



PURSUIT

"SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNKNOWN"

VOL. 4, NO. 1

JANUARY 1971

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

Columbia, New Jersey 07832

Telephone: Area Code 201, 496-4366

ORGANIZATION

The legal and financial affairs of the Society are managed by a Board of Trustees in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. These officers are four in number: two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and a Secretary.

General policy and administrative matters are handled by a Governing Board which consists of the four Trustees, a President elected for 5 years, and five other officers elected annually. These are: an Executive Secretary, and Assistant Directors for Membership and Regional Affairs, Publicity, Promotion, and Public and Press Relations. The First Vice-President is the Administrative Director, and the Second Vice-President is in charge of the physical establishment. The Executive Secretary is also the Librarian. In addition, there are three standing committees: an Activities Committee, a Library Committee, and a Publications Committee. The names of all officers and committee chairmen are listed on the inside back cover.

The Society is counselled by a panel of prominent scientists, also listed on the inside back cover, which is designated the Scientific Advisory Board.

PARTICIPATION

Participation in the activities of the Society is solicited. All contributions are tax exempt, pursuant to the United States Internal Revenue Code. Memberships run from the 1st of January to the 31st of December; but those joining after the 1st of October are granted the final quarter of that year gratis. The annual subscription is U.S. \$10, which includes four issues of the Journal PURSUIT, for the year; as well as access to the Society's library and files, through correspondence or on visitation.

The annual subscription rate for the journal PURSUIT (alone) is \$5, including postage. (PURSUIT is also distributed, on a reciprocal basis, to other societies and institutions.)

Fellowship in the Society is bestowed (only by unanimous vote of the Trustees, the Governors, and a panel of the Founders) on sponsors donating a hundred dollars or more, and on those who are adjudged to have made an outstanding contribution to the aims of the Society.

The Society contracts — with individuals, commercial concerns, and institutional and official organizations for specific projects — as a consultative body. Terms are negotiated in each case in advance.

NOTICES

In view of the increase in resident staff and the non-completion, as yet, of new living quarters, there is no longer over-night accomodation for visitors. Members are welcome to visit to consult our files but we ask that you make application at least a week in advance, this to prevent 'pile-ups' of members who therefore cannot be adequately served.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society publishes a quarterly journal entitled PURSUIT. This is both a diary of current events and a commentary and critique of reports on these. It also distributes an annual report on Society affairs to members. The Society further issues Occasional Papers on certain projects, and special reports in limited quantity, on request of Fellows only.

RECORD: From its establishment in July, 1965, until the end of March 1968, the Society issued only a newsletter, on an irregular basis. The last two publications of that year were, however, entitled PURSUIT — Vol. 1, No. 3 and No. 4, dated June and September, 1968. Beginning with Vol. 2, No. 1, PURSUIT has been issued on a regular quarterly basis, dated January, April, July, and October. Only a very limited and dwindling supply of back-issues from that date (June, 1968) are available, and all prior to it are out of print.

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Vol. 4, No. 1
January, 1971

PURSUIT

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE
INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

