to Doc.

Comments and reactions...

Naturally Doc was dismayed by this verdict, but he was also angry enough to pass the data back to myself, Dinsdale and Jerry Clark (and others). In a letter to Jerry Clark and myself (dated 8 Oct 1977) Tim points out some of the "absurdities" in the GSW report. Firstly, that their analysis is based on a copy slide, and an enlarged one at that. Secondly, the transparency effect "is certainly novel, but one should remember that this phenomenon is sometimes apparent on one's TV screen...and although I don't know the reason for it, the one thing common to both a projected TV picture and a computer study readout picture is the electronic scanner used to scan both the studio subject and the photo under analysis. I would suggest therefore that this is an electronic aberration rather than a photographic one. I don't doubt the GSW 'report' was intended to be a serious contribution - and in the instance of the 'double exposure' prediction, it seems hardly likely that Shields would submit a crudely faked double exposure for so-called 'computer analysis.'"

It is also clear from the GSW report that their analysis was jury-rigged. They admit that they have never ventured into Fortean evidence before, confining their activities to UFO photos; that they borrowed their 'software' programmes from at least two other separate studies (UFOs, and "nuclear medical" sic) and was therefore untried on monster photos. Being aware of their lack of comparative material on water monsters..."Our Research Staff quickly acquired as many photo - graphs of the alleged Nessie and began to systematically digitize them for any patterns." This raises so many questions for me that their analysis becomes quite meaningless unless it can be independently confirmed. On what basis did they select other monster photos; and to what extent did they authenticate them, as there are many dubious ones in print, even in standard sources? On what basis did they select 'patterns'? How much of that selection relies on subjective action? And where is the study that justifies comparison of such arbitrarily-selected 'patterns'? And when all this dubious

data is put through a hastily-assembled and untried programme by people who admit it was very much an experiment and that they had nothing with which to compare the results, just how magnified are the margins of error?

In the UFO field itself, there is considerable criticism of GSW's methods, conclusions, and especially their off-handed way of branding someone a hoaxer when many respected and thorough researchers, who have known and personally investigated such witnesses, have vouched for their honesty and obvious sincerity - see MUFON UFO Journal, (Aug 1976) p1; no 108 (Nov 1976) pp3-5; no 112 (March 1977). APRO Bulletin 25:12 (June 1977) pp1,4-6. Letters in Fate Jan 1978 p113. And for discussion of GSW negative verdict on the Cottingley fairy photos see Page Research Library Newsletter no 20 p3f; and no 21 pp9-12.

Regarding their verdict on Doc's photo we make the following observations. Of course the image looks closer than Doc's statement implies; GSW are analysing an enlargement. There would naturally be some double-grain effect suggestive of double-exposure, as the grain of the original is superimposed on the reversal (slide) film stock, with its own grain, during the re-photographing of the original to make copies. GSW drew some significance from the 'lack' of water displacement in ANS 1, as though this was

strong evidence for the picture being hoaxed. They take no account of the second picture (see FT22/25 - photo B, now designated ANS 2, the original of which has unfortunately been lost, leaving only a good, but monochrome, negative) which does show considerable water displacement.

The apparent transparency of the creature's image is indeed interesting. From our acquaintance with Doc, we believe that the photo is everything it appears to be, taken how and when Doc said it was done. We can understand the suspicions aroused by the number of monster photos taken by Doc, successfully, and that apparently by following his hunches (psychic sense, or whatever) he came to be in the right place at the right time with a camera. But it was done, and we believe Doc's photos to be authentic. That said, we are faced with the exciting and baffling paradox - central also to the fields of UFO and apparition phenomena - that an apparently insubstantial object, or image of an object, causes or is coincident with tangible physical effects; in this case a see-through monster is really rippling and displacing water. This appears to be confirmation of the para-physical hypothesis: either we have evidence of creatures which can materialize and dematerialize; or we are faced with an equally earth-shattering notion that thought-forms can be created and imprinted onto what we call 'reality', that images could simultaneously be excited on Doc's retinas and film to coincide with real or psychokinetically produced effects in the 'real' world to substantiate the image. We are now right at the edge of the latest thinking about the nature of reality...and I hope to present an important article on current ideas next issue.

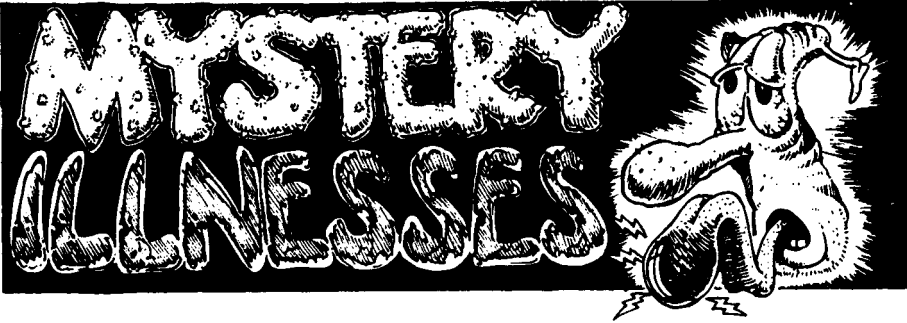
Those, to whom such things matter, may like to know that Doc has made a sworn statement before a Falmouth solicitor, that his account and slides are true and accurate records of the events that befell him. We have a copy on file here.

There is little more to add at this point - except that much more important and hard work needs to be done. Doc has sent his original of ANS 1 to JARIC, and of course we'll bring you word as soon as we learn of the results. In the meantime, whether you agree with GSW or not, it is only practical, only scientific, to suspend judgement on Doc's photos until we learn more. I do not believe they are fakes - Doc would have nothing to gain, and many friends to lose if he did - but important evidence of a rare kind. Perhaps revolutionary enough to baffle even JARIC's prowess.

RJMR

Fire Leynes cont from p9...

- 50 'Incredible Stories of Witchery at Binbrook', *Louth & North Lincolnshire News*, no 1595, 21 Jan 1905, p5.
 - 51 'The Amal Sessions', Carlisle, Pa., no 60, 8 Jan 1974, 6pp.
 - 52 Nicholas, Ross, 'Man's Monuments and the Leys', *The Ley Hunter*, no 11, 1970.
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- CREDITS:** The following deserve recognition for their contributions and co-operation: Messrs. Cousins & Goossmas, of the Colindale Branch of the British Museum, for some favourable rule-bending; J. A. Whitfield, editor of *Hull Daily Mail*; R.G. Roberts and Miss J. Crowther, of Leisure Services, Humberside County Council; Robert Warth of SITU; Vincent Gaddis; Sandra K. Nevius; and RJM Rickard, whose enthusiasm, ideas and immensely generous assistance has been a source of delight and enlightenment.



BUGS FROM SPACE

We have always found the ideas of Fred Hoyle and his colleague Chandra Wickramasinghe exciting, and perhaps none more so than their discussion of the possibility that flus and plagues could be being seeded on this earth from cometary and meteoric debris - New Scientist 17 Nov 1977. Of course the idea is not new, as the idea of panspermia played quite a part in the early evolution of scientific cosmology prior to the Renaissance, and more anciently in the general belief in comets etc as portents of great calamities here on earth. Hoyle and Wickramasinghe have written on this theme before (Nature 266:p241; 267:p133; 268:p610) and despite good corroboration of each stage in their theory, the present article brought disbelieving protests from "several quarters", who found it hard to accept that primary molecules had been found on meteoric material, that this extraterrestrial matter originated in comets, and that alien biological material could interact with terrestrial cells. Hoyle and Wickramasinghe reply in N.Sci 5 Jan 1978 (Cr: Ion Will) that their idea is essentially simple; as more complex lifeforms evolved on earth, they acquired new genes at high speed ("perhaps one per 1000 years"). Viruses have the ability to add new genetic material to the invaded cell - as witness the present concern over viruses with penicillin-resistance now incorporating this ability into a new strain of gonorrhoea (see below to our VD section for references.) This process of accumulating genes led to the rapid development of complex biological structures and thence lifeforms. Now if extraterrestrial viruses interacted with the early molecular forms far in our past then their patterns are still being inherited today. They conclude: "If the cells of our respiratory tracts thus have a genetic connection with cometary viruses extending over billions of years, the possibility of such viruses affecting us

((today)) cannot be lightly dismissed." (Additional sources were news coverage of the Nov N.Sci article, Cr: Tom Adams, Ion Will.)

What is more interesting is the hint here of a more fundamental influence on the development of life on this earth than slow Darwinian mutations and adaptations. If this stuff is raining all around us from space, constantly barraging us with long-lost genetic relations, then one might expect any damned thing to develop! Waiter, there's an alien in my primeval soup!

We have assembled below a summary of some of the plagues of the last 2½ years. There seems to be a seething war raging between man and bug for their ecological niche - those unable to adapt get zapped. The more astute among you will notice that many of them are concurrent...but unfortunately, because of time limitations we were unable to correlate the data with terrestrial and celestial portents...perhaps one day we'll get the computer and finance we desperately need.

SMALLPOX

In April 1977, the World Health Organization (WHO) confidently announced the eradication of smallpox from India, "leaving only 48 known cases in the world." Jacksonville, Florida, Times-Union & Journal 24 April 1977 (Cr: Gary Abbott) Just three years before, in India an epidemic afflicted 188,000 Indians, killing 31,000 of them. The last known case, after a massive vaccination programme, was on 24 May 1975, since which India seems to have been free of the disease which ravaged it constantly for centuries. All 48 of the remaining cases are in Somalia, said WHO officials, and these could be contained and cured. In 10yrs, they say confidently, the disease could be wiped from the face of this planet. Such an appeal to certainty attracted our attention -- in our experience banishings have an embarrassing way of back-firing.

Sure enough! The next month WHO said the cases had jumped to 173 in Somalia, and the disease was "spreading rapidly." Guardian 28 May 1977 (Cr: P Hope-Evans.)

The Sunday Times 5 June 1977, gave the end of May total for Somalia as 192 cases.

On 10th Sept, the WHO felt that as the African cases were now "clinically inactive", and there had been no new cases "anywhere" for the prior month, they felt the end of the smallpox scourge was near. Newport News, Virginia, News 12 Sept 1977 (Cr: Gary Abbott).

DIPHTHERIA

Within a short while there were two, apparently unconnected, diphtheria scares in England last summer.

After a baby was hospitalized in Manchester in August, doctors admitted to the Monsall Isolation Hospital there, 11 children all identified as carriers. One can only boggle that with so many carriers in one city there should be only one casualty. D.Telegraph 27 Sept 1977.

A 13yr-old boy in Wolverhampton came down with diphtheria, causing officials to warn parents of 2,000 children at his school, and a further 300 at a primary school attended by a sibling. D.Telegraph 14 Sept 1977 (Cr: P Hope-Evans.)

'BLACK DEATH'

In late July 1976 there was a resurgence of this medieval terror in the USA. Up to the end of that month 13 cases of bubonic plague had been diagnosed, with one death - a 45yr-old man in Bakersfield, California, who tried to sweat it out on his own, but who only succeeded in turning it into its more virulent form, pneumonic plague. In 2 weeks the infected areas nearly doubled, involving 17 counties in California, Arizona and New Mexico. Infected animals were also found in Wyoming and Nevada. Dr Bernard Nelson, California Health Dept, said bubonic plague had never really been eradicated from North America, and that the problem could worsen as the 'plague season' among carrier wildlife usually lasted into September. This was said to be the worst outbreak in the US for 25 years." Sunday Times 1 Aug 1976.

There was another outbreak this year, though medical officials said it was not an epidemic. Following the death, in July, of a 3yr-old girl in San Diego, of bubonic plague, a 55yr-old veterinary surgeon in San Jose contracted pneumonic plague and died on 17 Aug. Harrisburg, Penn. Patriot 19 Aug 1977 (Cr: Larry Arnold); Times, D.Telegraph 19 Aug 1977 (Cr: Valerie Martin, Peter Hope-Evans.)

Earlier the same year, in May, bubonic plague was reported breaking out in

Hanoi, Vietnam. Guardian, D.Telegraph 21 May 1977 (Cr: V Martin, P Hope-Evans.)

CHOLERA

Cholera raged over a good part of the planet since June last year. Our first notes are that at 18 June there were 50 cases in the port of Arida, Japan, and another in Tokyo. Sunday Times 19 June.

Early in September the biggest epidemic was underway in the Middle East, involving Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates; the worst hit was Syria, with 2000 ill and 68 dead. By 17 Sept, the WHO were speaking of the "encouraging" signs that the epidemic was on the decline. Two days later the casualty figures begin increasing again, levelling off (for Syria) at 3100 ill and 70 dead by the 20th. This levelling off is spoken of as "a waning". By now the disease has been reported in Turkey (where officials deny it, calling it merely "an intestinal infection"), Iran, Kuwait, Iraq and Israel. Many other countries, including England, had several alerts as travellers from these stricken areas came down with the sickness in the host country. As the time drew near for the 'Hajj', the pilgrimage to Mecca, health officials throughout the Islamic world expressed their concern. The expected disaster did not materialize, it seems, and we find very little in our papers on cholera after this date (2 October). D.Telegraph 7,13,14,17,21,26 Sept & 1, 12 Oct 1977; London Evening Standard 19 Sept 1977; Guardian 21 Sept 1977; Times 30 Sept 1977; Sunday People, Sunday Times 2 Oct 1977 (Cr: Peter Hope-Evans, Valerie Martin, Sam.)

While all this was going on there was an apparently unconnected outbreak of cholera in the Gilbert Islands. Before a medical team from New Zealand brought it under control, there were 183 ill and 17 dead. D.Telegraph 17 & 27 Sept 1977 (Cr: Peter Hope-Evans.)

An outbreak in Bangladesh was made worse by the terrible conditions after severe flooding with people drinking polluted water. Our last report mentions 522 dead before it was checked by an emergency vaccination programme. D.Express 20 Sept 1977; D.Telegraph 22 & 28 Sept 1977 (Cr: P Hope-Evans, V Martin.)

In Katmandu, Nepal, 8 died of cholera. Sunday Times 18 Sept 1977.

During the present civil war in Ethiopia, cholera had broken out in an overcrowded prisoner-of-war camp run by the Eritrean Liberation Front. War conditions will prevent quick diagnosis, treatment and prevention - official view is one

of foreboding. D.Telegraph 20 Sept 1977. We've not really kept a track of this particular epidemic, but we believe it still thrives as the country is torn apart.

Lastly: During the great Middle Eastern epidemic, one Arab made his way down to Tanzania, and seeded the outbreak of cholera there that has raged for the last three months. At datum the toll is 3347 ill and 246 dead. Observer 22 Jan 1978.

VD

Following an epidemic of gonorrhoea, in Oct 1976, in USA and Liverpool, the CDC warned of a new strain - Beta/gonorrhoea - resistant to penicillin, but amenable to another antibiotic, spectinomycin. The original penicillin-resistant strain was first identified in 1976 as originating in the Philippines, and since spread to nearly every country in the Far East, Europe, North America and parts of Africa and Australia. The average toll of gonorrhoea is about 50,000 in England & Wales, and 2½-3 million in USA, so doctors are concerned that the new strain, which possesses a radical talent for "primitive sex" with other bacteria, may pass on their antibiotic resistance to, say, a meningitis strain, to produce a terrifying new scourge. Newport News, Va, Daily Press 3 Oct 1976; Sunday Times 15 May 1977; NY Times 29 June 1977 (Cr: Gary Abbott, P Hope-Evans)

POLIO

In 1976 there were 8 cases of paralytic polio in the UK, and by April 1977 there were nearly as many again - clearly the expected epidemic looked likely, and immunisation programmes took place in Surrey, London, South Wales, Cambridgeshire and the North. In the midst of health service spending cuts, one London hospital was appealing for second hand 'iron lungs' in anticipation. In June a case was found in Essex; and two in Stockport. In August there was another suspected case in Essex, and one in Belfast, where a huge vaccination alert followed the discovery of a woman carrier. Weekly News 16 April 1977; Times 7 & 16 April 1977; D.Mirror 4 March 1977; Guardian 10 June, 17 Aug 1977; Sun 22 June 1977; D.Telegraph 18 Aug 1977 (Cr: P Hope-Evans.)

TYPHOID etc

There was a steady stream of typhoid cases, and several of paratyphoid and typhus from Dec 1976 until Dec 1977 - most in people recently arrived or returning from abroad to England. We note only 2 deaths. Sunday People 19 Dec 1976; Sun 15 March 1977; Balham & Tooting, Lon-

don, News 1 April 1977; D.Telegraph 2, 14 Sept, 12, 29 Nov 1977; D.Express 2 Dec 1977; D.Mail 26 March 1977 (Cr: P Rogerson, Sam, P Hope-Evans.)

The worst outbreak in Victoria, Australia, for 20yrs was traced to a 60yr-old woman immigrant from England, working in a Melbourne shop. Officials say she had been a carrier for 28 years - but we wonder why they only notice it now! Also Victoria is the original home of the flu-strain plaguing Britain at the time of this typhoid outbreak...they send us flu, we send them typhoid! D.Telegraph, Guardian both 10 May 1977 (Cr: Valerie Martin, P Hope-Evans.)

In Late August a huge typhus scare swept through Sicily and Southern Italy - 70 ill, 63,000 vaccinated. Sunday Telegraph 4 Sept 1977 (Cr: P Hope-Evans.)

WHOOPIING COUGH

Following a long and bitter public debate about the relationship between the whooping cough vaccination and brain damage in some children, and the way it can aggravate certain diseases, Health officials expressed their concern over the large drop in immunisation. This, coupled with the fact that whooping cough epidemics follow a 3-4 year cycle - the last serious outbreak in the UK was in 1974/75 - focused this concern on the epidemic predicted for late 1977. According to Prof Gordon Stewart, Glasgow University, a rush for immunisation could do great harm, exposing more children to the possible risks of the vaccine side-effects. Ironically, he added that "No epidemic has ever been prevented in the past by vaccination, and we have records going back many years to show this." Other experts were confident that the brain damage risk of vaccine containing 'pertussis' (whooping cough) was very small - and a report on the problem (Whooping Cough Vaccination by Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation, HMSO, 85p) quotes a recent study of 80,000 vaccinations on Prof Stewart's own doorstep, Glasgow, as having "no evidence of permanent brain damage", though that could be construed as having some transient damage. The report said there has been no case of a direct link in the 1961-1975 period. London Evening Standard 24 June 1977; Guardian 19 Dec 1977 (Cr: Ion Will.)

The epidemic came as predicted. Between 1 July and 14 October, 4500 cases had been reported...doctors expect figures to rise to 30,000 before winter is out. By late December there were 11,000 cases - increasing by about 1000 a week. We have heard nothing more since our last datum, from which we imagine that the

epidemic is over or in decline. Daily Telegraph 4 Nov 1977; London Evening News undated (late Dec 1977/early Jan 1978?)

MEASLES

The Whooping cough vaccine/brain damage scare lowered the figures for all kinds of immunisation, and early in 1977 doctors were also predicting epidemics of polio and measles for late 1977. Sunday Telegraph 27 Feb 1977; Weekly News 16 April 1977 (Cr: P Hope-Evans.) As far as we know there was no epidemic announced in England, but in USA and Indonesia.

The Los Angeles health authorities announced their epidemic on 25 Jan - a potentially fatal strain of 10-day measles, known as rubella. At 3000 cases, it was already double previous known outbreaks and was yet to reach its peak. That same month outbreaks were reported in Georgia and Chicago. By mid-Feb cases also appeared in Indiana, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, California, Iowa, Kansas and Minnesota. Experts said they expected measles and German measles cases to run into 40,000 - current figures were running at 2 1/2 times the figures for the same period in 1976 - and they unanimously blamed the government's concentration on 'Swine Flu' (see below) which distracted attention and enthusiasm for other real immunisation programmes. We have no figures for the actual peak of the USA measles epidemics. Daily Telegraph 26 Jan 1977; Jacksonville, Florida, Times-Union 31 Jan, 3 Feb 1977; National Enquirer 15 Feb 1977 (Cr: Valerie Martin, Gary Abbott.)

In Indonesia, 60 children on the quake-stricken island of Lombok, east of Bali, had died of measles since April 1977. Because of lack of prompt attention from health authorities, children either die or develop immunity. Bangkok Post 31 Aug 1977; Sunday Express 25 Sept 1977 (Cr: Ion Will, P Hope-Evans.)

RABIES

In 1970 rabies was rampant in Europe, from Poland to West Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria. In 1975 it had spread to Belgium, France and Spain, where 4 died in Malaga. In that year there were 30,000 inoculations and suspected cases in the USA, but only 2 deaths. D.Mirror 24 Sept 1975.

Despite several scares, shootings of frothing animals, and idiots smuggling their drugged pets past customs officials, the UK has remained relatively rabies-free compared to the Continent. Rabies is supposed to have been eradicated in Britain in 1922, since when there have only been, officially, 2

cases in the wild, the rest developing in quarantine. Scandinavia is the only other "clean" country in Europe.

By Sept 1977 rabies was said to have encircled Paris, bringing forward from 1980 this landmark of the disease's spread, as predicted in 1975. From Jan to April 1977 there were 718 cases of rabid animals in France. Sun 4 Aug, 10 Sept 1977; Sunday Mirror 7 Aug 1977; Weekly News 24 Sept 1977; D.Telegraph 2 & 24 Sept 1977; Guardian 28 Sept 1977 (Cr: P Hope-Evans.)

Outside England the problem rages. In the mountains of Alto Adige, northern Italy, 2500 wolves have been destroyed in an attempt to contain rabies there, brought from Austria. D.Telegraph 14 Oct 1977 (Cr: P Hope-Evans.)

INFLUENZAS

There have been quite a few fatal flu outbreaks in many countries involving new, unfamiliar and unidentified strains and even resurgences of strains not seen for some time.

Britain

A 'mystery flu' virus arrived suddenly in northern England and Scotland early in March 1977, and spread rapidly wherever it took hold, until it petered out in April. Many of these outbreaks remained unidentified until press coverage of widespread cases made it clear that a relatively unknown virus was responsible. In fact it turned out to be a flu virus that had caused hundreds of deaths only the year before - just why British doctors were caught napping is not clear... unless it was over-belief in medical theory. The flu was slow developing, but fever and other symptoms would appear suddenly and severely, aggravating heart and lung conditions almost universally among elderly patients. A spokesman for the Central Public Health Labs, at Colindale, London, said there was little expectation of epidemic. Flu usually start before February, they pontificated, so one starting up in March was "unlikely to come to anything." Besides, figures were still low for that time of year, they said. Little comfort to those who died. Sunday Times 27 March 1977.

The first deaths we noticed were early in March - in one week 7 old-folk died at a home near Bolton, Lancs. Mid-March: 11 old women die within 6 days at Bo'ness in West Lothian. 25 March: 27 die in 2 separate cases at Whitley Bay and North Shields, Northumberland. More deaths at these locations followed, as health inspectors were hampered by unseemly feuding between the Northumberland local

cont on p33/



Review Supplement

HARDBACKS

Peoples of the Sea by Immanuel Velikovsky (Sidgwick & Jackson 1977; £5.95; pp261; index, illos) -- For all those captivated, anything up to 25yrs ago, by the revolutionary reconstruction of ancient history presented in Ages in Chaos (vol.1), the news that the sequel volumes promised by Velikovsky are finally being published will be more than welcome. The third volume in the series, Rameses II and his Time, will appear this March, while the fourth and final volume, Peoples of the Sea was published in Feb 1977. (Publication date for the second volume has not yet been set.)

In his introduction to Peoples, Velikovsky explains to his patient readers the reason for the long delay in publication of these sequels. He reminds us of the sheer enormity of the task he had set himself, and how the continuation of his reconstruction, originally planned as one volume, rapidly expanded into three. His involvement in the heated dispute over the theories he had put forward in Worlds in Collision (note 1) has also seriously delayed the completion of what Velikovsky considers to be his magnum opus. He had hoped, largely in vain, that his persistent attempts to secure radiocarbon tests on artifacts from the Egyptian New Kingdom in order to check his 'revised chronology' would have borne some fruit. The tests have still to be performed, though of the few that have been carried out he is happy to report that several support his view rather than the conventional history of Egypt (note 2).

Peoples covers the period of Egyptian history from the Persian Conquest of Egypt in 525 BC to its liberation by Alexander and the time of the Ptolemaic (Greek) Dynasty of the 3rd century BC.

During the long Persian occupation Egyptian civilisation briefly reflowered under the independent kings of the 28th to 30th Dynasties, best known to us from the accounts of Greek historians. Egyptologists have, for many years now, been quite confident that these kings have been correctly identified from the native Egyptian monuments - they have also been confident that the 20th Dynasty, followed by the pendant 21st, ruled in the 12th and 11th centuries BC. The 20th Dynasty is probably best known for its Pharaoh Rameses III, and his struggle with the mysterious 'Sea Peoples' whom he drove back from the borders of Egypt. The so-called 'Sea Peoples' invasion' is supposed to have been part of a mass migration of barbarian tribes in the Near East around 1200 BC, and this concept had been used as a 'catch-all' by historians for decades. The invasion (mentioned only by Rameses III) is used as an 'explanation' of the near simultaneous destruction of practically all the Late Bronze civilisations of Greece, Anatolia, Syria and Palestine. It is also held responsible for initiating an archeological 'Dark Age' in which civilisations disappeared from these areas for anything up to 500 years.

Velikovsky presents the startling hypothesis that the kings of the 28th to 30th Dynasties are really none other than those of the 20th Dynasty, and that the repulse of the 'Sea Peoples' is an Egyptian account of the abortive attempt of the Persians to reconquer Egypt in 374 BC. The leading 'Sea Peoples' are called Prst by Rameses III, and are usually identified with the Biblical Philistines. Yet, as Velikovsky points out, Prst is actually attested as an Egyptian rendering of the name 'Persians'. The 'Dark Age' he argues, is a complete chimera - the evidence of civilisation disappears from many sites 'during this period' simply

because the 500 years did not exist.

He presents his reconstruction of the last dynasties of Egypt with a wealth of persuasive argument, and confronts the accepted scheme of history with an embarrassing series of archeological anomalies. For example, the tiles of Rameses III, now in the British Museum, show quite clearly on the reverse side letters of the Greek alphabet incised during their manufacture. (Photos of the tiles are given in the book.) Yet the Greek alphabet most certainly did not originate until the 8th century BC, some 4 hundred years after the supposed time of Rameses III. All orthodox attempts to explain the letters (which even appear to be of classical 4th century form) as, for instance, 'degenerate' hieroglyphics, have failed miserably, and the riddle has, in Velikovsky's words, been 'handled very much as though it were a parapsychological phenomenon.'

As a supplement, Velikovsky includes 'Astronomy and Chronology' - previously included in the Summer 1973 issue of the now defunct Pensee - a devastating attack on the theory that the Egyptians regulated their calendar by the rising of the star Sothis (Sirius), the cornerstone of the accepted astronomical dating scheme used by Egyptologists.

Revolutionary as all this is, Velikovsky's claims should come as less of a shock to archeologists than they would have done 25 years ago. Four years ago the evidence for the 'Sothic dating scheme' was rigorously examined by Ronald Long (see Orientalia vol.43 Nova series, 1974, pp261-274) who showed conclusively that far from being a 'scientific' and infallible method of dating, this much valued scheme was little more than an unsubstantiated dream of early 20th century Egyptology that had outstayed its welcome. Adopted for reasons of convenience and never proven, the theory had become dogma. The concept of the 'Sea Peoples' too has taken some hard knocks in the last decade - the eminent French archeologist, Claude Schaeffer, has questioned it, while the Egyptologist, Alessandra Nibbi (The Sea Peoples and Egypt, Noyes Press 1975) has shown that none of the current ideas of the 'Sea Peoples' are justified...the very name is a misnomer.

One hopes that the climate of scientific enquiry in Egyptological circles has improved sufficiently to afford Peoples of the Sea the open-minded reception it deserves.

Note 1: On 25 Feb 1974 the American Association for the Advancement of Science held a symposium on Worlds in Coll-

ision, which purported to be a definitive rebuttal of Velikovsky's astrophysical theories. The papers read appear (much amplified) in Scientists confront Velikovsky, just published by Cornell University Press. A special issue of the American journal Kronos has been published as a response by Velikovsky's supporters, arguing effectively that far from scientific examination, the symposium was more an exercise in ridicule.

Note 2: Some reeds and palm kernels from the tomb of Tutankhamun were tested by the British Museum and gave dates of 846 (BM 642) and 899 BC (BM 642a). Even within the margins of error of the radiocarbon dating method, these results are clearly in conflict with the conventional date of Tutankhamun, supposed to have died around 1350 BC, and in good accord with Velikovsky's date of around 835 BC. The British Museum apparently considers the samples to have been 'contaminated' and has refused to publish the dates as promised.

Peter James

According to the Evidence by Erich von Daniken (Souvenir Press 1977; £4.50; pp348; refs, many photos & illos) -- I looked forward with some anticipation to reading VD's latest...I hoped that this time he'd bounce back and nail the critics snapping ever more loudly and closer at his heels (see comments on the TV critique of VD on p50). The hopes were dashed against the brick wall of his own intractable position set out in his previous books: contradictions, bad choice of evidence, weird logic, sheer audacity and all. Obviously tiring of the scurrilous attacks on his 'ancient astronauts' industry, VD has here presented a summary of the other books but dressed-up like a submission to a Supreme Court, with the reader as jury. Unfortunately the 'proofs' and patter are by now so familiar, the fiery arguments so turned to a monotonous complaint that he risks the jury sleeping through the trial.

Some of VD's tactics, though, would have had the jury on their feet, and the prosecution shouting 'Objection!' He seems to have learned nothing from his critics: for example, in discussing the idea of 'directed panspermia' he quotes an article by the biologists Crick and Orgel which contains an amusing speculation on a robot spacecraft roaming the galaxy inseminating fertile planets with micro-organism cultures. VD immediately seizes this to triumphantly proclaim that our learned doctors say "in black and white that the creation took place acc-

ording to a plan." And again, referring to the highly dubious Cabrera rocks, which purport to show dinosaurs coexistent with man and that the ancients had modern heart-surgery techniques etc, he quotes a geologist's report describing the Mesozoic origin of the rocks, hoping that you'll accept from that that they must have been carved then too! Here he clearly acknowledges that now the local craftsmen have started manufacturing 'ancient artifacts' at many of the old sites, because of media and tourist interest...but that he was lucky enough to have got there first and seen the genuine stuff. Naturally!

VD's thesis rests on four points (and this jury returns his verdict in the brackets: 1) that in earliest times this Earth was visited by beings from elsewhere (undoubtedly an exciting possibility but still in the realm of conjecture or there would be little objection of any substance); 2) that these beings deliberately created humans (extraterrestrial influence on the development of life is a serious consideration (see p/7) but that it was so, and was deliberate, is unproven); 3) that these beings created us in their likeness, hence anthropomorphic gods in ancient iconography etc (unproven; based on child-like logic, eg a neighbour's kid said to me: "Our cat is called Ginger. That's why he's ginger all over!"); 4) that these beings left traces upon our landscapes and mythologies (a distinct possibility contingent upon the truth of item 1, thus still conjecture.) In terms of rigorous logic, the evidences VD gives, far from narrowing down the possible solutions to the inescapable conclusion of ET intervention on Earth, actually open up such a baffling array of possibilities that we must in all honesty say his thesis is only one possibility. Personally, I found his discussions on space-colonies, the chemical origins of life and several anti-Darwinism swipes both interesting and amusing in places, but as soon as he gets back to his main theme his crankiness shows - by which I mean you can see his obsession reading things into innocuous data before your very eyes; that and his chief ideological error of seeing every facet of the alien 'gods' in terms of 20th century technology (eg pagoda architecture becomes reminiscent of ceramic electrical insulators, tail-feathers on a stylised bird become the flame-exhaust of a rocket, etc). His picture of the alien culture is pure Star Wars/Dan Dare! Some basic questions go unanswered: if they were so all-pervasive during a huge chunk of our development, why aren't they

still with us? are they anything to do with UFOs? if not, why not? and why the obsession to attribute the slightest detail of an enigma, or triumph of human art and engineering, to the damned ETs? There is much a Freudian analyst could make of such things. I'd say baby Erich was abandoned for long periods and is still psychologically waiting for an omnipotent Mummy/Daddy to appear from outside the confines of his cot/world to make things all right again. Aren't we all to some degree, but few of us have elevated it to a cosmic drama worth 6 books. After today's court hearing I'm reminded of an old stand-up comic's gag: "I move around a lot. With my act, I have to!" The end papers of Evidence show VD's travels on a world-map. There are still places he hasn't visited - and my advice to him is to keep moving. He has two qualities that will keep him ahead (only just) of the pack, his undoubted imagination and sense of humour, but sooner or later his persecution complex will betray him fatally - in the opening pages he likens himself to those on the shamefully long list of men (including Velikovsky, here as 'Velikowsky') who have been ridiculed or worse by the scientific establishment. Since VD fails to convince us of his rightful place on this list, his claim comes over as a conceit.

RJM Rickard

The Wolf Children by Charles Maclean
(Allen Lane 1977; £4.95; pp324; index, bib, notes, glossary, photos) - The Wild Boy of Aveyron by Harlan Lane
(George Allen & Unwin 1977; £6.95; pp 351; index, notes, bib, chronology, illos)

-- When the Aveyron 'wildboy' was found living in woods in central France in 1799 (he had been seen several times before his capture) he soon became the wonder of France and the stimulus to a whole new wave of thought about the nature of man - Was this boy a living contradiction of Rousseau's concept of 'the Noble Savage', was he retarded, could he be reclaimed into the human society, and if not then just how much of our natures are conditioned by human contact since birth, and again, if so, then what is our residual archaic basic nature? Lane has painstakingly pieced together one of the least known but important turning-points in human self-understanding. The boy was turned over to a young physician, Jean-Marc Itard, whose attempted education of the boy pioneered the methods used today in the education of mentally-handicapped children. Lane has also found the three key papers by Itard, and one by the pioneer of psychiatry, Phillippe Pin-

el, who also examined the boy, which have been lost since early in the 19th century. Victor, the boy, has been the object of plays, novels, poems and the film L'Enfant Sauvage by Truffaut, but for the first time the full story and the issues it raised have been thoroughly documented.

Although not much was known about the origin of Victor, he was not alone. Throughout recorded history there have been many accounts of wild men and women, boys and girls found wherever there have been wilds for them to roam. They were known well enough for the great systematizer, Linnaeus, in the 18th C, to devise the category of homo ferus in his classification of living creatures. Also, unlike Victor, many of these feral humans seem to have been adopted into the society of local animals - bears, wolves, gazelles and monkeys etc. The most famous of these are the wolf-girls of Midnapore, India, who form the kernel of Maclean's book. Maclean, also, has made an important contribution to the subject, for by following his hunches he managed to rediscover a box of papers by Robert Zingg (who studied the Midnapore children in 1920), lying forgotten in the attic of the Gesell Institute at Yale. Around the story of Kamala and Amala, the wolf-girls, Maclean weaves many references to contemporary thought on the subject, from child psychology to anthropology and mythology. Excellent as both these books are, they only scrape at the surface of the great mystery of the 'wildman' archetype, and both will undoubtedly earn their places as key reference works. I note, sadly, that the work and valuable observations of Fort, Heuvelmans and even Sanderson are not listed in either bibliographies.

RJM Rickard.

Prelude to the Landing on Planet Earth
by Stuart Holroyd (WH Allen 1977;
£6.95; pp338) -- In 1974 Andrija Puharich published his book Uri which told of his experiences investigating the psychic talents of Uri Geller. He wrote

Many of the books reviewed in these pages can be had from the following specialists in Fortean, occult, UFO magical, health, comic and alternative publications. Mail order or requests.

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Tel: 01 485 8944...&...01 267 1525.

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that while Geller was under hypnosis, an unknown voice was heard in the room giving a message foretelling that Israel was about to be attacked by the Arab states. Subsequently during their sessions with Geller, Puharich and his colleagues received many hours of messages from these communicators who claimed to be extraterrestrial intelligences whose intention was to guide mankind on this planet into certain courses of action. But Puharich had little success in convincing the world at large of the reality of his experiences, eminent scientist though he is. His cause was not helped by the fact that all the cassettes of recording tape and cine film on which the voices and the images of UFOs were recorded sooner or later dematerialized, allegedly by these same intelligences. Since then the situation has continued to develop - Geller, perhaps unwilling to be, and unnerved at being, the tool of the ETs, has dropped out, while Puharich has continued the contact with the ETs with a small group of mediums.

Stuart Holroyd, an established writer on psychic matters, was led by apparent chance to visit Puharich's house in New York state in January 1975. There he learnt that since March 1974 Puharich had been in constant touch with the ETs and that there were over 100hrs of taped communications, this time preserved intact. Holroyd returned to England, forgetting about the visit as he immersed himself in various writing projects, until, in September 1975, Puharich rang to tell him that the ETs thought the time right for a book on the subject, and would he write it? His initial reaction was that of the knowledgeable sceptic. Being aware of such pitfalls as fraudulent mediums, secondary personalities and unconscious telepathy, Holroyd was extremely cautious in accepting the material at face value. He finally decided that it could be authentic, and this volume is the result.

Some critics may think that Holroyd is extremely gullible, but no one should judge prematurely until they have read the book. Viewing it as a unique situation, many readers will find their credulity strained to the limit - but in the light of the overall UFO scene it is but the culmination of a continuing saga that stretches back beyond recorded history. In recent years hundreds, perhaps thousands, of small groups ^{were} established to receive communications from intelligences purporting to be outside the physical confines of this earth. Modestly priced booklets containing their messages circulate throughout the globe

and many of these groups are in contact with one another - their messages are essentially similar though differ in detail, referring to the errors, potential and possible salvation of mankind. The activities of Puharich's group are one small part of this worldwide movement, and their results should be seen within this context.