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

Editorial Director: Ivan T. Sanderson
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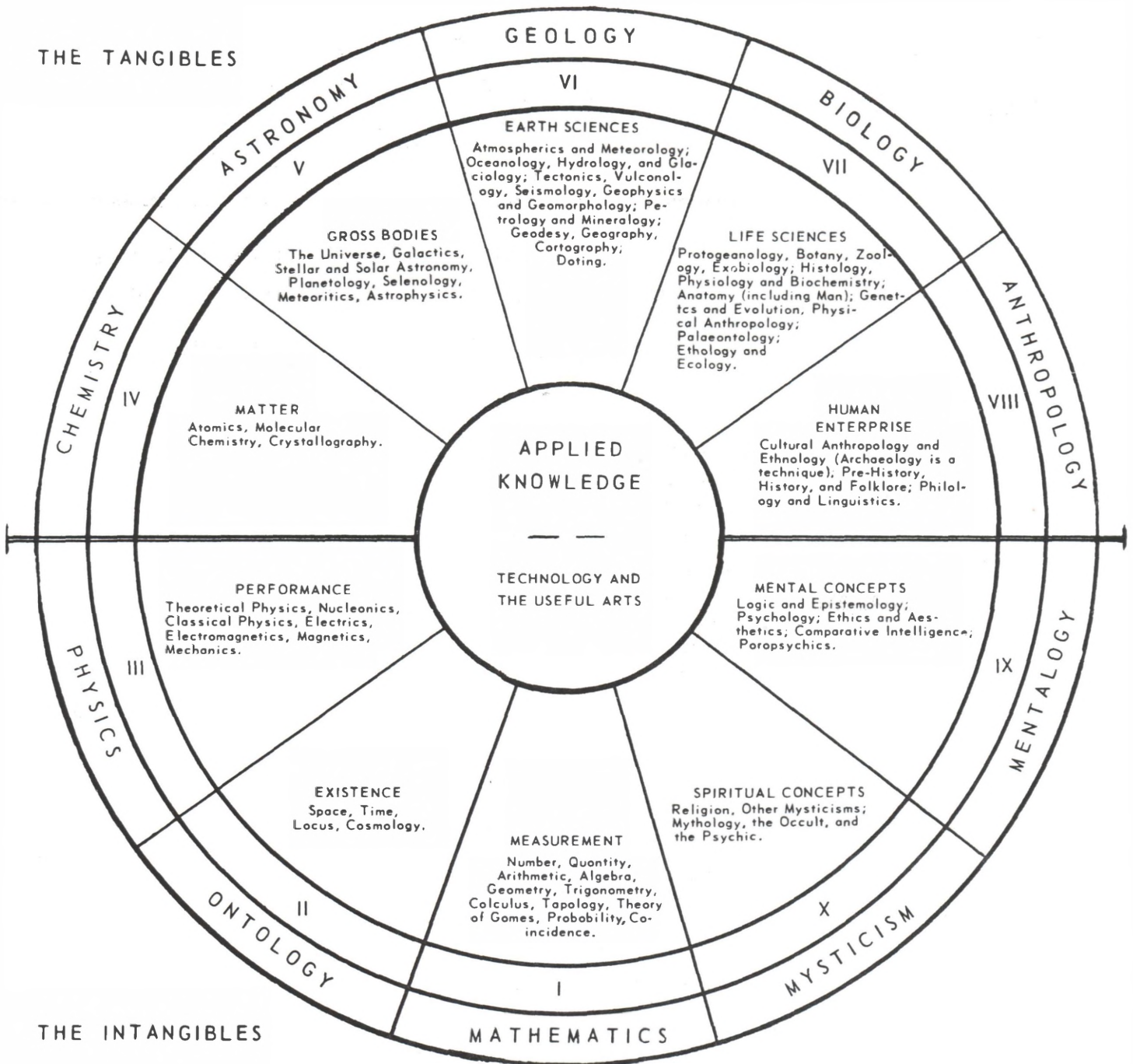
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THE TAXONOMY OF KNOWLEDGE



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

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

EDITORIAL

Of the seven categories under which a non-profit organization may be classed for Federal and State registration and tax exemption purposes, we (SITU) are incorporated to indulge in scientific and literary pursuits, and humane works for animals. The other categories are: philanthropic, religious, child welfare, and educational. The last has presented a problem.

To enter this muddy field any organization must in most states be approved by the state university and affiliated with it and/or certain federally approved national institutions. But there is a catch here that has emerged in our own case.

An ever increasing number of our members and notably students, have enquired whether we cannot be so approved, and this for a most particular reason. This is that nowhere can they find the information that we have, let alone any place where a course or courses are offered that take the existence of this information into account. The request is, frankly, that we so become affiliated so that we may offer such courses, and credits thereby be obtained.

All of those to whom we applied for advice who teach — and they are all full professors — urged us not to do so, and on the same grounds; to wit, that not only would we lose our identity and independence of thought and perhaps actions, but might also even be discreetly suppressed and ultimately liquidated. This is a pretty grim commentary on our so-called education system.

The real trouble of course is that we don't have an educational system in that we are still trying to teach rather than to educate. Teaching is a technological process suitable only for imparting techniques; education is or should be a mental exercise, and not just to encourage learning but to foster understanding. It should be offered in three fundamental aspects — simultaneously — (1) the provision of factual information, (2) the principles and methodology of classification, and (3) and most important of all, the stimulus to cerebration. The last is defined by the dictionary as: "Action of the brain, conscious or unconscious" (please note) — in other words, how to think.

The primary duty of educators should therefore be to stimulate the pupil, of whatever age, to use whatever "brains" he or she has to comprehend reality. The best way to do this is manifestly to gain their interest by an appeal to their curiosity; and the best way to do this is to present them with enigmas and paradoxes, which is to say the unexplained. Parroting the explained is a pure waste of time. This can be looked up in text books. But our so-called system is today collapsing primarily because the second essential has been wholly ignored. This is taxonomy or the expertise of classification.

It is quite useless to try to come to a decision about anything unless you know the facts, and you can't gather these if you can't find them. What is more, no amount of technique that you may have been taught will help you if you have never been presented with an overall set of pigeon-holes into which you can put anything and everything, and the outer limits of which have been defined, and the division and subdivision of which have been laid out for you. The Three 'Rs' are techniques. They do not constitute education, let alone knowledge.

The best teachers start each semester with a definitive course in taxonomy, then proceed to the main subject for the rest. Since competence in the three Rs' should be implied by a certain age, books to read and lab work to be done are listed on a blackboard, and the educator is then free to devote his or her entire time to stimulating the interest and inquisitiveness of the pupils. The collecting of credits is assinine, and defeats its purpose which is the assimilation of facts. Facts cannot be assimilated in lumps without reference to all other facts. All subjects should be taught simultaneously and continuously up to a certain level, and examinations be held in each and all at the end of each semester. Above this level only one speciality should be "taught", and on the assumption that the pupil is by then educated. The one subject that should be added to the three 'Rs' is geography, and this should be continued until degrees are bestowed. This is the European system; and it is a system.

One might make so bold as to suggest that something drastic be done with a view to the introduction of education to our schools as a standard concomitant to mere teaching. The only alternative is positively hair-raising. If we go on the way we are going now the inevitable result will be a race of non-thinkers, à la Orwell's 1984; but when we come to contemplate the prospects in the light of the little ditty on page 5, only an already trained non-thinker will fail to appreciate its significance.

Mechanizing teaching may be all very well, but if you attempt to mechanize education you're going to take the final plunge. Even should computers develop mental capabilities such as ours, we have no guarantee that they will have the appropriate imaginations to go with them; and, if they educate themselves to a higher level than the best of us, who is to say what they will not teach us. One might well opine that one of their early instructions to us would be to commit mass suicide.

Ivan T. Sanderson.

FURTHER NOTICES

While the general format and layout of this journal is now temporarily crystallized, we are initiating a policy amendment with this issue. This is merely that this entire issue, and probably all future issues, will be wholly devoted to Forteana. At the same time, we propose to retain our basic classification of knowledge within the twelve segments of the wheel (on p. 2) as before, except for front and end-matter such as Editorial and Book Reviews, and two other categories. These are, first, to appear up front will always be what we call "Chaos and Confusion", which covers classic forteana that do not fit wholly into any of the other ten categories, which slop over into two or more, or which just do not as of now fall within our accepted logic. The second unnumbered category is that of Ufology. And, with particular regard to this, it should be explained that we feel that an (if not the only) answer or explanation of the phenomenon has now been promulgated by the best trained scientific theorizers, and that therefore the only contribution to the problem that we can offer, as of now, is further evidence of this theory that might be worthwhile of consideration. With mere reports and statistical data we are not concerned, but we will paraphrase other theories and concepts if they are founded on logical scientific bases.