Though Holroyd is versed in the pitfalls of psychic practices, and examines his material critically, he is, I suspect, less conversant with matters spiritual which have their own pitfalls. He feels that the most likely explanation is that the material originates from some exterior intelligences, and that the choice therefore lies between the ETs or spirits of the dead from the traditional seance-room. As the material is quite unlike the conventional trivial ramblings of the latter, the answer must lie, he says, with the former. Perhaps a wider knowledge of the reports of mediums and mystics from past ages would have alerted him to the multifarious levels of incorporeal intelligence that these esotericists have described, and to the deceptions that these 'spirit intelligences' can practise upon men for their own unknown purposes. The answer to the enigma this book poses must surely lie somewhere between these non-human intelligences and ETs. In short, here is another fascinating aspect of the psychic turmoil with which we have to contend at the start of this Aquarian Age. Clearly and intelligently written, this book makes compelling reading for all students of UFO and psychic manifestations.

Colin Bord.

The Crack in the Universe by Jean-Claude Bourret (Neville Spearman 1977; £4.25; pp264) - Early in 1974 an important series of radio broadcasts in France presented to a large audience a balanced and wide-ranging picture of the UFO scene. In this book are transcriptions of the 39 broadcasts, including an interview with the then Minister of Defence, Robert Galley. There are firsthand accounts of sightings old and new, including some close encounters; and a discussion with scientists and others presenting different points of view, including Jacques Vallee, Claude Poher, Prof JA Hynek, Gordon Creighton and Aimé Michel.

The content of these talks most likely had quite an effect on listeners who knew nothing about UFOs. I can imagine the impact of such a series in the UK - but somehow such a series seems unlikely

here. Readers of this, Gordon Creighton's translation, are also likely to find much of value and interest, especially if the subject is new to them. Long-time readers of UFO literature might feel however, as I did, that much of the material merely repeats well-worn ideas, with too much emphasis on 'how' and not on the vital question 'why'. Creighton's contribution is one of the few to tackle this latter aspect, and his thoughts on angels and demons are so briefly given as to be almost unnoticeable. My conclusions: the book is ideal for the newcomer and anyone else who likes to keep his ufological feet on the ground. There are 12 pages of illustrations (photos of UFOs and personalities, and impressions of UFO encounters), an 8 page 'partial bibliography' by Creighton - but no index.

Janet Bord.

((Editor's note - Many readers have written asking why we have ignored some Spearman books in the past. This has not been our intention. We have written many times to Spearman asking for catalogues and specific review copies over the past 2-3 years, but they have chosen to ignore us completely - not even acknowledging my letters asking for correction or clarification of the situation. As we cannot afford to buy books for review, many of the reviews that appear in these pages are unsolicited and gratefully received. I have told Spearman that we can reach a strong core of book-buying interested readers...if they can't be bothered to keep us informed, or feel complacent enough to ignore such a group of potential buyers, so be it!))

Situation Red: The UFO Siege by Leonard H Stringfield (Doubleday, NY, 1977; \$8.95; pp224) - If you could spend a few hours on a winter's evening sitting snugly by your fireside with a seasoned UFO buff yarning away about his investigations over the years, the frantic calls he's sometimes received from hysterical witnesses, his clashes and cooperation with authority (from local cops to the USAF), and the 'sworn to secrecy' tip-offs he's been given by those with 'inside info', the conversation might sound very much as this book reads.

Len Stringfield has been interested in UFOs since he was buzzed by a 'foo fighter' in WWII, and in the early '50s he published Orbit, one of the first UFO newsletters. Since 1969 he has been an investigator for the MUFON network, and his home area of SW Ohio has shown high UFO activity for many years. Other types of Forteania such as hairy bipeds have

also been evident, and he features reports which show their possible connexions with UFOs. Stringfield takes his reports from 1973, an especially active year, starting with some close sightings of solid craft and continuing through cases of low-level car harassment and physical attack, quickening the pace with some of the weirder cases of parapsychical and entity encounters. He also relates some of those infuriatingly unsubstantiated stories of crashed UFOs and little dead humanoids seen in the desert surrounded by armed guards and with all participants sworn to secrecy. As a grand finale, the book ends with a detailed account of the abduction of 3 women from Liberty, Kentucky, investigated by Stringfield.

There is no in-depth theorizing on the parapsychical or psychological aspects of the subjects, but a readable and fascinating account of ufology as one very active American investigator has found it. There are several UFO photos (before and after computer enhancement) and of landing traces. There is a foreword by Major Donald Keyhoe...but no index. Colin Bord.

The Book of Lists by David Wallechinsky, Irving & Amy Wallace (Cassell 1977; £4.75; pp304) -- The book is precisely what it claims to be, crammed with lists of the greatest, longest, shortest, worst etc (most superlatives that you can think of). As the editors have definite Fortean leanings there is much in here of interest to us. Quite apart from its obvious value as a reference for obscure facts, the book informs as well as entertains by direct stimulation of curiosity, and once picked up is damned hard to put down...Jack the Ripper suspects & victims, Gen. Patton's 6 past lives, 15 living fossils, 37 books on the Catholic Index of Forbidden Books, medical breakthroughs by non-doctors, anatomical relics, 3 people who died during sex, famous drug-takers, famous dinner guests (Irving Wallace adds Charles Fort to his list), 8 cases of spontaneous combustion, stigmatics, unsolved mysteries, best known embalming, levitations etc etc. The perfect gift for curious people. RJMR

Victorian Grottesque by Martin Howard (Jupiter 1977; £5.95; pp154; illus) - Curious Myths of the Middle Ages by Sabine Baring-Gould (Jupiter 1977; £5.95; pp159; illus) -- Some months ago I managed to locate a remaindered copy of the Bell reprint of Anomalies and Curiosities of Medicine by Drs George Gould (no relation to Sabine) and Walter

Pyle, 1896; an acclaimed classic compendium of extraordinary medical cases, quite unobtainable generally. Howard's book, largely extracted from Gould & Pyle's tome offers us a selection of bizarre Victoriana from dwarfs and giants to two-headed, hairy or horned people. He claims to have added material from 720 other contemporary sources - a search which has thrown up additional illustrations too. Victorian Grottesque has been designed for the general reader, being more literary and less technical than Gould & Pyle.

Similarly, Curious Myths is a representation of Baring-Gould's long out-of-print classic. Its editor, Edward Hardy, however, confines himself to a brief introduction and the addition of some beautifully relevant Dürer woodcuts. The chapters are models of short scholarly essays on such subjects as the Wandering Jew, Prester John, the Divining Rod, Tailed Men, AntiChrist & Pope Joan, the Terrestrial Paradise, the Legend of the Cross, the Pied Piper, the Fortunate Isles, the Sangreal, and many others equally fascinating.

Both books are recommended for their Fortean relevance, and are finely printed editions. RJM Rickard

The Avebury Cycle by Michael Dames (Thames & Hudson 1977; £6.50; pp240) - Those who read Dames' earlier book The Silbury Treasure will know what to expect from this new companion volume in which he considers the significance of those important prehistoric sites close by Silbury Hill - West Kennet long barrow, the Sanctuary, the West Kennet and Beckhampton Avenues, and the Avebury henge. Where earlier researchers have tiptoed round the fringes, Dames plunges in without hesitation, and the result is a bold, controversial and, to me, convincing assessment of the original function of these impressive monuments. He brings together information scattered throughout a number of disciplines, from archeology to folklore, and the skillful way in which he does so shows the breadth of his reading (a necessary qualification if we are to solve the long-standing mysteries; and anyone who has tried to keep abreast of the literature in just one field will know how daunting the task is.)

I will not spoil your own discovery of this book by attempting to summarise its contents. My only regret is that Dames did not take his research even further, to include information on the reactions of experienced dowzers at Avebury. If,

as some suspect, the standing stones erected by ancient man were part of a power system, this surely had a part to play in the rituals Dames surmises were performed at such sites as Avebury. But even without mentioning this aspect he gives us plenty to think about, and his text is fully illustrated with relevant photos and diagrams. The book would have been even more attractive if some of the site photos were more evocative and atmospheric. There are very full references (11 pages) plus a bibliography (2 pages) and index (4 pages).

Janet Bord.

Ogopogo by Mary Moon (JJ Douglas Ltd, 1875 Welch St, N Vancouver, V7P 1B7, Canada, 1977; pp195; photos; price unknown) - Ogopogo is the monster believed to be living in Okanagan Lake, British Columbia, Canada, and this thorough book documents the sightings of him/her/it/them, from Indian legends up to the present. There have been many sightings, especially in the 1920s, and eyewitness descriptions are often completely incompatible with the favourite explanatory theories: sturgeon-in-a-line, oarfish, manatee etc. As for the other possibility, a prehistoric reptile...who knows? No remains of an Ogopogo have been found, though footprints have been seen and inconclusive photos taken (2 included here). The Ogopogo story follows the pattern of other much-investigated lake monsters - after years of sightings we are no nearer a solution to the mystery.

Mary Moon also gives us details of other mysteries in the Okanagan valley (including Stenwyken, the hairy giant and possible Sasquatch), and there is a chapter on other lake and sea monsters of British Columbia, plus a chronological record of sightings of Ogopogo. It adds up to a readable, informative, well designed, attractively produced large-format paperback. Recommended reading for monster hunters.

Janet Bord.

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An Anthology of I Ching by W A Sherrill & W K Chu (RKP, 1978; Hb, £7.95; pp 245; illos, tables, apps, index) Occasionally, a true gem of a book may escape the Fortean's attention simply because it falls outside his immediate field of interest. This work, apparently appealing only to those concerned with divination and Chinese philosophy, could well suffer the same fate. I hope not.

On the broadest level, this book appeals for its relevance to Fort's notion of 'Dominants': in pre-Reformation Europe the dominant mode of thought was astrologically based; since the reformation, materialistically scientific. In traditional China the Dominant was different again, being largely a combination of the I Ching with the Five Elements and the Sexagenary Cycle. Working from manuscripts largely neglected by other translators, Sherrill and Chu have given us the opportunity to study that Dominant and its widespread application; a contextual background against which all studies of Chinese Fortean (lamentably few as they are) should be seen.

For the most part, the book concerns itself with advanced forms of divination and cyclical change. It is definitely not a book for beginners, however, and a good text and a working knowledge of the I Ching (especially its mechanics) would seem essential, even though the authors provide an extremely compact guide to basic I Ching divination in the first chapter. From there, they move on to discuss advanced divination, five different systems of Horary Astrology (cycles of change based on time of birth, using I Ching hexagrams rather than planetary movements), the heretical T'ai Hsuan Ching, a theory of history based on I Ching cycles, and the I Ching's relation to meditation, geomancy and directionology.

Some may recoil from the idea of divination, although it seems to me to be a perfectly legitimate area of Fortean study, if only for the fact that it enables one to produce synchronicity on demand. For those who disagree, there is still the fascinating interplay of mathematics and symbolism and the widespread applicability of a mode of thought very different from our own.

The book is well supplied with tables, figures, instructions and some charming illustrative stories, many concerning the 11th century genius Shao Yung, a pioneer in the study of cycles, responsible for much that is in this book and, indirectly perhaps, for modern computer technology. But there is one slight niggle: RKP have published a series of excellent works on the I Ching over the years, including the authors' previous Astrology of I Ching; all with the Chinese names and words transliterated into Mandarin forms. Why then is this book using Cantonese forms (eg: Sau Yung)? The whole area is complex enough already without adding linguistic confusions.

Apart from that, very highly recommended. Steve Moore

PAPERBACKS

The Fairy-faith in Celtic Countries by WY Evans Wentz (Colin Smythe 1977; £4.50; pp524; index) -- For too long a time this classic work on the fairy tradition was out of print or obtainable only in hard-to-find expensive foreign editions; but now Colin Smythe are to be congratulated in at last putting a reasonably priced edition within reach of the poorest scholar. The basic text looks like a facsimile of the original (1911) with a new introduction by the poet and scholar, Dr Kathleen Raine.

Those who have studied fairy accounts and traditions today realise their relationship to the witch and ghost traditions and to the new field of UFO narratives. It comes as an eyeopening pleasant surprise to discover that Evans Wentz was not only relating fairy events to shamanism but exploring the basic similarity with many types of psychical phenomena, including poltergeist phenomena. Here is one of the great sourceworks for the living belief in fairies as it survives in the written and oral traditions of Celtic countries, and for primary materials on related phenomena from 'fairy battles' and 'straight paths' to psychology of perception and belief, and into occult and mystical cosmology. RJMR

WARK, a small mag that reviews other small and alternative mags (mainly comic and fantasy), is looking for a volunteer to write a column (twice a year?) on Fortean publications. Interested? Contact Rosemary Pardoe, Flat 2, 38 Sandown lane, Liverpool 15. (Wark sample: 30p.)

Flying Saucers by CG Jung (Routledge & Kegan Paul 1977; £2.75; pp184; index plates) -- As with Evans Wentz's classic, another key work of fundamental relevance to our studies today, long out-of-print in Britain, has been most welcome reprinted. On rereading it I can only marvel at the statements Jung made, in 1958, which are only now being fully appreciated by the most liberal of UFO researchers. The UFO 'establishment' has shamefully neglected this important contribution to the debate because it does not primarily consider the question of whether UFOs are vehicles piloted by beings from other planets. Jung is far more concerned about the appearance of the UFO as a symbol in dreams, art and hallucinations. His idea of the UFO as the visual equivalent of a rumour is difficult to understand, but he patiently explains the process by which the UFO appears to be a sign of a change in the pattern of archetypes of our age, and as a symbol of the quest for psychic integrity (light, circle, sphere, vessica-shaped 'saucers', heavenly mandalas etc). Although he drew back at suggesting here the mechanism whereby this personal and collective unconscious material became seen 'objectively', there is ample evidence in Jung's other writings that he saw the UFO as part of a whole spectrum of 'synchronistic' phenomena. I believe he regretted not having taken the matter further, as he regretted ever abandoning his synchrony^{ic} research, partly because he felt there was every chance of his work being misinterpreted and partly because he went on to other areas of major contribution. It is a pity Jung did not live to see the awakening of the modern interest in the UFO as a non-ordinary phenomenon that transcends the boundaries of dream, myth and reality. Lets hope that some of the 'new ufologists' can pick up and be worthy of the mantle that has fallen to them. One regret, and in this I concur with my colleague, MUFOB editor John Rimmer, is that RKP missed the opportunity to include an additional introduction placing this essential work in the context of the modern UFO research which owes to Jung a great debt. RJMR

Messengers from the Stars by W Raymond Drake (Sphere 1977; 85p; pp238; index, bib) -- Raymond Drake, perhaps more than any other single person, laid the groundwork for the 'ancient astronaut' school, and yet like many English pioneers in other fields, seems to have got more recognition abroad than at home. His 'Gods & Spacemen' series grew out of

a series of articles on historical and mythological references to what seem like ET visitations, appearing in FSR as far back as 1958. Although UK publication of his books has been sporadic (to say the least) they have been in print abroad almost continuously. Several of his manuscripts for books written before VD's Chariots (1969) - eg G&S/Ancient West and G&S/Greece & Rome - were deliberately ignored by British publishers who had had them for a year before the VD bandwagon broke into UK bookshelves. Neither VD nor Robert Temple give any tip of the hat to Drake for writing about the 'Sirius Mystery' in G&S/Ancient East written in 1964-6 and first published in 1968, nine years before Temple's book. Messengers from the Stars is another case in point. It was first published in the USA, by Ray Palmer in 1964, but even there it was never really publicised. Originally called Gods or Spacemen?, it appears now in paperback and for the first time in Britain, nearly 14 years later.

Like its successors, Messengers is jam-packed with reference material gleaned from classical sources and commentaries from all over the world. Unlike VD, Drake believes in giving sound references, and even relates his material to the UFO enigma, and various occult and parapsychological traditions. This book stands up well to the test of time, and joins his other valuable works on the reference shelf. RJMR

Shambhala: Oasis of Light by Andrew Tomas (Sphere, 1977; 85p; pp 175; Photos; Bib) Tomas's thesis is that the mysterious kingdom of Shambhala, mentioned in Tibetan legends as lying to the far north (though Tomas places it with equal facility to the east & south) is an extant centre of superior civilisation, unreachable for normal men, where the Great Ones of the human race watch over mankind's destiny. So long as he restricts himself to collecting references suggestive of Shambhala's existence he does a fairly good, if somewhat embroidered job. Alas, halfway through, the book degenerates into just another version of the Ancient Astronauts theory. It comes as no surprise to learn that Shambhala was set up by superior intelligences from the stars, nor that if we don't stop killing each other and thinking bad thoughts the end of the world is nigh. In the end, only the names and places have been changed to tempt the innocent. SM

The Universe by Lloyd Motz (Abacus 1977; £1.95; pp343; index, bib, plates) - Prof Motz traces the history of the universe from hypothetical beginning to hypothetical end; basic astrophysics make the book a good primer for beginners of any age. It's fairly straight, so don't expect to find Velikovsky et al here...

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow by Jeane Dixon (Bantam/Corgi 1977; 95p; pp504) You may not agree with her political views, but this is really quite a good astrology book - best thing I've read by her anyway - and mostly lacking the doubtful political prophecies evident in the earlier books. Based on the concept that the 12 disciples each embodied a sign of the Zodiac; divides each house into time-strips for more accurate type assessment. SN

More Lives than One? by Jeffrey Iverson (Pan 1977; 75p; pp156; 4pp photos; bibl.) "The evidence of the remarkable Bloxham Tapes" is the loose sub-title. Concerns hypnotic regression of a bunch of people convinced of previous lives. Was an interesting TV documentary last year. SN

Our Changing Universe: The New Astronomy by John Gribbin (Futura 1977; 70p; pp142; 8pp photos; ind; bibl.) By half of the team that brought you 'The Jupiter Effect'. This one is exactly what the title implies: a general updating of recent astronomical discoveries and new thinking. Competent: must be, I understood it... SN

The Secret Forces of the Pyramids by Warren Smith (Sphere 1977; 85p; pp220) This bunch of aliens, see, came down and taught all us savages how to build pyramids - oh, and Atlantis was one of their bases, and, yes, they'll be back one day to sort us out if we don't progress from the current primitive state we're in, and all the answers to all the cosmic questions are right there in the pyramids if only we could see them, and... SN

Parallel Universes by Adi-Kent Thomas Jeffrey (Warner 1977; \$1.95c; pp174; photos) First edition- and hopefully the last. A piece of unconvincing junk (only lacks the inevitable '?' after the title) SN

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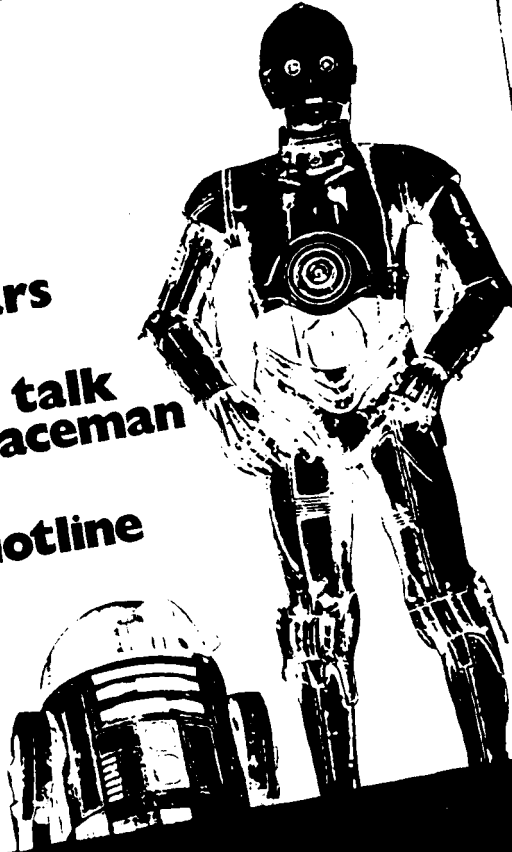
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The Ancient Sun Kingdoms of The Americas by VW von Hagen (Paladin 1977; £1.50; pp351; index, bib, chronology, many photos) - reprinting of a useful reference work on native American cultures.