CHAOS AND CONFUSION

MORE ON THE DEVIL'S HOOFPRIENTS

Further to our remarks on the "Devonshire Devil" in our October issue, member No. 255, who is a commercial pilot, writes as follows:

"Here is some smoke for the 'Devonshire Devil' file. Modern jet aircraft use a navigation system based on the projection of 4 radar beams from the aircraft to the surface of the earth. The beams are transmitted in pulses of 1/20 second duration per beam, with a complete sweep of four beams every 1/5 second. Information from the reflected pulses is fed to a computer which produces basic navigation data. If one could see the 'prints' of these radar beams, they would appear to be 44 feet long, spaced 176 feet apart for an aircraft travelling 600 miles per hour. And the prints would indeed travel 'all in a straight line in fresh snow etc.'

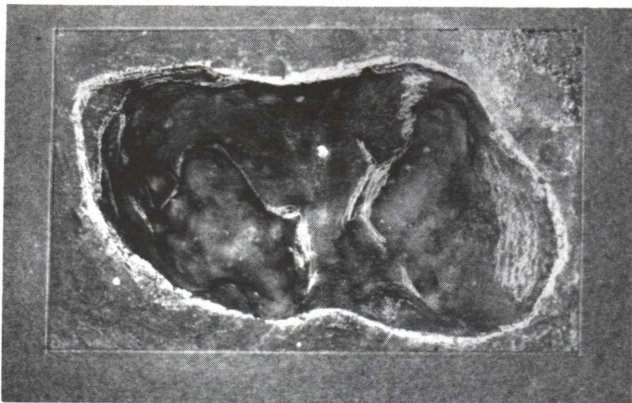
"Without going into technical detail, it appears that the radar beam could be replaced by a laser beam with increased navigational accuracy. In addition to the navigation function, such a laser beam could also be used to make —hold on folks— 3-dimensional photographs of the surface details (holograms). A laser of sufficient power to perform these tasks

would probably melt snow, and also deform through heating any dark objects it might fall on, though the latter effect would be unobservably small except when the 'ship' should decide to remain stationary over one spot."

Obviously, if one is doing a detailed surveying job, he is not likely to go zipping past at 600 mph, thus the 'devil's hoofprints' at close as well as regular intervals.

And we are reminded of another case. Somewhere along the coast of Yorkshire, England, there are large 'hoofprints' in solid rock, starting inland and running right to the edge of a cliff that rises straight from the sea. Legend has it that they were made by a giant phantom horse that galloped wildly through the countryside and into the sea. Could this be another surveying team? At the moment the reference eludes us, but it might be interesting to compare the dates (our impression is that this was much earlier than the Devonshire incident) and to collect other examples of series of prints that might have been produced by laser devices. If enough can be found, it may be possible to detect a pattern.

A number of years ago a gentleman wrote from Port Arthur, Ontario, Canada, enclosing a number of very clear photographs of seemingly endless series of two kinds of tracks, also in a straight line, but in Pre-Cambrian granitic rocks. The form of these is shown in the accompanying photograph of a plaster cast submitted later by this gentleman who, incidentally, was emphatic that his name should not be published because he had made the mistake of show-



The commonest type of imprint found in western Ontario. Some tracks displayed three "toes", and a few scattered ones four. All the indentations were of the same general shape and depth.

ing the tracks to the Geological Survey people, and had been horribly castigated and ridiculed for his trouble.

Since it is hard to accept bipedal animal life of this size in Pre-Cambrian times even if palaeontologists might eventually allow the idea of a whole cycle of evolution prior to that period, evidence of which has been wholly wiped out by some major geophysical change which similarly wiped out all highly evolved animals that could have made such tracks, one can but assume that they were produced mechanically. No modern hoaxster is going to make miles of such "tracks" way out in the utter wilderness of western Ontario, and it is extremely unlikely that pre-columbian Amerindians would do so even for extreme mystical or even practical (guides to hunting forays) reasons. In fact, we strongly suggest that this is another case of probes from above by some advanced depth-finder, surveying apparatus; but whether these were imprinted in pre-Cambrian times or recently is another matter.