The Changing Face of Britain by Edward Hyams (Paladin 1977; £1.50; pp256; index, bib, photos) - a guide to the influences on our landscape from the megalith to motorway eras. Sound background for mystery hunters.

Magic and Mystery in Tibet by Alexandra David-Neel (Abacus 1977; £1.75; pp224) - Welcome reprint of this classic of magic, anthropology and parapsychology, first published in 1932, and still essential reading; written by a French scholar who became an initiated Tibetan lama, and surely one of the most remarkable women of this century. Splendid introduction by Aaron Sussman, which incidentally mentions Fort. Thoroughly recommended.

Body Time by Gay Gaer Luce (Paladin 1977; £1.25; pp330; 63page bibliography) reprint of a key reference on biorhythms.

Haunted London by Peter Underwood (Fontana; 60p; pp224; index, bib, photos) - A good gazeteer for ghost hunters.

You and Your Hand by Cheiro (Sphere 1977; 85p; pp187; photos; illos) Revised edition (by Louise Owen). A standard work, with lots of useful examples.

The Tao of Physics by Fritjof Capra (Bantam 1977; \$2.95; pp332; index, notes, bib). Fills the gap between physics and metaphysics.

Mysterious Visitors: The UFO story by Brinsley le Poer Trench (Pan 1977; 70p; pp174; index, refs) - reprinting of The Eternal Subject, dealing with Biblical and psychic phenomena aspects of UFOs.

Beyond the Time Barrier 85p; On the Shores of Endless Worlds 85p; both by Andrew Tomas: rereleases from Sphere.

The Riddle of the Pyramids by Kurt Mendelssohn (Sphere 1977; £1.75p; pp208; 16pp photos; illos; index; bib) A re-issue of the Sphere-Cardinal edition of 1976.

The Bible and Flying Saucers by Barry H Downing (Sphere 1977; 85p; pp175; notes; bib) Reissue.

In Search of Myths and Monsters by Alan Landsburg (Corgi 1977; 85p; pp208; photos, bib).

Healing by Father Francis MacNutt (Bantam/Corgi 1977; 85p; pp308)

Focus on Fact No 3 - The Psychic World by Neville Randall & Gary Keane (Star 1977; 75p; pp128) Newspaper strip reprints.

A Soul's Journey by Peter Richelieu (Sphere 1977; 85p; pp208)

UFO Trek by Warren Smith (Sphere 1977; 85p; pp189).

THREE BOOKLETS OF NOTE:

The Piasa by Ruth Means (privately published by the Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club, Illinois) is a history of the legends among the Illinois Indians of the terrible Piasa, a monstrous dragon-like creature. Upon the bluffs of the Illinois River, at Alton, Indians painted a huge image of the Piasa, firing their bows at it whenever they passed down the river - later they used guns and the cliff face icon became obliterated by bullet holes. Since its discovery by pioneers in 1673, the image has been repainted several times - lately by Alton residents concerned with preserving a priceless heritage. Appended to this brief history of the legend and image, are two early accounts of the chief Ouatoga who rid his people of this scourge, and who must surely rank among the great dragon-slayers of this world.

Did WD Custead fly first? by Nick Pocock (index, bib) being a dissertation in support of WD Custead's claim for the flight of a winged ornithopter about six years before the Wright brothers did in 1903. Custead even formed an Air Ship company. This interesting little history of a forgotten pioneer is interestingly written with good references, contemporary material and many illustrations. Can be obtained for \$2.00 from Nick Pocock: Box 672, Hillsboro, TX 76645, USA; or for £2.00 from DG Pocock: 15 Sheridan Rd, Merton Park, London SW19 3HW.

Bigfoot edited and published by Page Research Library: Box 5012, Rome, Ohio 44085, USA; price \$3.25. -- This special report by Page Research follows their valuable booklet on the BVM apparition at Cairo in 1968. Essentially it is a collection of highly interesting papers by leading Bigfoot researchers. There are reports on Ohio and Montana Bigfeet; two reports on Australia's Yowie, which present valuable new data; and several papers on the paranormal dimensions of the Bigfoot phenomenon, eg their UFO link, and an encounter during astral projection. There's also one article on investigating procedure for would-be Bigfoot hunters; and another more general overview of Bigfoot phenomena, which includes many other types of humanoid sightings. The whole is fleshed out with many drawings and photos, and a list of Bigfoot material, much of which is available from Page Research. Recommended to all serious Fortean.

JOURNALS

We would be obliged if readers writing to addresses or answering advertisements found in our pages say where they saw the information. This helps us and others judge the effectiveness of these notices.

INFO Journal 26 (Dec 77): phantom snipers in Sweden; sci-phi; mystery booms; Quetzalcoatl & the BT; brief notes & reports. INFO: 7317 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740, USA. 6 issues/\$10.00/£5.00. FT readers can pay thru' FT (see p52, panel.)

Pursuit Fall 77: report on Fate's UFO congress; psychological problems of UFO research; New York & New Jersey Bigfeet; inter-galactic language; UFO propulsion hypothesis; & Fortean notes & comments. Pursuit is published by SITU who have a new address. Write for details: SITU, RFD #5, Gales Ferry, Conn 06335, USA.

Res Bureaux Bulletin conducted by Mr X. One of the best Fortean newsletters around. X is not after mass circulation but will exchange for journals, info or clippings. Dedicated Fortean only need apply: RBB, Box 1598, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 5C8.

Stigmata - no-schedule (yet) newsletter of Project Stigma (under editorship of Tom Adams), investigating animal mutilation and death phenomena (mainly USA). Send SAE to Stigmata: Box 1094, Paris, Texas 75460, USA.

Vestigia Newsletter 3 (Fall 77): Fortean investigation group (New Jersey base) probe Bigfoot, the Lizard-man, the Monkey-bird; plus notes on field photography. Write: Vestigia, Box 1183, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861, USA.

Nessletter: recommended newsletter of Ness Information Service: Rip Hepple, Huntshildford, St Johns Chapel, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL13 1RQ. £1.25/£7.00 gets you 12. Essential for monsterlovers.

Anomaly Research Bulletin 7 (Sept 77): phantom kangaroo catalogue (get one cheap, eh?), Big Birds; mutilations; report on Acapulco UFO congress. etc. ARB: Dave Fiderer, 7098 Edinburgh Drive, Lambertville, MI 48144, USA. £1.50/£3.00.

Journal of Occult Studies (mentioned p12 FTRS last issue) - we forgot to give the address. JOS: Box 32, Kingston, Rhode Island 02881, USA. Quarterly: \$7.50 (Students: \$6.00.)

SIS Review 2:1 (Autumn 77): Senmut's Ceiling; Senmut & Phaeton; Birth of Monotheism; 'Peoples of the Sea' in art; Electricity in astronomy; more. SIS are a study group exploring and promoting Velikovsky's theories of catastrophic geology and astronomy, and errors in ancient chronologies. (See review on p24). SIS: 6 Jersey House, Cotton Lane, Manchester 20. Write for details.

Lantern 20 (Winter 77): Victorian ghost; Suffolk stones & lore; pt3 of Black Dog study; notes. A quarterly journal of East Anglian oddities, from BSIG: 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk. 1yr/85p. Write for foreign rates.

Neurolog: journal of Network, Box 317, Berkeley, CA 94701, USA. A product of the teachings of Robert Wilson, Timothy Leary and John Lilly, the 3 pillars of Network are Space migration, Increased intelligence, and Life Extension (SMILE), and is an intelligent, aware, info exchange on these and related subjects. Sample: \$1.00. Write for details.

MUFOB 9 (Winter 77): Danish airship of 1908; 'Facts, frauds & fairytales'; 'Fairies & fireballs'; more. Brain jolting stuff as usual. MUFOB: 11 Beverley Rd, New Maldon, Surrey KT3 4AW. 4 issues £1.25/£3.00.

Journal of Meteorology: recent issues have reports on whirlwinds, cyclones, floods, weather freaks and extremes, hail, lightnings, 'Atmospheric music', dark bands on clouds, thunders. Essential for all interested in Fortean meteorology. J.Met, Cockhill House, Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 9BG. Monthly: £6.50/\$16.00.

Page Research Newsletter 21: letters, 'Close Encounters' photos; an 1958 report on humanoid/close encounters in the 1950s, with drawings, See their ad elsewhere in this issue.

The Ley Hunter 79: ghost lights & leys; did Henry James crack-up on a Windsor ley?; rings of festival sites?; ley in suburban Sudbury, Middx; John Michell & Bob Forrest at Land's End; a new 'Outline of geomantic engineering'. TLH details in panel on back page.

Christian Parapsychologist Dec 77: gnostic and Egyptian concepts of immortality; 'Possession and the paranormal'; news, etc. Quarterly: £2.00/\$4.00. CP: St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, London EC4

*** We very much regret that space has run out again, when we still have books and journals to review. Senders of review material are assured that sooner or later all items received will be listed. ***

Flu cont from p20...

councils responsible for the homes. 29 March: 1 dead and many ill at Colchester. 2 April: 10 die at Dewsbury, Yorks. 18 April: 18 ill at Gateshead, saved only by a panic inoculation after the earlier Tyneside outbreak. Late-April: figures said to be running treble the seasonal average, exceeding the official 'alert threshold'. 20 April: 30 deaths in 3 weeks in a geriatric hospital at Aylsham Norfolk. 22 April: many ill at Evesham, Worcs; and more deaths in Northumberland. 29 April: 10 dead, 40 ill at Corby, Northants.

The peak for A/Victoria/75 (1st first identified in Victoria, Australia in 1975) seems to be over. I tried to tot up the death toll from figures announced in our clippings: over 100, maybe 200. According to the Daily Mail 29 June 1977, the actual toll was about 1000 - a disconcerting discrepancy.

Sources: Daily Mail 8,23,25,26,28,30 March, 2,20,22 April 1977; D.Telegraph 26 March, 19,29 April 1977; D.Express 25,26 March 1977; Guardian 25,28,29 Mar 1977; Sunderland Echo 26 March, 18,21, 23 April 1977; Sunday Times 27 March 1977 Newcastle-upon-Tyne Journal 20,22,28 April, 2 May 1977; Hartlepool Mail 20, 22,25 April 1977 (Cr: Peter Rogerson, Paul Screeton, Valerie Martin, P Hope-Evans, Roger Sandell, Nigel Watson.)

Hmm - immediately after typing the above I go downstairs to see what's in the second mail today...a heap of clippings from Ion Will, FT's roving clipster, on 'Red flu' in the UK. The present outbreak began at a USAF base at Upper Heyford, Oxfordshire - it is a version of the A1 virus resembling the Russian epidemics of 1946-7, mild and highly infectious, now officially designated A/USSR/77. The outbreak hits children and young people (a compensation for the havoc among old folks earlier?) who have no immunity - ie those not inoculated since 1958, its last appearance in the UK. The USAF base began in mid-Jan, hitting 300 children there. Soon cases were reported in Oxford and Bath. A TV news report on 25 Jan said that 700 pupils were affected at Oundle, near Peterborough; nearly 1000 pupils at a college in Norfolk; and several hundreds in Somerset - and there's no sign of a peak yet. Sunday Times 22 Jan 1977; D. Mirror & D.Telegraph 24 Jan 1977; Guardian 26 Jan 1977 (Cr: Ion Will).

More on A/influenza

Apart from a brief reference in FT18 we never recorded an outbreak of flu in west New Guinea, killing 55 people, in the aftermath of a quake there. NY Herald Tribune 25 Aug 1976 (Cr: Ion Will).

Early in 1977, Dr H Fukushima, head of the Japanese National Health Institute, warned the world of several new types of influenza. From a study of captured migrating birds he found they carried 40 types of A/influenza virus, nine of which were completely new. Animal-carried viruses, he warned, can mutate into forms which affect humans. Taiwan, China Post 3 March 1977 (Cr: Ion Will.)

That same month, flu was raging in Hungary with 860,000 people affected, and 35,000 new cases just in the week prior to the report. D.Telegraph 25 March 1977. According to other sources it was the prototype of the present A/USSR/77 strain. Read on...

The first we heard of the huge epidemic of 'Russian flu' was in late December 1977, when Russian doctors announced controls to prevent the spread, and asked the World Influenza Center, in London, to help identify it and develop a vaccine. British doctors said "millions" in Russia were affected and that it could hit Britain before a vaccine could be ready.

They were right. It appeared at the USAF base, Upper Heyford, sometime in mid-Jan (see above).

The papers for 30 Dec 1977 carried confirmation of the Russian epidemic, raging since the end of Nov 77; the NYHT said that the flu had come from the Soviet Far East, and was sweeping through all the major cities. The Guardian 5 Jan said optimistically that 26 millions were affected but they should be better by the end of the week.

The flu seemed to spread rapidly - in a few days it was reported taking hold in Finland and Taiwan. At 22 Jan it was firmly planted in Britain and the Philippines. At 24 Jan it was reported from Israel, Switzerland and North America (for which see below). D.Mirror 20 Dec 1977; D.Telegraph 30 Dec 1977, 5 & 24 Jan 1978; NY Herald Tribune 30 Dec 1977, 7 & 23 Jan 1978; Guardian 5 Jan 1978. (Cr: Valerie Martin, Ion Will.)

FLU IN THE USA

Swine Flu

Early in 1976, about 500 soldiers at Fort Dix, New Jersey, showed evidence of contracting a variation of swine flu; 12 cases proved positive and 1 man died. It awoke memories of a devastating influenza epidemic in the USA that killed 450,000

Americans in 1918-19, related to a type of Spanish flu that killed millions worldwide in the same period. Dr David Spencer, director of the US Center for Disease Control (CDC), drafted a plan for a massive inoculation campaign based on a projection of ½million deaths - this we now know to be completely wrong. By the end of March 76, President Ford and Congress had been hoodwinked (in the opinion of many) into allocating \$135 million for a vaccine programme. The virus grew too slowly by conventional methods so "to meet production deadlines" a civilian scientist undertook the lab. development of a man-made 'super-virus'.

By Oct 1976 it was clear something had gone horribly wrong - not only were there protests about the constitutional violations in rushing through a secret and hastily conceived plan to inject drugs into millions of people, and thus opening the way to possible future 'mind-control' methods, but there were serious doubts about the vaccine itself. According to the National Enquirer, which led a long campaign against the programme (see NE 12 Oct, 2 Nov 1976; 11 Jan, 22 Feb, 8 March 1977) the vaccine was given in doses so low as to be immunologically useless, and caused side-effects ranging from fainting, fever, hives, hypertension through to asthma and skin reactions. Worse still; it directly caused over 100 deaths and a rare form of paralysis called Guillain-Barre Syndrome, and some doctors were saying that it could trigger multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, tendonitis and encephalitis. The programme was finally stopped on 16 Dec after 40 million people were inoculated. Top medical scientists were openly accusing the government of deceit to cover-up a grim hoax. The NE 22 Feb 77 reports at least 70 suits against the government for nearly \$4 million, and 4 cases already in court for \$13 million, plus up to 1200 cases in preparation, all claiming for damages. (We have so many sources of clippings on this subject that we haven't room for them all - they are on file here. Cr: Gary Abbott, Tom Adams, Ion Will.)

A classic irony came with the realization that in their panic the government scientists had overlooked a perfectly safe, tested and efficacious vaccine already on their shelves. NE 26 April 77.

Flu 1976/7

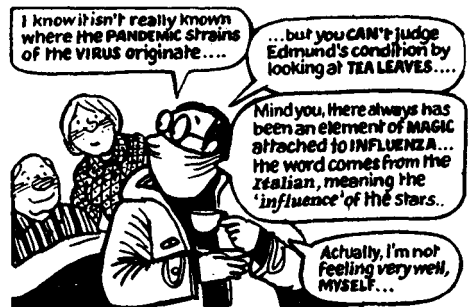
The real tragedy of the 1976/7 swine flu fiasco is that in spite of the CDC panic there had been just 1 death attributable to swine flu since Oct 1975, and its effect was to distract official att-

ention from the real killer, an A/Victoria strain, which claimed 7300 Americans over the same period. NE 2 Nov 1976.

Since early 1977 several strains of flu were pandemic in the US, but mainly A/Victoria and A/Texas (which is related to the former), A/Hongkong & B/Hongkong. The B/type hit the east coast from New England to the Gulf states and inland to Iowa & Michigan; the A/type mainly hit the southern states. This pattern soon dissolved as cases turned up everywhere.

Cynicism and resistance to flu inoculation was high in the wake of the swine flu blunder, and the only A/Victoria vaccine had been mixed with the swine flu vaccine which nobody now wanted. I have no figures for the tolls of these viruses in this period, but 11,000 died from A/Victoria alone the previous winter. NE 18 Jan 1977; Jacksonville, Florida, Times-Union 6,7,12,25 Feb, 26,30 March, 25 April 1977; Newsweek 21 Feb 1977 (Cr: Gary Abbott.)

The deaths and illnesses formed the background to yet another dramatic turn of events. Between 1 Jan and mid-March about 150 children across the afflicted states fell victims to the Reye Syndrome - a rare encephalitis-like complication of the central nervous system that usually attacks children after B/type flu or chicken pox, which causes their brains and livers to swell. We have reports of some Florida papers on the progress of six Jacksonville children - 4 died - and one boy in Kansas City, whose skull was opened to relieve the pressure on the brain; but we know nothing about the



Strange that this should appear in the Guardian (23 Jan 1978, Cr: Ion Will) so soon after Hoyle's star-plagues article (see back to p17)...or maybe not! The fact is that we can pinpoint the area of origin of a plague, but we have no idea at all of where the virus came from in the first place. Interestingly, we remember the cranky allegations that Legion Fever was caused by UFOs - PT20/13.

national figures. Florida Times-Union 15 Feb, 1,3,4,8,12,14,19 March, 27 April 1977; Carlisle, Penn, Evening Sentinel 26 Feb 1977 (Cr: Gary Abbott, L Arnold.)

Lastly, at the present time, as the Russian A/type flu begins to grip across the USA - amid ghastly winter conditions, we notice - "experts" were calling for a vaccine programme to get under way in case the fairly predictable epidemic comes between Feb and April. Forgive our doubletake, but isn't this where we came in...? NY Herald Tribune 14 Jan 1978; D.Telegraph 24 Jan 1978 (Cr: Ion Will.)

LEGIONNAIRE'S DISEASE

There have been a few developments since our write-up (in FT20/10-13) of the original outbreak in Philadelphia, in July/Aug 1976, which cost the lives of 29 people visiting a convention.

Bug Identified

The CDC continued its search for the agents of the disease. There were several attempts to link it to a metal-toxin - nickel carbonyl - but these remained fairly inconclusive. There was a good deal of cynicism, in view of the swine flu debacle, and the CDC were accused of trying to grab some good press by trying to nail the LF cause. NE 8 March 1977; Guardian 30 May 1977; Spotlight, USA, 5 Sept 1977 (Cr: P Rogerson, P Hope-Evans, Tom Adams.)

The metal-toxin theory was eclipsed by another announcement (which also drew the same criticism) that a long, thin bacterium had been isolated by Dr JE McDade of the CDC, who decided to have a second look at some old path-specimens before discarding them. Cross checking in CDC records showed the same bacterium was responsible for 2 previously unidentified outbreaks in 1968, in Washington and Pontiac, MI, in which hundreds were ill and 16 died.

About the same time the bacterium was caught, an LF case in St Mary's, Penn, was successfully treated with two antibiotics, gentamicin and erythromycin. By July 77, the CDC were confident that at last they had the bug and the treatment ...and just in time, because from June new cases came thick and fast... Time 31 Jan 1977; Jacksonville, Florida, Times-Union 16,26 March, 17 July 1977; Newsweek 31 Jan 1977; Family Weekly, USA, 7 Aug 1977; New Scientist 15 Sept 1977; Springfield, Mo, Sunday News & Leader 16 Oct 1977 (Cr: Tom Adams, Gary Abbott)

New Cases

Between the Philadelphia outbreak and the end of October 1977 there were 66 cases of Legion Fever (LF) in 19 US

states, with 24 dead - the worst hit was Vermont in Aug 77 with 13 dead - these are positive identifications only. For cases, see Big Spring, Tx, Herald 19 June 1977; Daily Oklahoman 17 June 1977; Corpus Christi, Tx, Caller & Miami, Florida, Herald both 9 July 1977; Alamosa, Col, Valley Courier 10 Aug 1977; Bangkok Post 6 Sept 1977; D.Telegraph 7 Sept 1977; Daily News, & Evening Bulletin both of Philadelphia, Penn, 10 Sept 1977; Dallas, Tx, Morning News 20 Sept 1977; San Angelo Tx, Standard 23 Sept 1977; Time, Asia ed, 17 Oct 1977; The Star, Tx, 25 Oct 1977 (Cr: Thomas R Adams, Ion Will, Gary Abbott, R White). NB: these figures are up to late Oct 77 only and take no account of any cases or deaths since then; or deaths suspected, but not proved to be Legion Fever.

LF in Spain & UK

From June 1977 there were several cases of LF in England - but as the precise sequence of events is hard to determine at this distance, we'll give them in context. It seems that a Glasgow doctor, puzzling over the mystery death of a patient after a holiday at the Hotel Rio Park, Benidorm, Spain, thought the symptoms were similar to a case in 1973 when 3 tourists returned to Glasgow gravely ill after staying at the very same hotel. Samples and details of all four cases were sent to the CDC, who confirmed Legion Fever. Since then 11 cases (4 deaths) have been reported in Nottingham, and others in Manchester - These have no connexion with Benidorm. In a TV documentary ('Tonight', BBC1 13 Dec 1977) doctors confessed that although they can now identify and treat the disease they still don't know where it comes from or why it is so sporadic. South China Morning Post 10 Oct 1977; D.Mail & Sun both 11 Nov 1977; D.Telegraph 12 Nov 1977; Sunday Times 13 Nov 1977 (Colin Johnson, Valerie Martin.)

Sometime in November an alcoholic Scotsman died of LF in a London hospital after failing to respond to Erythromycin and other antibiotics. Doctors put the incubation period of LF at about a week and the man had been in London during that time and so "must" have caught LF somewhere in London. Panic fears of an epidemic quickly evaporated, and the doctors were left with the mystery of why no other cases were being reported anywhere in England. London Evening Standard 23 Dec 1977; Times, D.Express, & Guardian all 24 Dec 1977 (Cr: Ion Will, CR Mather.)

MISCELLANEOUS EXOTICS

Burkitt's lymphoma - this form of cancer, known in Africa and New Guinea but rare in N America, killed a boy in 1976, at Winchester, Virginia. In 1971 2 boys similarly died in the same area. How they contracted the disease is a mystery. Modern People, USA, 12 Sept 1976 (Cr: Ron Dobbins/cf RBB 6.)

Anthrax - on quake-torn Sumbawa Island, 8 farmers die after eating infected meat. The measles is plaguing Lombok at the same time. Bangkok Post 31 Aug 1977 (IW)

Rocky Mountain spotted fever - on 22 Feb, 2 men who worked for the CDC - one delivered, the other a maintenance man - came down almost simultaneously with an unidentified flu-like fever. They died on 28 Feb. It's ironic that this should happen on the CDC's doorstep while the swine flu fiasco was peaking. The illness was not identified until later in March. Florida, Times-Union 2,3,4,11 March 1977; Taiwan, China Post 3 March 1977; Newsweek 7 March 1977 (Cr: G Abbott, I Will)

Thalassaemia - a blood disease, rare in the UK, but becoming more common among immigrant groups. Questions asked in the Commons. D.Telegraph 29 March '77.

Crohn's disease - an intestine affliction that remains "one of medicine's unsolved mysteries" is on the increase, say doctors. Times 9 April 1977 (P H-E).

Meningoencephalitis - 2 cases of very rare primary amoebic meningoencephalitis found in USA (North Carolina & Texas). Harrisburg, Penn, Evening News 18 Oct 1977 (Cr: Larry Arnold.)

Malaria and other tropical diseases have increased "20-fold" in the UK over the last decade, top scientist tells annual meeting of Pharmaceutical Society. D.Telegraph 13 Sept 1977 (Cr: V Martin.)

Pneumonia - a new strain of antibiotic resistant pneumonia has emerged in South Africa. Bangkok, Nation Review 4 Sept 1977 (Cr: Ion Will.)

Weill's disease, carried by rats, has killed a farmer at Rockbourne, Hants. Between 1966-1973 there were only 220 cases (37 deaths) of this rare disease. D.Telegraph 6 Jan 1978 (Cr: V Martin.)

'Lyme disease' - 60 people at Old Lyme and East Haddam, Connecticut, have been crippled by a baffling form of severe rheumatoid arthritis that has defied attempts to trace its origin. The Star USA, 25 Jan 1977 (Cr: Larry Arnold.)

'Balagbala', the local name for an unidentified disease causing blood clots, which has killed 26 people in the north Moluccas island district of Gane. South China Morning Post 1 Nov 1977; Rising Nepal 2 Nov 1977 (Cr: Colin Johnson, Ion Will.)

Lassa Fever & Marburg Disease

Lassa fever, one of the world's deadliest infectious diseases, and endemic in Africa, caused several scares in the UK, Australia and Canada, mainly among people returning from Africa, in 1976. For local UK scares, which lasted well into 1977, see Wolverhampton Express & Star 5 Aug 1976; D.Mail 23,25 April 1977; S.Times, & S.Mirror both 24 April 1977; D.Mirror 10 June 1977; D.Telegraph 3 Sept 1977 (Cr: P Hope-Evans.) Fortunately there were no positive cases, but the spotlight had been focussed on the possibility of a European lassa fever epidemic by another deadly African scourge, the Marburg disease.

The epidemic covered southern Sudan & northern Zaire, killing over 300 with possibly thousands ill. There is no vaccine. There seems to be some difference of opinion as to whether it is the Marburg virus or a related one (Arizona Republic 15 Oct 1976; New Scientist 28 Oct 1976; Cr Ron Dobbins/ RBB 8), but either could be carried by the green monkey (*Aethiops cercopithecus*), It was green monkey organs, imported from Uganda, that caused 30 cases (3 deaths) among laboratory staff in West Germany in 1967. The virus was quickly identified and named after the lab at Marburg. Prior to the 1976 epidemic, the only other known cases were 2 (1 died) in Johannesburg in March 1975 - but doctors believe that a number of East Africa's unidentified epidemics may have been Marburg disease. Before the current epidemic was identified, Belgian officials thought it might have been its close relation, Lassa fever, and from early October 1976 stringent controls were imposed on all planes from Africa, including spraying. England too clamped down and individuals who had been in the plague-area found themselves in 3 weeks isolation. Times 15 Oct 1976; S.Times 10 Oct 1976; Newport News, Va, D.Press 7 Oct 1976; South China Morning Post 30 Oct 1976 (Cr: Ion Will, Gary Abbott.)

Samples of the Marburg virus had been sent to the 3 top disease research centers, CDC, one in Belgium, and Porton Down in Wiltshire. A BBC2 TV documentary on the work of Porton Down, which mentioned Lassa and Marburg fever, was aired on the night of 11 Nov 1976. By a shocking coincidence the news the next morning said that Geoffrey Platt, working at the research center on the Marburg virus, had slipped with his hypodermic full of the germs and punctured his rubber glove. Incredibly he was merely sent home...but later on put in isolation with 44 of his contacts and a 26-strong medical team in

a hastily evacuated London hospital. He seems to have been cured with the aid of 'interferon' an experimental extract of human cells also being studied at Porton Down. D.Mirror 16,20 Nov 1976; New Scientist 18 Nov 1976; S.Times, & Observer both 21 Nov 1976.

Our latest note is that a new Marburg epidemic was in progress in the Western

province of Kenya, near Lake Victoria. Bangkok World 11 March 1977 (Cr: I Will.)

*** This extensive list of modern scourges is far from complete - we have as many again mystery illnesses of various kinds, including the "mass hysteria" kind...but I think we'd better leave that til next time. *** RJMR



Forfeana
Corrigenda
RA



Having taken potshots at the errors of a few other authors, it would quite hypocritical for me to ignore my own - so this is an opportunity to correct a few mistakes in Phenomena (T&H, London 1977; Pantheon, NY 1977). John Michell and I agree that the book should stand as a record of our thought at that time - thought which continues to develop - so I will confine myself to errors of fact.

Firstly: the three corrections given in FT23/38 have been incorporated into the second printing of the UK large format paperback (available through PT - see panel on p52).

Polaroid 'Ghost Image'

Secondly: we wish to thank the photographer, DJ Girling, of Maidstone, Kent, who took the trouble to correct our impression that Polaroid films could not be exposed more than once. In Phenomena (p57 c3) we quote a case from Peter Haining's Ghosts: The Illustrated History (Sidgwick & Jackson, London 1975, p118-9) where 3 different images of Bill Watkins appeared on a Polaroid snap taken by his older brother Sam - later, according to Haining, Bill was killed standing in the same spot & in the same pose figured in the snap. Haining says firmly: "It is impossible to triple expose a polaroid film..." Although Haining gave no source for this case, nor any other clue to its authenticity, we decided to use it in Phenomena. We ought to have qualified it, but didn't. Mr Girling sent us several examples of, not

double or triple exposure but, quadruple exposure, pointing out that cameras can indeed appear to lie. Lacking the information about the origin of the Sam Watkins photo we can take the matter no further; but we decide to keep the case in any future edition, but alter the text to allow for the new data, and emphasising the other point of interest, that the photo, hoax or not, appeared to prefigure a genuine tragedy.

The 'Bristol Mirage'

Thirdly: we have the problem of the alleged photo of a mirage of Bristol taken in Alaska, in 1887, by the pioneer Willoughby (see Phenomena p62 c3 & p63). Again we took a source on reasonable trust and seem to have stumbled into an intriguing mystery. The Western Daily Press, published in Bristol, thought the story of Willoughby's picture would make a good feature - which was duly written by their Deputy Features Editor, Chris Mosey, in the 7 Dec 1977 edition. Mosey went to see the well-known Bristol historian, Reece Winstone, and showed him the Bristol-mirage photo from our book. This photo, incidentally, is the one from Miner Bruce's Alaska (1900); Bruce having it straight from Willoughby.

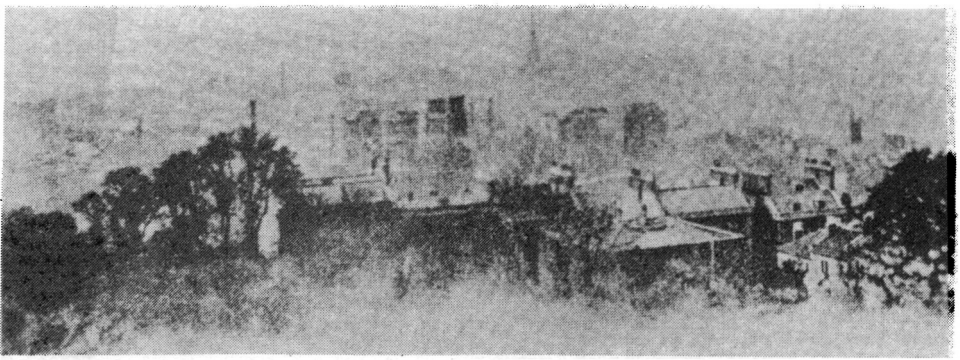
Mr Reece Winstone immediately recognised the distinctive architecture of Bristol of the late 19th century - he even took Mosey to the top of Brandon Hill and identified nearly every feature in the photo and its corresponding reality. (You'll have to read the WDP article for the complete listing of

features and buildings.) Judging by the present and missing features in the photo, Winstone dates the photo as between 1886-1897...and suggests that there was time for Willoughby, or Miner Bruce, to have got a contemporary photo of Bristol and touted it as a photo of the mirage of Bristol. He further points out that Miner Bruce's photo shows Bristol from Brandon Hill all right, but it is reversed.

Indeed Fort (Books p492) refers to Alexander Badlam's Wonders of Alaska, pointing out that he also prints a copy of Willoughby's photo, but that it is reversed compared to Bruce's. Whose was supposed to be the correct version we shall never know, and the question remains academic in the light of the greater question of whether they were in fact photos of a mirage. That mirages can be photographed is not in doubt - see Scientific American Jan 1976 pp102-111 for some good examples...and under extremely rare conditions one could imagine some degree of inversion or transposition occurring. Basically the dilemma is this: if the photos are of a genuine mirage, then the mirage city is remarkably like Bristol, and we have a major optical /meteorological problem to solve. The corollary is that if the mirage is truly one of Bristol, then, transposed or not, it would have been possible to photograph it, and the photo would have been not unlike the one before us.

Now because of the unlikelyhood or rarity of Bristol being seen in the skies of Alaska, according to modern theory, people would rather believe that Willoughby, or Bruce, concocted the picture... and this plunges into an argument about the nature of proof or evidence. Fort, and the sources he cites, give ample evidence of a tradition of exotic alien cityscapes seen in the sky over Alaska. Only with the arrival of those who had known Bristol could the comparison and identification be made. Willoughby thought it was a mirage of Bristol. One of Fort's sources (Books p491) quotes others as thinking it could have been Toronto, Montreal, or Peking - and this was in 1897, a full 10 years after Willoughby claimed it was Bristol. It seems reasonable that Willoughby's belief was genuine enough, and he was far too busy to perpetrate a fairly pointless hoax. Fort, citing Badlam and others, suggests that someone could have sold Willoughby some dry photographic plates pre-exposed to a Bristol scene. May I suggest another possibility based on Willoughby's honesty - that he had indeed several times seen the mirage he was convinced was Bristol, so convinced in fact that he could show round a genuine scene of the city to point out its similarities. If this was done enough he could easily slip into believing the photo was of the mirage itself; equally it is possible that Bruce made the error

Willoughby's 'Bristol' (below) compared with its contemporary original (right. Copyright: R Winstone), one of 26 period photos in Reece Winstone's Bristol in the 1880s, and reproduced by kind permission. Readers are invited to send for his prospectus of privately printed books on Bristol history, to: 23 Hyland Grove, Henbury Hill, Bristol 9.



of linking the photo with the mirage. Here is a first class project for some enterprising researcher to disentangle. And until it is settled beyond question we're reasonably happy about presenting Willoughby's opinion and photo.

Maximilian's Meteorite

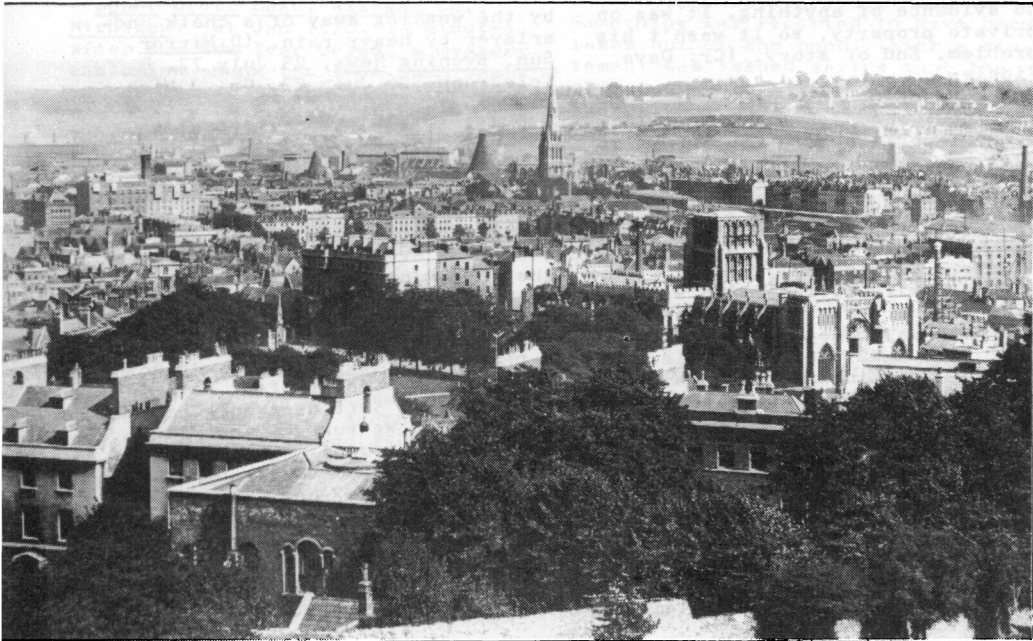
Fourthly: at the end of the first para, column 1, p16, Phenomena, the place and date of Maximilian's "meteorite" should be corrected to Ensisheim, in Alsace, 7 November 1492 (according to Greg's catalogue, Rept BA 1860, p52.)

The Oliver Thomas 'Vanishing'

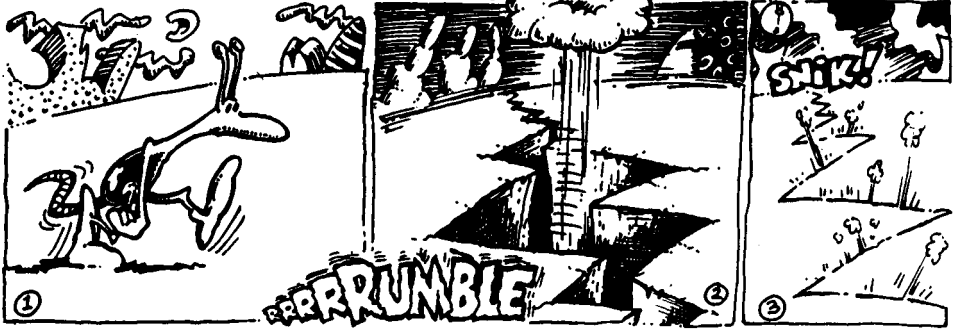
Lastly: several people have expressed their surprise that we should include one of the more notorious disappearance stories, that of the boy Oliver Thomas in 1909, on the authority of Brad Steiger - especially as we had helped expose the equally notorious vanishing of David Lang (see FT18/6 and Robert Schadewald's follow-up in Fate Dec 1977). Our interest in the Oliver Thomas story was in the way it contained all the elements of 'phenomenal reality' that make a story meaningful in a mythological and psychological sense - and it is for this reason we wish to keep it in the book. We point out that we did indeed qualify this inclusion by saying that there are no references to original sources.