Aside from providing the only plausible explanation of the 'hoofprints', the suggestion that lasers capable of producing holograms were in use by somebody during the mid-1800s or even earlier certainly supports the increasingly popular theory that UFOs and their occupants may themselves be holograms.

GENIUS COMPUTERS

In case you missed it, and because we have the gravest misgivings about computers, we quote a UPI release, picked up by them from Life Magazine of the 15th November 1970.

"Scientists believe that within three to eight years — 15 at most — they can create a machine with all the human responses of man and an intelligence even beyond the genius level, Life Magazine reported Sunday.

"The strongest prediction came from Marvin Minsky of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Project MAC, the magazine said. 'In from three to eight years we will have a machine with the general intelligence of an average human being,' he said. 'I mean a machine that will be able to read Shakespeare, grease a car, play office politics, tell a joke, have a fight. At that point the machine will begin to educate itself with fantastic speed. In a few months it will be at genius level and a few months after that its powers will be incalculable.'

"Life said other scientists working on artificial intelligence considered Minsky's timetable optimistic and suggested 15 years, but agreed that such a machine would be developed and that 'It could precipitate the third industrial revolution, wipe out war and poverty and roll up centuries of growth in science education and the arts.' A number of the computer scientists also have misgivings. 'Man's

limited mind may not be able to control such immense mentalities', Minsky said.

"But an approach to a mechanical man already exists at the Stanford Research Institute, where a machine called Shaky performs tasks approximating those of a 4-year-old child and could be modified for more sophisticated routines. 'Armed with the right devices and programmed in advance with basic instructions, Shaky could travel about the moon for months at a time and, without a single beep of directions from earth, could gather rocks, drill cores, make surveys and photographs and even decide to lay planks over crevices he had made up his mind to cross,' Life said. Although Shakey cannot understand spoken language or talk, he has an inner core resembling the central nervous system of human beings, composed of systems of sensation, reason, language, memory and ego [underlining ours], the magazine said. His activity is directed by a brain of six built-in machines programmed into a computer with a capacity of 7 million 'bits' of information."

We distrust anyone who claims his invention is going to be a cure-all for the world's ills. Also, we are so rapidly making the earth uninhabitable — literally — that one is forced to speculate that it has been ordained that we should 'invent' just such a computer as is described above in time to ensure the survival of the end-product of evolution. Computers neither eat nor breathe, and with the brains provided them, they will probably be able to figure out how to supply themselves with energy and can then amuse themselves by playing chess — or perhaps Super-checkers.

ANGEL HAIR AGAIN

It is not our intention to print an interminable succession of reports on so-called angel hair, but member No. 380 has sent us a model account of his own experience with this peculiar substance and we feel it deserves a wider airing. It originally appeared in the Glasgow (Kentucky) Daily Times of the 9th October, 1970.

"For some years I've been seeing in various books, papers, and magazines, accounts of the fall from the skies of some unidentified substance, which has been nicknamed 'angel hair'. I'd never been able to decide if these tales should be believed, but the other afternoon a small amount of something unknown to me fell on my lawn, and it more or less fits the description in those accounts. I was seated on my front step in the sun, rather late in the afternoon, when about 50 feet up I noticed two objects eddying slowly downward. They were white as huge snowflakes but when they landed on the grass looked more like big white downy fluffy feathers (not the quill portion of a feather, but that downy part near the

base of a feather). My dog also noticed them and sniffed at them, but didn't seem to appreciate their aroma for he backed off. My nostrils could not detect any odor. I picked up the larger object, about three inches long and half that in diameter, and it underwent a very sudden change, from a fluffy wad to a sticky, very adhesive stuff that flattened out like a broad ribbon across my fingers. I wish I had the recipe for whatever kind of glue that stuff had in it. When I tried to pull it off with my other hand, that hand also stuck to it and the whitish ribbon pulled in two. I finally managed to scrub the stuff off by rubbing my hands repeatedly on the grass. Some of it was still on the grass the next day, and was still sticky, though not as much so. It finally melted entirely away in the sun that day."