We knew that, as fact, the Oliver Thomas story was suspect, but until recently we didn't know just how much. Informally we've heard that Steiger probably got the story from one of John Macklin's books - which gives it the kiss of death as Macklin is notorious for fictionalising events and rarely giving sources. Kevin Randle, writing in the APRO Bulletin 25:3, Sept 1976, identifies the story as a rewritten version of the disappearance of Oliver Lerch mentioned by John Keel, Otto Binder and Morris Jessup, who in turn got the story from FATE Sept 1950. Loren Gross (APRO Bulletin Nov 1976) shows that Harold T Wilkins tried to investigate the story in 1932 but could discover nothing to substantiate it. Randle summarizes the story elements (most of them contradictory) like this: "Oliver Lerch/Larch/-Thomas, aged either 11 or 20, disappeared from either South Bend, Indiana, or Rhyader, Wales, on either Christmas Eve 1889, Christmas Day 1889, Christmas Eve 1890 or 1909. He got either 50ft, 75ft or 225ft before 'They got him.'" Wilkins dates the South Bend incident as Christmas Eve 1900. I can only add that I have searched the Brecon County Times which covers the Rhyader valley area for December 1909 and January 1910 and found no mention of an Oliver Thomas vanishing mysteriously at all. Our

cont on p46/



Geophysical Curiosities



SUBSIDENCES.

are
The causes of subsidences (usually easily explainable (or surmiseable after the event)...however, when we find a sudden rash of subsidences, as in the summer of 77, we start to become interested. And so, a brief round up from our 'holes in the ground' file...

Toledo, Ohio: 1976. A letter to The Blade (Toledo) 28 Sept 76, from an anonymous woman, complains of a hole in her backyard which had been growing deeper for almost a year. A city inspector surmised the cause as being a spring, an underground branch of the Delaware Creek or an ancient home-made sewer; although the city charts apparently contain no evidence of anything. It was on private property, so it wasn't his problem. End of story. (Cr: Dave Fideler).

Welwyn Garden City, Herts: 4 Apr 77. The (London) Evening News (Same date) reports a hole big enough to swallow a car appearing in a road on a housing estate. The hole, 20 feet deep and said to be caused by underground streams, stretched nearly the whole width of the road.

Aston, Birmingham: 2 May 77. 30yr old housewife Vivian Flynn was hanging out her washing when the ground gave way beneath her and she fell into a 12-foot-deep hole. She managed to cling to the edge until a neighbour pulled her clear, and she was taken to hospital with cuts, bruises and shock. The hole was caused by council engineers building a sewer tunnel under the garden. (Daily Mirror, 3 May 77)

Munich, Germany: 1 July 77. Rain water getting into a drilling for a subway was blamed for a subsidence in the road beneath a parked car.

The car had to be winched out of the hole by firemen. (Daily Telegraph, 2 July 77)

Grays, Essex: 24 July 77. A large hole appeared in the back garden of Mr David Brightman's house in Lodge Lane. It started being 6ft wide, 20ft deep, but then grew in the following couple of days to, by some accounts, 12ft wide, 30-40ft deep, and a horizontal tunnel appeared at the bottom. The area is known as the Daneholes (ie: deneholes) because of a series of tunnels and holes cut in the chalk, believed to be ancient mine-workings...and there have been earlier subsidences in the area. A council official said the subsidence had been caused by the washing away of a chalk underlayer by heavy rain. (D. Mirror, Sun, Evening News, 25 July 77. D. Telegraph, 26 July 77. Cr: J Michell)

Pontardulais, W. Glamorgan: 25 July 77: A section of the M4 motorway began to subside, 12 weeks after the road opened. Cause: underground working on a new coal seam. Effect: the subsidence was expected to spread over a 300yd stretch in the following 2 months. One wonders if motorway planners check anything before they start work...(D. Teleg. 26 July 77)

Dudley Zoo, W. Midlands: 16 Nov 77 We have only the briefest details: a 20ft wide, 50ft deep hole appeared in the zoo. We suspect that the animals were tunneling out, but there are no records of any escapes: (D. Telegraph, 17 Nov 77).

Tividale, W Midlands: 21 Nov 77. John Stone was driving his van along the New Birmingham Road when the road began to give way beneath him. He managed to accelerate clear, and

the hole grew to be 30ft wide and 450ft deep. Council officials believe it to be the airshaft of a mine closed many years ago. (Sun, 22-Nov 77. Cr: Paul Hudson, IAN M. LAWES.)

ICE-HOLES.

Some may feel that this material belongs more properly in the 'falls' section, as that is the assumed cause for most appearances of holes in ice. However, as rarely is anything found that might have fallen, we prefer to reserve judgement, and classify merely by the event itself.

Lake Uppramen, central Sweden: 1968. Nearby villagers saw, heard and felt nothing; but suddenly a huge hole appeared in the 3ft thick ice on the lake. Triangular in shape, 60ft by 90ft, there seemed to be no explanation: a plane crash was discounted on the grounds that there were no traces round the hole, only thrown-up blocks of ice, an indication, according to Colonel Curt Hermansson who led the investigation, that something incredibly powerful had gone into the lake. A meteorite was discounted on the grounds that the hole was too big. A frogman found nothing. We wish we had more details of this tantalising case, but at the moment we can only find an undated clipping from the D. Mirror, 1968 (Cr: I Bunn). Anyone help?

Upper Scott Lake, Allegan Co., Michigan: 1st Jan 1970. 15 minutes after the New Year began, a mystery explosion shook the YMCA Camp Sears on the shores of the lake. There was damage to the health centre and the dining lodge, several hundred yards apart: both picture windows and storm windows destroyed, light fittings damaged, and three wooden shutters looked as if they had been cut to ribbons with an axe. The shockwaves were felt up to 4 miles away.

Next morning a large hole was discovered in the lake ice, 200yds from shore. The ice was 6-8 inches thick, the hole was 40ft across, and chunks of ice had been blown 100ft from the hole. Another oddity was the 3ft hole found 35ft from shore, through which mud and 'sea-weed' had oozed to form a mound 2ft high. By afternoon, only muddy water remained. The blast was likened to a 1000lb bomb, and there were reports of an airplane being heard overhead. Deputies were working on the idea that the Lake had been dynam-

ited, but a local said the explosion would have required at least 25 sticks. It seems no one went down to have a look in the Lake. (Grand Rapids (Mich) Press, 4 Jan 1970. Cr: Dave Fideler, who will be discussing the case further in Anomaly Research Bulletin).

Wakefield, New Hampshire: 10 Jan 77. The case of "McCarthy's Pond" has already been covered in INFO Journal 22 (p14) and Res Bureaux Bulletin 12 (p6), so we give only a brief outline here for the sake of completeness, referring the interested to the above periodicals for more information.

William McCarthy found that part of the ice on his pond had melted, leaving a hole 3ft square in ice variously reported as 15-36in thick. It was still snowing when McCarthy discovered this, and poking the hole with a stick he saw a flat black object, 2ft square, with a bubble-like protuberance. There was also a second hole in the 50ft diameter pond, linked to the first by a crack. In a few hours, all the ice melted.

McCarthy reported the event, and his farm was soon aswam with police, officials, experts, reporters and sightseers. Then reports conflict: the pond was said to have an abnormally high radiation reading, which had disappeared 12 hours later. Something was reported to have been taken out of the pond: later a statement was issued saying that the object was not a space ship. When that didn't quell the curiosity, the whole thing was flatly denied, and spokesmen admitted to being under a 'gag' order. Last we heard, McCarthy was going to defiantly dig up the whole pond when the spring thaw came, and find the object he'd been told wasn't there. As we've heard nothing since, we assume that this is one hole that nobody got to the bottom of... (Grand Rapids (Mich) Press, 13, 14 Jan 77, San Antonio Sight, 13 Jan, San Antonio Express, Hong Kong Standard, 14 Jan, D. Mail, 15 Jan, S. China Morning Post, Dallas Morning Post, 16 Jan 77. Cr: T R Adams, D Fideler, P Hope-Evans, Ion Will).

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Cover: 'Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones' by Gustave Dore. (FPL)

UFOs, CLOUDS & PSEUDO-PLANES

by J. B. Delair.

Although a few writers, such as Jessup [1] and the Lorenzens [2], have briefly discussed these clouds which, though externally resembling natural clouds, behave quite unlike ordinary clouds, and others – notably Valee [3] – have reviewed these cases involving cigar-shaped clouds associated with or created by cigar-shaped ufos, almost all other ufologists have paid scant attention to them. Nevertheless, if we are ever to perceive the true magnitude of the ufo phenomenon and the degree to which it sometimes manifests itself in almost undetectable guises, these aberrant 'clouds' cannot be ignored and actually reveal the extent of the great ufo problem in several specific but as yet little-studied areas. This paper concentrates on selected reports featuring aberrant 'clouds' and their various demonstrable connections with the ufo phenomenon.

The following twenty-five cases, arranged chronologically, are typical of the many known events in this category.

1. In 1794, a strangely *luminous* cloud passed over Sienna, in Italy, and jettisoned a number of stones. All the stones were seen to fall from this one cloud [4].
2. During the afternoon of April 26th, 1812, a rapidly moving fiery globe of great brilliancy passed over the neighbourhood of L'Aigle, in Normandy, France, and was followed in a few seconds by a violent explosion that lasted five or six minutes, and which was heard for 30 leagues in all directions. Three or four loud reports like those of cannons were heard and then succeeded by noises resembling musketry fire (i.e. a crackling sound), after which a dreadful rumbling occurred like the beating of a drum.
These noises emanated from a small *rectangular* cloud, of which the longest side lay along an east-to-west alignment. The cloud remained motionless throughout the period of these detonations and noises, and was at so great an altitude that the inhabitants of two hamlets a league apart saw it directly overhead. At the time the air was calm and the sky serene except for a few scattered clouds. A multitude of stones then fell, amidst a hissing sound, from the rectangular cloud at the time of the explosions, some of them being afterwards collected and identified as 'aerolites' or 'meteorites' [5].
3. At 11.00 am on September 5th, 1814, when a stiff breeze was blowing despite a clear sky, there suddenly appeared at a great height to the NW of Agen, France, a slow moving sombre white cloud having a greyish centre and apparently only a few feet in diameter. It was

perfectly round in shape. After a short while it became completely stationary (despite the breeze) and remained so until a few minutes before mid-day, when it suddenly sped off to the south, revolving on its own axis as it did so, and began emitting rumbling sounds and thunderous noises culminating in an explosion. At the moment of detonation, the cloud discharged a shower of stones – some of considerable size – from two elongated chord-like features that formed simultaneously. After this, the cloud stopped again and slowly faded away.

The explosion was heard loudly at Montpezat, Temple, Castel-moron, and Montclar, and more distantly at Mezin, Basas, Condon, and St. Macaire. The event understandably terrified many of the local populace [6; 7; and 8].

4. Interestingly, little more than a year elapsed before a markedly similar event occurred, this time at 8.30 am on October 3rd, 1815, at Chassigny, SE. of Langres, also in France. There, in the NE. quadrant of the sky, musketry-like sounds proceeded from a strange grey cloud that had *appeared* in an otherwise clear and serene sky. Shortly afterwards, a stone, later identified as a meteorite, fell from the cloud to Earth. An account of this event was communicated by a M. Pistolet to M. Virey, who published it the following year [9; 10].
This event should also be compared with some previous falls of stones from unusual clouds as discussed by Marcel de Serres in 1814 [11], and also with the next event.
5. On August 7th, 1823, at approximately 5.00 pm, a stone fell at Noblesville, Indiana, USA, from a small whitish cloud, apparently some 40 feet *square*. This also had appeared near the zenith in a perfectly serene and calm day. Again, a crackling noise like that of musketry came from the cloud, which performed a curious *spiral-like motion* downwards just before the stone was discharged from it [12].
6. At 4.55 am. on December 17th, 1852, a *triangular* cloud with a long tail and a dull *red* nucleus, in size about half the apparent diameter of the Moon, appeared during a storm near Dover, Kent. It remained visible for 13 minutes, during which time it increased in size, until an explosion occurred within it causing its dissipation [13].
7. In 1881, the Astronomer Royal of Scotland vacationed at Funchal, in the Madeira Islands. One afternoon he saw a strange isolated cloud forming at a great altitude over the bay by which Funchal stands. This cloud remained awesomely motionless, in the same place, for hours.

Under it a similar but large cloud materialized, then a third, a fourth, and a fifth — all stationary and on the same vertical axis. All the clouds maintained their position until sunset until, with the onset of darkness, disappeared in the reverse order of their formation. The highest cloud remained visible in striking colours until long after sunset, until 10.00 pm in fact, testimony of its very great height. This singular formation was also observed from ships almost 150 miles distant from Funchal, again confirming the immense altitude and size of the clouds [14].

8 At 6.05 pm on Friday, November 17th, 1882, many persons watched a well-defined, brilliantly white spindle-shaped cloudy body move across the sky from E. to SSW. in less than one minute. One observer, Thomas G. Elger, estimated the passage as being only 6 seconds in duration. The same body was also seen by Stephen H. Saxby at Clevedon, and was described by another, John L. Dobson, as resembling a cloudy fish-torpedo having a mottled appearance. Elger, on the other hand, reported it having a lenticular shape and being of a bright greenish-white hue [15].

9 Almost a year later, on October 16th, 1882, at Montus-san, Gironde, in France, a thick cloud accompanied by rain and a violent wind, appeared and was seemingly composed of a white woolly substance in lumps. Each lump was about the size of a man's fist. Many of these fell to earth, were collected, and subsequently examined. The substance was found to be fibrous and had been burnt; it could not, however, be identified [16].

10 On August 9th, 1892, a very peculiar fast-moving yellow cloud appeared over Paderborn, in Germany, and discharged not only torrential rain but hundreds of living pond mussels of the species *Anodonta anatina* as well [17].

11 Closer to our own era we find equally perplexing reports about unusual cloudy bodies, as, for example, that seen on August 7th, 1961, when a cigar-shaped cloud was seen to release 20 or more small objects as it passed over Heaton Moor, Stockport, Greater Manchester [18].

12 At 5.30 pm October 14th, 1961, Mr and Mrs Burson, of Sunset, Utah, USA, watched, with two other residents, two weird objects they described as 'puffy daubs of cotton' pass over that locality in an easterly direction. These bodies were joined together by 'long stringy stuff', and were followed at a short interval by a pair of smooth disc-shaped objects.

The following day two more 'puffy' objects passed over the same locality at high speed in the same direction [19].

13 Mr F. Burrows of Manchester, together with another witness, saw an unusual cloud formation one night in November 1961, positioned to the left of the Moon as seen from his vantage point. A sword-like object was visible in the middle of this cloud, and a moving silvery object resembling a submarine — about 3 inches long at arm's length — emerged from the sword's hilt. After approximately 35 minutes, this object and the cloud formation disappeared into the darkness. Later on, a similar though otherwise smaller submarine-shaped object was seen travelling across the sky on another course [20].

14 On or about November 10th, 1961, a strange dark-grey cloud passed over Vukovar, in Croatia, Yugoslavia, and caused not only the local radio-station to black-out, but some sodium lamps stored on a shelf to mysteriously start glowing [21].

15 Shortly before May 1965, a lady holidaying at a cliff-top house near Sydney, New South Wales, watched a beautiful stationary pink cloud from 5.30 to 6.00 pm one evening. At 7.00 pm, when she looked again, the witness was astounded to see the cloud begin to move

from its position towards the rocks at the base of the cliff. As the cloud came nearer and descended below the witness's eye-level, she was able to look down into it and was amazed to see that it contained a round snow-white object having a base tapering to a point about 3 feet wide. It was emitting grey-coloured steam from vents round its outer edge, and this, thoroughly enveloping all but the uppermost portion of the object, soon turned pink and was in fact the substance of the 'cloud'.

A noise like that of a high-powered, well-cared-for engine was heard, and, as the object descended still further, a shining ladder was lowered from a hatchway on its underside. A manlike occupant then climbed down the ladder and sat on one of its rungs, from which position he shone a strong beam of light into the sea below — as if looking for something. Shortly after this, a brilliant pink flare went up farther out at sea, and almost immediately the ladder, with the occupant still on it, was retracted into the object which then sped off in the direction of the flare. The witness also discerned a long shape in the water approximately where the flare had been released. When the UFO reached this object, both it and the elongated shape disappeared in a 'vivid pink flash' beneath the sea [22].

16 One evening in April 1966, Miss Susan Everett saw several white 'fluffy balls' pass across the sky near Battlesbury, Wiltshire, at no great height above the ground. They have never been satisfactorily explained, but bear comparison with the essentially similar objects observed five years earlier over Sunset, Utah (see case 13) [23].

17 Strangely manoeuvring pink clouds suggest a discernible pattern within these many extraordinary events, for another was seen about 11.00 pm on September 12th, 1967, over Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. As with the aforementioned 'clouds', this, too, was never adequately identified [24].

18 Numerous people reported watching a markedly circular cloud exhibiting very odd behaviour from many places in the Republic of South Africa — including Vryburg, Bloemfontein, Heilbron, Stilfontein, near Jagersfontein, Thabazimbi, Bethlehem, Brandfort, and Abrahamskraal — on July 6th, 1968. That this cloud was visible from so many widely sundered localities (Vryburg, Bethlehem, Jagersfontein, and Stilfontein are all over 100 miles apart) means that it was of gigantic size and its manoeuvres correspondingly enormous at a great altitude [25].

19 On February 3rd, 1969, unusual noises emanated from two odd-looking clouds over Jacksonville, Florida, USA. Among the hundreds of persons who reported the clouds to chief-of-police James Alford, one described the sounds as like someone rattling a hug sheet of sellophane, while another compared them to a 'giant walking on pebbles'. Police-captain Harold Ryan was instructed to follow the first cloud, but, although he did so for a short while, the cloud then abruptly vanished. Shortly afterwards a second crackling cloud appeared, but, when chased by Ryan in his car, it suddenly disappeared. The noises proceeding from these clouds compare favourably with those described in cases 2 and 5 [26].

20 A distinctly strange formation of eight orange clouds was watched at Kolka, some 60 miles S. of Myllykoski, in Finland. The clouds maintained regimental precision as they moved steadily across the sky, and were still proceeding in unison as they disappeared over the horizon [27].

21 Finland again hosted the next case, which occurred on January 7th, 1970, when, at 3.45 pm that day, ski-

enthusiasts Aarno Heinonen and Esko Viljo saw, near Imjarvi, a very bright *luminous* grey-red cloud in an otherwise cloudless sky. There was also no wind. Soundlessly, the cloud changed course towards the two startled men and began to lose altitude. After a short while, a humming noise was heard, the cloud began to pulsate, and it descended to about 50 feet above ground-level. At that point, a shiny grey metallic-looking round object with a flat base could be seen inside the cloud, which continued to descend until it stopped about 10 feet above the ground.

The object then tilted towards the witnesses, and disgorged a very slender man-like entity approximately 3 feet tall. This being pointed a black box at the two men, from which luminous sparks or short rods of light floated outwards. These were coloured red, violet, and green, but although some of them struck Heinonen they did him no harm. Finally, the object and the entity became enveloped in thick mist or fog that, upon subsequent dissipation, revealed no trace of the object or its strange occupant. Understandably, both eyewitnesses were greatly shocked by their experience and later required medical treatment [28].

- 22 Mr and Mrs W. Hamilton's farmhouse in McLain, Mississippi, USA, was severely damaged by a ball of 'smoke' that suddenly appeared out of a cloudless sky at 2.30 pm, on April 12th, 1971. It was accompanied by a strange noise and caused pots and pans in a kitchen to rattle, three two-by-four planks to fall out of a wall, the total demolition of another wall, and the porch roof to be blown some 500 feet away. A small outside wash-house was also torn up and part of an adjacent barn was destroyed. The 'smoke' was also seen by nearby mill workers, one of whom reported that a closely similar incident had occurred at her home the week previously. Investigators declared that sonic booms and tornadoes were not responsible since they did not fit the facts [29].
- 23 1971 seems to have been a good year for 'flying smoke', for during the afternoon of October 13th, two educational officers watched an amazing aerial phenomenon over Bosanka Posavina, Bosnia, in Yugoslavia. It resembled dense smoke — apparently one kilometre long and one metre wide — that passed in a wave-like or undulatory manner across the sky. This phenomenon was also watched by several other local inhabitants, and seems to have been virtually identical to 'flying smoke', seen by farmers at Kladar, also in Bosnia, where it was visible for 15 minutes before passing northwards out of sight. While over this area it was noticed that sheep, cattle, hens, and other animals, were greatly disturbed by it, one farmer stating that they 'scared to death' [30].

- 25 Finally, as an illustration of the fact that aberrant clouds exhibiting unnaturally controlled movements are still being observed at the time of writing, we cite a letter from G. Sloane of Bideford, Devon, that was published in February 1977 by the *Daily Mirror* in response to that newspaper's centrespread on ufos of a few days previously. The letter reads:

'I was watching a football match on a bright Sunday morning. A few woolly clouds were scattered in the sky. My attention was caught by a procession of clouds in line coming swiftly over the horizon. They were white, roughly *cube shaped* (my italics) and travelling against the wind. In about a minute they crossed the sky and disappeared over the horizon. The speed was incredible'. [31].

The speed of these clouds should be compared to that reported in case 8.

These cases, so typical of dozens more, show that cloudy bodies generally resembling, but acting very differently from, normal clouds — or of oddly symmetrical configurations but behaving like ordinary clouds — have not only been observed

over many years but occur on a global basis and are often indisputably associated with ufos proper (e.g., cases 13, 14, 16, and 21). Moreover, those cases featuring definite ufos also often include descriptions of so-called 'carrier ufos' (cases 12 and 14), are strongly reminiscent of the 'cloud-cigars' discussed by Vallee [32] and even link up with those observations of submersible objects of unknown origin, but evidently associated with ufos, reviewed by Sanderson [33].

A direct connection between these clouds and alien entities (e.g. cases 16 and 21), and between electro-magnetic and animal reaction effects (cases 15 and 23), now also seems to be beyond dispute. An intriguing additional example of associating entities and clouds occurred at 9.15 pm on October 18th, 1973, when W. Hines and a companion watched a hazy *green* cloud rise up from behind trees just after they had ineffectually chased a shimmering 3 to 4 foot tall humanoid creature that moved sideways at White Oak Mountain, near Danville, Virginia, USA [34].

The unnaturally symmetrical appearance of several of these clouds (cases 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 18, and 24) strongly suggests artificial origins, and therefore, intelligent creation. This suspicion is supported by those accounts describing speeds, regimented arrangements, and/or manoeuvres impossible for conventional clouds (cases 5, 7, 8, 11, 18 and 20), or, conversely, complete immobility during windy or breezy conditions (cases 3, 6, 7 and 11).

The expectationation by some of these clouds of hard objects like stones and mussels, and especially by those clouds that had previously been stationary for appreciable periods (cases 1-5, and 10) — in one instance for almost an hour — suggests that the stones (commonly identified as meteorites) were either not conventional meteorites at all or, if they were, they had, like the mussels, been suspended aloft by forces capable of nullifying gravity. Certainly the mussels, before their fall, should not have been aloft in the first place. But mussels held aloft by intelligent agencies may well have been collected initially by agencies able to negate gravitational effects.

Surely, the collective testimony of substantial objects apparently suspended where they should not have been, of the aberrant clouds associated with them, and of the singular behaviour of all these things, indicates decidedly unnatural origins — in other words, artificial origins. Reviewed in combination, all factors like those just discussed lead to the conclusion that these cloudy bodies — far from being unusual specimens of otherwise natural clouds — are not clouds at all but ufos that either deliberately disguise themselves as clouds (as suggested in cases 11 and 16), or that, due to particular operational methods, generate enveloping vapours and cloudy effects. 'Cloud-Ufos', as they may henceforth be conveniently termed, possibly occur much more often than is generally realized, but pass unnoticed for what they actually are in Earth's frequently cloudy skies. This is indeed a sobering thought.

Surprisingly, the possibility that some ufos *deliberately* camouflage themselves as clouds, or hide within natural clouds, is rather strong, for numerous cases are known in which ufos have been observed to enter clouds from which they have *not* emerged. Even terrestrial devices (some with human occupants) have similarly vanished. In some instances these clouds were isolated and quite small, and sometimes abruptly vanished.

Below is a chronologically arranged selection of reports representative of such events, and of others in which ufos emerged from aberrant clouds, or came out of and then re-entered the same cloud.

- A Ten or twelve discoidal objects came out of a revolving golden-coloured cloud seen during November 1947 from Albany Avenue, Toronto, in Ontario, Canada [35].
- B Whilst on a meteorological reconnaissance mission

over Korea during March 1952, wing-commander J. Baldwin, with the jet aeroplane he was flying, disappeared into a cloud from which he did not emerge. Neither he nor his aeroplane were seen again [36].

- C At approximately 5.50 pm, on March 9th, 1955, a silver bell-shaped object was seen by observers at Paris, Illinois, USA, to 'swallow' an aeroplane [37].

The two cases immediately above should be compared with the event which occurred on November 23rd, 1953, when an F-89 jet from Kinross US Airforce base, Michigan, was dispatched to intercept a ufo. The jet was crewed by Lt. Felix Moncia Jr and Lt. R.R. Wilson, who closed the distance between them and the ufo at a speed in excess of 500 mph. Ground radar, monitoring the event, observed that the jet blip suddenly merged with the much larger ufo blip, which they moved off at high velocity. Jet and crew were never seen again [38].

- D During daylight hours on February 2nd, 1959, two witnesses saw three white disc-like objects pass into a cloud over Warsaw, Nottinghamshire, from which they never reappeared [39].

- E When east of Somerton, South Australia, at 6.15 pm on November 21st, 1961, Mr. G. Page watched 6 to 8 crescent-shaped objects enter an isolated cloud within which they apparently remained [40].

- F At 8.30 pm on July 22nd, 1963, three people observed a low-flying bell-shaped object pass into a cloud over Parr, Merseyside. It failed to reappear [41].

- G At 6.45 pm, on October 2nd, 1963, a black oval object was seen to come out of and then re-enter a lone cloud over Audenshaw, Greater Manchester [42].

- H A large discoidal object was seen by observers at St. Helen's, Lancashire, to move slowly into a cloud, from which it failed to emerge, at 2.00 pm on an undetermined date in June 1966 [43].

- I During the evening of July 15th, 1967, an object resembling a domed disc came out of and then re-entered an isolated cloud over an area approximately one mile south of Sedalia, Missouri, USA [44].

- J On September 6th, 1967 — just six days before a pink cloud was observed there (see case 18) — three people at Meir, Stoke-on-Trent, watched, at approximately 9.50 pm, an oval object come out of a remarkable sausage-shaped cloud [45].

- K Around 1.00 pm on an unnoted date in April 1968, a wingless rocket-like object was seen to enter a cloud over Woodford, Essex, wherein it then apparently remained stationary, for it was not seen again [46].

- L Late in August 1969, two witnesses at Masbro, near Birmingham, saw, at 1.30 pm, a spherical object enter and remain inside a cloud motionless over that locality. Very interestingly, this cloud was subsequently 'inspected' by a jet aeroplane [47]. Also see later comments on pseudo-planes.

- M Late in the afternoon of May 24th, 1971, two MIG jet fighters were sent up by the Hungarian Air Force to investigate an unknown object, also being monitored on radar from Zagreb, in Yugoslavia. The Zagreb radar operators watched all three blips for about ten minutes, after which the blips suddenly merged into a single blip, which then disappeared from the radar-screen. Enquiries made by Zagreb of the Hungarian flight-controllers revealed that no further information was forthcoming 'because the fighter planes had not returned to base'. Upon being pressed further, this statement was truncated to 'No comment'. So far as is known, the Hungarian planes were never seen again [48].

This incident, so much like cases B and C above, is also somewhat reminiscent of the loss of instruments from

a weather balloon that passed through a cloud, and from which later emerged a silvery domed object that changed course as it moved, watched by meteorological station personnel at Trindale Island, off Brazil, only a few weeks before the celebrated Trindale Island ufo photographs were taken [49]. The instruments were never seen again.

- N On August 13th, 1972, A. Acosta saw 20 lights emerge from an oval cloud over Yauco, Puerto Rico, and enter a closely similar one nearby, in which they remained [50].

There can be little doubt remaining that ufos frequently employ clouds, or created artificial clouds, to camouflage their activities and thus make them less easy to detect. These traits should now be considered in relation to the following information about objects that, although often described by eyewitnesses as various kinds of terrestrial aircraft, may in fact not always be. If, as suspected, ufos disguise themselves as clouds on occasion, then the duplication of man-made aeroplanes follows almost naturally as an extension of this camouflage syndrome.

In case L, the inspecting jet aeroplane may well have been dispatched by local air authorities monitoring the cloud and sphere involved, particularly the latter's mode of disappearance; yet we should consider it alongside the jet aeroplane observed on June 19th, 1959, over Clitheroe, Lancashire, by Rosemary Miller and Norma Stephenson, *hovering* over a saucer-shaped object stationary in the sky [51]. It needs hardly be stressed that, in 1959, no jet aeroplanes capable of hovering had been built.

Before we dismiss the Clitheroe 'jet' as some unidentified type of helicopter, it should be compared with the essentially similar cases below, and in particular, with the 'helicopter' that appeared near a low-level oval-shaped ufo seen at 9.30 am on March 14th, 1975, from Enfield, Connecticut, USA [52]. On September 3rd, 1975, two 'helicopters' appeared near a mysterious object that changed shape from round to diamond, to chevron, to domed-saucer according to several eyewitnesses who had it under observation from Trijunga, a spot about 15 miles NE of Los Angeles, California [53].

All the foregoing 'jet' and 'helicopter' incidents should be assessed in relation to the amazing event that occurred in broad daylight on October 1st, 1975, when an amoeba-like cloudy object appeared in the sky over King's Lynn, Norfolk, before *turning into* something closely akin to a jet aeroplane. Shortly after this transformation, the 'jet' suddenly vanished [54].

The King's Lynn 'jet' evidently falls into that category of objects that can be best referred to as 'Pseudo-Planes'. These objects — frequently long-fuselaged, stubby winged objects lacking identification marks, and sometimes unnervingly silent — have been repeatedly reported down the years, both as isolated objects and in groups. A rather famous case dates from July 22nd, 1968, when a very low flying and extraordinarily elongated pseudo-plane visited San Carlos de Bariloche airport, near Bahia Blanca, Argentina, where it was observed by mystified airport staff [55]. Another interesting case involved objects, described as 'jets' by eyewitnesses, seen pursuing a mushroom-shaped ufo over Winchester, Hampshire, on October 27th, 1967 [56]. Significantly, enquiries made at the time of local Air Force authorities disclosed that no jets had been scrambled to intercept the ufo.

Virtually the same denial was made by American police and air authorities respecting a group of nine extremely low flying black domed objects with silvery tails, superficially resembling helicopters, seen by girl scouts near East Derry, New Hampshire, USA, about 6.40 pm on August 28th, 1965 [57]. These objects were never identified. Certainly, if these and the two Winchester 'jets' were not terrestrial aircraft at all, one begins to understand why the

relevant authorities denied owning or dispatching them, and why many then contemporary ufologists concluded that those same authorities were being less than honest in their disclaimers. The true interpretation may involve very different things.

Almost certainly falling into the same category are the helicopter-like objects — often unmarked and silent — reported in recent years from the English Midlands and from many American states. In Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and other states, these mystery craft have been repeatedly seen in areas and at times close to animal mutilations. These have caused widespread concern and have so far not been satisfactorily explained [58]. In Montana, where the problem has been especially acute, the cases have been partially published in a fascinating tome by Donovan and Wolverton [59], in which the association with ufo activity seems to be reasonably well established.

Many additional cases could be cited, although the above probably more than suffice to demonstrate the fact that aberrant clouds and their associations, direct or inferred, with ufos, form an important facet of the ufo enigma. It is this writer's contention that the material discussed in this paper forms a much neglected aspect of the overall ufo problem, and that properly studied it will yield valuable data. The demonstrable links between these 'clouds' and ufos, on the other hand, and the abduction, animal mutilations, and alien entities on the other, and of all with objects here termed pseudo-planes, represent ufo behaviour trends as yet largely unrecognised. In view of their implications it is high time that in-depth studies were conducted on these pieces of the ufo jigsaw on an international basis and a system developed for detecting 'Cloud-Ufos'.

J.B. DELAIR. 1977.

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Oliver Thomas cont from p39...

conclusion is that factually the story is as bogus as the David Lang non-event, and its only value is its mythical content which seems to involve the basic elements seen in, for example, the kidnappings in the fairy tradition.

I hope there are no more than these - but no matter how much care we seem to take (and we took our time over 2 years) checking back to sources, a few errors crept in. Short of eye-witness testimony, you are only as good as your sources, and a certain amount has to be taken on trust (as I've said before). I'm pleased at least that this list is as short as it is.

RJMR



SOUNDS AND ECHOES

We expressed, in our review of mystery booms, airquakes or pseudoseisms last issue (FT23/29-32,35,36) that these puzzling aerial noises are one of the most perennial of Fortean phenomena. Well, it seems you can't get rid of them merely by listing them, for no sooner was FT23 mailed out than reports were coming in on new series in the US and SW England.

Blasts Rattle Eastern States

2 Dec - a blast strong enough to shake houses, break windows and items thrown from shelves was heard and felt in the Charleston area of the South Carolina coast, at about 10am EST. Later, at 3.45 pm EST, another blast rocked the coast from Cape May, New Jersey, to Long Island and Connecticut (Cape May is about 500 miles north of Charleston). Dr William Donn, chief atmospheric scientist of Columbia University, NY, estimated their equivalence to 50-100 tons of TNT exploded above the sea, perhaps 50 miles offshore. Los Angeles Times, Dallas, Tx, Times Herald both 17 Dec 1977; San Antonio News 19 Dec 1977; Trenton, NJ, Times 20 Dec 1977 (Cr: Dr EC Krupp, Tom Adams, Loren Coleman.)

15 Dec - 5 more booms - descriptions vary from muffled rumbles, double booms, loud claps to quake-like tremors - felt in Charleston area only, between 8.30-10.30am EST, seeming to come from 2-3 separate locations.

20 Dec - 2 booms off South Carolina. Further north another boom was felt at New Jersey, which may or may not have been one of the 3 loud booms "closely spaced" heard at New Canaan, Connecticut at 11.43pm EST, during which (or just before or after - reports not specific) the sky to the east of the town was lit brightly by a red glare.

21 Dec - 2 booms heard at Charleston. In New Jersey, a resident of Toms River felt an "explosion" seconds before his fire-alarm went off at 2am EST. He said he saw "an intense globular-shaped light

outside" his window before it disappeared. There were further booms at 7pm EST. (X's RBB28 puts this incident on 20 Dec.)

22 Dec - a series of 5 booms at Charleston at 8.15am EST. One paper (Boston Globe) claimed that 4 booms were heard off South Carolina between 8.48-10.15am EST (which contradicts or supplements the earlier report?), and others heard at Westport, Conn.

This was the main series, drawn from: Manchester, Conn, Journal Inquirer, Huntsville, Alab, Times both 22 Dec 1977; Los Angeles Times, Manchester, Conn, Journal Inquirer, Nashville, Tenn, Tennessean, Boston, Mass, Globe, Atlanta, Ga, Constitution all 23 Dec 1977 (Cr: Tom Bearden, Loren Coleman, Dr EC Krupp, John Gore.) There was of course, among these reports, several mentions of the great quake at Charleston in 1886 - but initially the 'experts' seemed quite sceptical about any connexion between the sounds and geophysical activity.

During this series the public was treated to a barrage of fatuous explanations from 'experts' put on the spot by media demands for official opinions. Boggle at: sonic booms from Concorde, 'secret' US or foreign supersonic planes; undersea explosions from oilrigs, foreign powers, offshore garbage dumps, or natural gas; thunder or meteor showers; weather balloons with TNT payloads; and re-entering satellite junk (interesting in view of what was to happen scarcely a month later in Canada - Next FT). At first experts thought that the public was over-reacting to some fairly explicable natural phenomenon, but as the damned things kept on coming they were forced to be more critical. Only Dr Donn seemed to take the events seriously from the start, and in successive reports he claims ignorance or disinterest from top establishments including the Pentagon and NORAD, and many scientists. One of the troubles was

the ambiguous nature of the evidence. On the one hand you had the testimony of many hundreds of residents of these areas and on the other there were quite insignificant seismic or barometric traces of the events - at least not enough to cause concern about quakes or terrestrial explosions.

Gradually some light glimmered in the brains of a few...and it was soon being pointed out (with all the wisdom of after thought) the similarity to our well loved Fortean data on the Barisal Guns, the Guns of the Seneca, the Moodus sounds, the 'mist pouffers' of Belgium etc etc. See discussions in last PT; Los Angeles Times, & Manchester, Conn, Journal Inquirer both 24 Dec 1977; International Herald Tribune 20 Jan 1978; INFO Journal 26 (Dec 1977); and X's RBB 28 which lists (for the first time) the 50 or so cases in Fort's Books over the period 1808-1922

Is there a Quake Connexion?

With the mention of the aerial lights accompanying some of the booms (omitted in the earliest reports) thoughts inevitably turned to yet another correlation pioneered by Fort and only now gaining scientific credence - the aerial lights often seen during quakes. In fact, in mid-1977, the US Geological Survey published an important study of quake/light phenomena and we are awaiting a copy to prepare an article for PT on the subject of Fortean quake phenomena. (Our thanks to Ron Dobbins, Tom Adams, Ion Will, Gary Abbott, Loren Coleman and others for data & clippings on this long delayed subject.)

On 23rd Dec, Richard Golob, Center for Short-lived Phenomena, Cambridge, Mass., said: "Between 1-20 Dec there were numerous reports of earth tremors in the Toms River, NJ, area, although none were recorded. But on 15 Dec, when 5 booms were heard in S Carolina, two earth tremors were recorded in Charleston." (Boston Globe 23 Dec 1977. Cr: L Coleman). We underlined part of the above because it is not clear whether the tremors were mistaken for the booms and not reported, or too weak to affect the seismographs. Another possibility is the hint (in the Observer 1 Jan 1978. Cr: John Michell, Ion Will, Douglas Watson) that a curious coincidence disabled Donn's seismic event recording equipment at the Columbia University's observatory at Pallsades, NY.

Other correlations came thick and fast. Prof Edward Chibouris, of the Weston Observatory of Boston College, Mass., said there had been a 3.1 Richter tremor at Wareham, south-eastern Massachusetts, at 12.44pm EST on 20 Dec - that is just about 1 hour after the noises and lights

at New Canaan, about 60 or so miles away in Connecticut. Chibouris added that there have been many tremors in New England over the years, but "just too small to be heard or felt." He mentions faint tremors just noticeable in Spring 1976, 1 near New Bedford, Mass., and 2 in Rhode Island; and another in SE Connecticut in Dec 1976. (Boston Herald American 21 Dec 1977. Cr: Loren Coleman.) New Jersey state geologist Kemble Widmer claimed a similar series of mystery noises was reported from the NJ coast in 1975, "but scientific investigation failed to yield any conclusions." (Can anyone tell us more about this?) (Trenton, NJ, Times 20 Dec 1977. Cr: Loren Coleman.)

The Observer 1 & 8 Jan 1978 (Cr: John Michell, Ion Will, Douglas Watson,) gave another date for mystery bangs - 24 Dec - though we have no US data on this one. We can report, though, that residents of Hopkinton, New Hampshire, and surrounding towns got an unexpected Christmas present the next day - a 3.4 Richter tremor at 10.36am EST, 25 Dec. Chibouris pops up again, as though it had just reminded him ...ah yes, there was a similar quake at Portsmouth, NH, in March 1976. (Boston Globe 26 Dec 1977. Cr: Loren Coleman.)

We can add a few correlations of our own. On the same day as the 2 Dec noise, there was a 5.5 Richter quake in Iran, at 1.13am. Hours later there was a strong tremor on the Kamchatka peninsula, Russia. On the same day as the 20 Dec noises another severe quake (6.2 Richter) hit Iran at 3am. (We'll give the refs in a future quake listing.) We also note that 7 of the mystery booms in Cornwall (see below) coincide with the 21 Dec noises in the US. According to the International Herald Tribune 20 Jan 1978 (Cr: Ion Will) there were further aerial noises heard at Charleston on 5 and 12 Jan 1978...the former approximating in time to another Russian quake - details of the latter can be found in NY Herald Tribune 14 Jan 1978 (Cr: Ion Will.) Someday we'll have a computer to correlate all this stuff!

Earlier Cases

A strange series of noises baffled Dr Walter Arabasz, seismologist at Utah University...his records showed "a confusing signal" on 1 Sept 1977, when a heavy booming repeated in the local sky of North Ogden, Utah, at 1.06, 1.11 and 1.22 pm (local time). The first 2 events rattled windows and shook houses; the last one seemed to be more seismic - "The ground rolled," said one witness - and subsonic frequencies caused "queasy stomachs." Arabasz's equipment showed a "flurry of erratic air waves...superimposed on a local earthquake." If it was

a quake, he said, it was about 1 Richter. Similar aerial detonations, heard only in the small area of North Ogden, were reported at 1pm 29 Aug, and 8-8.10am 30 Aug. On these occasions Arabasz found "airwaves" but no seismic activity. Locals admit they get many sonic booms from aircraft in the area, but claim justifiably that they are familiar with these, the new sounds being "entirely different." Ogden Standard-Examiner 30 Aug, 2 Sept 1977 (Cr: Thomas R Adams.) The physical effects of these sounds seem similar to those recorded just 4 months later for the eastern seaboard.

A little bit nearer to the December coastal blasts was the loud explosion and flash of light that rocked buildings in Texarkana, Texas. Although several hundreds phoned the police, others including 2 policemen near the area saw and heard nothing. There were no physical traces of an explosion...police baffled. Interestingly, one man said he saw something falling from space before exploding. Texarkana Gazette 14 Nov 1977 (Cr: Tom Adams.) This event was on 12 Nov evening.

Loren Coleman sent us a report from the Boston Globe 8 Sept 1976: that fishermen in Massachusetts report "loud, recurring explosions about 100-125 miles south of Cape Cod, since that July. Military, Navy, geological and oil sources all denied culpability, and no cause was ever identified.

Further Correlations

A theory discussed by Fort, long ago, based on his own studies, suggested some correlation with the Martian cycle, particularly the opposition of Mars. X's excellent re-opening of this fascinating facet (RBB 28) points out that the recent series of booms coincides with Mars' closest approach in 2 years (ie 18 Jan 1978), or at least its approach...but the mechanism this would imply remains obscure.

In the references to the historical precedents to aerial cannonading in NE America, much mention was made of records of such noises in the Finger Lakes region of northern NY state, among the Cayuga, Seneca, Onondaga, Mohawk and Oneida Indians "dating back to the Owasco Indians who left the area during a drought in 1220," said the Cayuga Museum director Walter Long. Interestingly, a myth associated with the noises said they were caused by the tail-thrashings of a giant serpent that lived in Canandaigua Lake. This prompted me to wonder if any other noise areas also had dragon, serpent or monster associations, and the two that sprang quickly to mind are Cape May and other New England monster-spots, and the

equally sea-serpent-haunted Cornish coast (see back to FT 15,16,17,19 & 22, for the Cornish monster, Morgawr. New England monsters can be found in Heuvelmans' In the Wake of the Sea Serpents and other sources, including Fort.) I'm sure others will occur to you.

Lastly, we also note, historically, the 'Moodus Sounds' heard by Indians and white-folk alike in the East Haddam area of Connecticut, since at least 1729. Is there anything to the fact that in our plagues summary (p36) East Haddam figures, so ill-favoured, almost a year before the current booms series?

More Booms in SE England

Mr X intriguingly ends his RBB 28 with a promise of coverage of a series of aerial detonations at Cornwall, Ontario, in his next issue. If this is not an error in referring to similar events in Cornwall, England, then we have yet another stimulating coincidence in this amazing, truly Fortean affair.

The major reported booms were on 21 Dec (the day of a US series), and 1 Jan 1978, though from the reports it seems that booming noises, sometimes "distant thunder" or "sharp explosions", sounding both in the air and "subterranean" have been heard intermittently on other days. On 21 Dec the most powerful blast came at 2pm, heard by the coast guards at remote stations on the Cornish coast. One of them, Peter Baker, said: "I have heard these bangs while on duty at ((the extreme-west lookout)) Gwennap Head and St Just, and once the explosion was powerful enough to rock the lookout. The noise was also heard by others. Auxiliary coastguards have frequently rung up to find out if we had fired a maroon." The 1 Jan blast was heard at 7pm...it was "a series of explosions...rather like a rumble of thunder. The birds shot into the air," said another coastguard. They checked and found there was no military gunfire at these times, nor seismic blasting at sea...and all the coastguards now claim expertise in distinguishing these noises from the now familiar sonic booms from Concorde. Besides, they do not fit into the Concorde schedule.

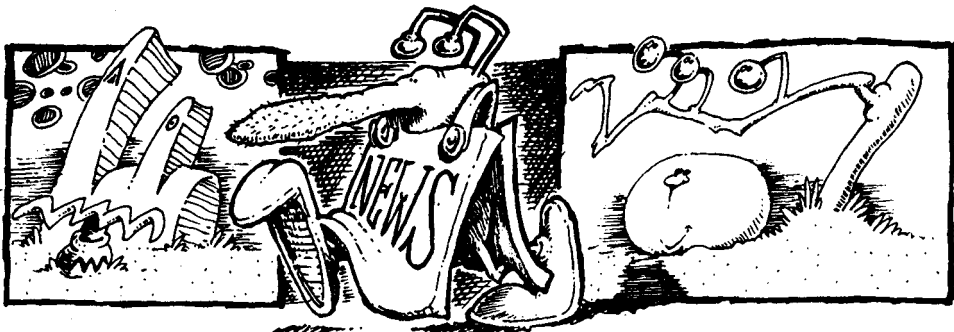
At St Ives the bangs sound like underground explosions just after 6pm, and louder between 8-8.15pm, shaking houses. Single and quadruple cracks and bangs have rattled windows in the Penzance area. At Redruth "crescendo" sequences of triple bangs are preceded by a quieter double-bang. They have also been heard at St Mawgan. The mystery continues.

Peter Baker, echoing similar sentiments among the New England witnesses, said: "There is something going on out there that defies explanation." D.Mail 3 Jan

1978; West Briton 5 Jan 1978 (Cr: Ivan Bunn, John Michell, Doc Shiels.)

*** We have had to keep back reports of

booms, hums, clicks, tones, throbs and other mystery noises until we have more room - hopefully soon. *** RJMR



Another TV documentary worth comment is the BBC 'Horizon' team's attempted demolition of Von Daniken, screened a few weeks after we mentioned it in FT23 (p38). They tried to repeat their previous success on the Bermuda Triangle, but succeeded only in making themselves look petty and peevish. In concentrating on several of VD's more important evidences, they juxtaposed interviews with him and an 'authority'. Apart from Thor Heyerdahl and Maria Reich who showed practical proof of terrestrial rather than extraterrestrial accomplishment, and one lady archaeologist who showed how giant stone blocks could be fitted together perfectly, the rest of the proof consisted of asking us to believe in an orthodox opinion against VD's opinion. I take the side of the underdog. One archaeologist protested weakly that the design on the sarcophagus lid could not be an astronaut because it was a coffin lid! Then the programme used complicated computer graphics to show how details of Mayan glyphs can be stylized and rotated to form separate elements of the Palenque design. Not even VD goes to these lengths to make his data fit.

OK, VD needs rapping on the knuckles, but it should be done properly. This effort was wrongly motivated, branding by implication all unsolved enigmas as the product of gullibility or deceit. With enemies like these, VD doesn't need friends!

Mention must be made here of an event that startled several thousands of TV watchers in Southern England. At 5.06pm, just as the news was being read on Saturday evening, 26 Nov 1977, a deep voice, accompanied by an eerie booming sound likened to a "hollow drumming", drowned out the newscaster's voice and delivered a short message:...

... "This is the voice of Asteron. I am an authorized representative of the Intergalactic Mission, and I have a message for the planet Earth. We are beginning to enter the period of Aquarius and there are many corrections which have to be made by Earth people. All your weapons of evil must be destroyed. You only have a short time to learn to live together in peace. You must live in peace...or leave the galaxy." Some how the originators of the message had jammed the sound-signals from Southern TV's transmitter at Hannington, Wilts, so viewers from Newbury and Reading to Winchester and Andover heard the weird voice superimposed over the ITN news bulletin. It caused sufficient panic for Southern TV to put out half-hourly announcements insisting that it had been a hoax and that the planet was not being invaded. Predictably the IBA and Post Office took a rigid humourless stand vowing prosecution of the culprits... and if the planet had been invaded we'd like to have seen them try! Whoever did the deed knew their stuff, for the "android" (as one PO representative persisted in calling the mystery voice) needed sophisticated equipment or techniques to break into and dominate a TV transmission. One perceptive letter in the Times pointed out that if this was the first time this had ever happened in Britain, as the IBA claimed, then how could they be sure it was a hoax? Indeed! Inexplicably the News of the World and D.Mail call the owner of the voice 'Gillon, of the Ashdown Galactic Command' and that he said: "Unless the weapons of Earth are laid down, destruction from outer space invasion will quickly follow." I hope their regular news reportage is more accurate than that, for the indication is that they've simply invented a more shocking message. The Sunday Times claimed to have tracked down a student

group who invented a new kind of transmitter (for £30) which can 'hitch a ride' on conventional transmissions...but again how can they be sure that this claim isn't also a bandwagon hoax? Incidentally, we're sure you noticed that the 'entity' and message closely conform to the messages given to UFO prophets, psychic sitting groups and contactees (eg: see Keel's UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse, and Clark & Coleman's The Unidentified for discussions of names and messages from UFOs.) Who ever perpetrated the incident had done his homework; especially if he was a terrestrial. Of course the massive TV publicity of the imminent Star Wars about that time must have reinforced its effect among those ripe for the salvation-from-the-stars belief. People have their own standards about what is or isn't credible. One professor (quoted in the Carlisle, Penn, Evening Sentinel 3 Dec 1977 Cr: Larry Arnold) said the reference to Aquarius proved the message was a hoax...he reasoned that as the most intelligent body on earth, the scientists, do not believe in astrology, then ipso facto intelligent life elsewhere would not believe in it either. (For other 'intelligent' responses by 'scientists' see the next item.) News of the World (Cr: Ian Lawes) S. Express, San Francisco Examiner & Chronicle, Oklahoma City Oklahoman all 27 Nov 1977; D. Mail, Delhi Statesman, Torrance, Calif Daily Breeze, the Sun all 28 Nov 1977; the Times 28, 29 Nov 1977; Times of India 30 Nov 1977; S. Times 4 Dec 1977 (Cr: Thomas R Adams, John Mitchell Ion Will, J&C Bord, John Hitchens, Paul Screeton, & MUPOB ns9.)

The Committee for the Scientific Investigation of the Claims of the Paranormal (CSICP) are rapidly becoming tiresome Cassandras. Formed to combat the disgraceful backsliding of the public into "the abandonment of reason and logic", they are taking every opportunity to trumpet their pugnacious opinions throughout the land. They have loudly attacked astrology from its serious aspects down to the popular newspaper horoscopes. They have published a journal, The Zetetic, in which they appear unhealthily obsessed with proving Geller a fraud, and all other 'unknown' subjects from UFOs to psychic phenomena to be aberrations of gullible minds. These zealous arbitors have even brought a suit against NBC and Readers Digest, alleging that their series of documentaries on mysteries "In Search of..." (soon to be screened in the UK) were presenting paranormal subjects "as if they were scientifically credible" and that their treatment of

the BTriangle, Noah's Ark and UFOs was nothing less than a "scientific scandal". DR Paul Kurtz, co-chairman of CSICP, has said that the group are concerned about the degree of "irrationality" in today's society, pointing, for example, to an (alleged) 200 suicides because of unfavourable horoscopes. He also complained about the lack of books debunking paranormal topics on campus bookshop shelves. (One good answer is that so few have been written!) His answer seems as extreme as the extremist sects he fears - if in doubt, throw it out. They also promote the myth that magicians (especially the alleged "Amazing" Randi) can detect hoaxes and trickery better than us ordinary folks, and especially better than scientists. Randi's logic is that since he can reproduce Geller's effects Geller must be using the same tricks, or as near as dammit - and from there it's a small step to damning everything with a question-mark over it.

Already there have been schisms in their ranks, and those who have pleaded for a more open-ended view of the meaning of "scientific investigation" have wisely chosen to leave this distinguished but deluded group. For a lengthier critique of their posturings read Dr J Gordon Melton's guest editorial in Fate Dec 1977.

No sooner had President Carter been accused of going back on his word to release government data on UFOs by Dr Hynek, Dr Leo Sprinkle & nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman (The Star, Texas, 27 Sept 1977. Cr: TR Adams), than the White House announced that NASA was to be asked by the Science & Technology Policy Office to study the UFO question, after considerable public pressure on the White House in the ten years since the Condon Report. In fact, we are told, the approach to NASA had been made back in July. Even earlier than that, about the time of the disastrous Acapulco UFO congress in April, it was reported that the Prime Minister of Grenada, Eric Gairy, was taking an interest in the subject. In September he put a resolution to the UN General Assembly, and opened the debate on 29 Nov with a 1½ hour speech. The press gleefully reported widespread yawning and joking - sad to say, little seems to have come from it. Gairy claimed that the UN was in the unique position of promoting an international agency for UFO investigation, a move, rumours said, that would be blocked by the USA (according to their own leaked info) - see national papers 29 & 30 November 1977. Since then we have heard nothing... Meanwhile, there

was a violent disagreement between NASA and the White House, and the study project was turned down as "wasteful and probably unproductive." (Sun 29 Dec 1977). Dave Williamson, NASA's spokesman for special projects, goes on record with this quote of the year: "A photograph is not a measurement. Give me one little green man - not a theory or a memory of one - and we can have a multimillion dollar program. It's a scientific dilemma. How do you prove something that doesn't exist?" God's teeth! The true scientific dilemma is that clods like Williamson are in positions of authority when he reacts in a naive superstitious fashion. How can he know something doesn't exist until it is studied? He wants the results before he starts - damned typical of the total lack of imagination of a "science" that is nothing less than a branch of the civil service. Pah! There is a little glimmer of hope, however -- According to the Sun 2 Dec 1977, Henry Rothblatt, who defended the Watergate burglars, has begun suing the CIA on behalf of Ground Saucer Watch, under the Freedom of Information Act, claiming that they have been withholding vital data from accredited investigators, since their files began in 1952. The fuse has been lit... Facts culled from papers of many dates and origins (Cr: Paul Screeton, TR Adams, Ion Will, Valerie Martin, R Cotton, W Ritchie Benedict, Ian Lawes.)

BUFORA Conference - 15-16 April 1978. Talks on: Dyfed humanoid cases; Hill star map; ET life; vehicle interference

cases; radio noise monitoring; detection equipment, etc. Write for fees and info to Conf.Organiser: 5 The Ridgeway, Farnsfield, Newark, Notts NG22 8DG.

Peter James, assistant editor of the Journal of the Society for Interdisciplinary Studies (SIS), the UK Velikovsky study group, tells us that there will be a major UK conference on Velikovskyan topics at Glasgow University, this April. He says: "The weekend conference on the 'revised chronology', open to the public, at which the pros and cons of Ages in Chaos will be debated, will include talks by Dr Euan Mackie (on radiocarbon evidence), Dr Archie Roy, Prof of Astronomy, Glasgow, (on 'Sothic dating and the feasibility of Velikovsky's Worlds in Collision thesis), and Dr John Bimson, Cambridge (on Biblical archeology). Health permitting, the 'great heretic', Velikovsky himself will be there." See Peter's review of the latest Velikovsky book (review section) for additional context. For further details, write to: Ralph Amelan, Secretary SIS: 6 Jersey House, Cotton Lane, Manchester 20.

*** We would like to see more letters of discussion - it's up to you. But if you send us your opinion on Fortean matters please include the sources of material you criticise, quote, praise or refer to. We can't always answer your letters immediately, sometimes not at all - so please be patient. We really appreciate your responses though. Feedback is important.

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