Presumably an 'expert' would announce that it was some kind of spiderweb; but these, though they are sticky, do not "melt in the sun".

SKY-LINES

Late last summer John A. Keel informed us that "There's been a wire hanging down from the sky over Caldwell, New Jersey, for a month, and it's never moved." This was a pretty shocking statement; the truth proved to be even 'worse'. Our initial impression, which John Keel then shared, was that the wire was hanging vertically, starting about a hundred feet off the ground and ending no one knew where. So we arranged a visit to Caldwell.

There was not just a single "wire" but half a dozen; their incidence spread over a period of almost two months, while one report of about the same date for the previous year (1969) turned up; and it wasn't a wire but in every case some kind of plastic strand that has now been identified by du Pont as "a material based on type 6 nylon (caprolactam) or perhaps a copolymer such as type 6 and type 66 nylon". (Their indecision is due to lack of sufficient material to work with). None of these lines was hanging vertically and none was actually 'hanging' — they were all stretched taut at angles between 30 and 50 degrees to ground level. Neither the upper nor the lower ends were ever seen, or located, even when they finally fell. They just came out of the sky from, apparently, down low at one end, and went up overhead and then on up into the sky to a point of invisibility, even when traced with powerful binoculars.

In one case the line remained taut for a month, through several severe electrical storms and several other days of high winds. Then, for no apparent reason, one "end" of the line gave way and a pile of the stuff was found in a front yard. The owners pulled in a large amount, but the line snapped farther up and the upper end remained invisible. In another case, four boys spent one hour hauling in a line which had dropped during the night; again, this snag-

ged and broke before the entire line could be pulled in. And in all cases, when the line fell it immediately curled up, just as did the nylon fishing lines on 2" spools, bought by us for comparison.

The usual reaction to this report is "little boys flying kites". But no one can produce a single kite-flyer or even someone who has seen a kite in the area. And how do you keep a line taut through all sorts of weather, without some very sturdy (and invisible) point of attachment at each end. The police traced one of these lines over a considerable distance and had to report that the line simply went on and on, over Montclair at one end and out over a meadow at the other. They never found either end. All these lines were plotted on a map, but no pattern of any kind was discernible.

We also contacted the Military, asking them if they knew of this phenomenon and, if so, whether we might state the fact; or, if they did not, we might put that on the record. The reply, from William T. Coleman, Jr., Colonel, USAF, Chief, Public Information Division, was "Budgetary considerations preclude a complete scientific analysis of the material you submitted." We never asked for any analysis!

This is a sort of in-between unexplained. Unlike the Loch Ness Monsters and the Abominable Snow and Other Persons, we have got the thing, but the how and why of it remain totally mystifying. The appearance of these "sky-lines" would seem to defy a number of the basic principles of physics.

THE TALKING FOETUS

The most outstanding five-day wonder of 1970 was undoubtedly the Talking Foetus allegedly now of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, but ex Indonesia via Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Berlin, and other points west. The story broke in the London Sunday Times and went as follows: —

"Jakarta, Indonesia — Tjut Zahara Fonna is 21, pretty, articulate and 20 months pregnant with a baby boy who can recite Islamic texts. At least, that is her claim and no amount of inquiry has proved her wrong.

"On the contrary, crowds come daily to pay homage to her miraculous child. The ceremony starts at 5 p.m. when the baby begins one of his five daily sessions of prayer. People, devout or curious, file into the small house where Zahara and her husband Tunku Sjarifuddin have lived since they arrived from Sumatra. Zahara smiles and smooths her skirts tightly around her swollen abdomen. She chatters about God's will, relaxes in an armchair and invites anyone to listen to her baby. One listens by crouching and placing an ear to Zahara's belly. When I adopted this unusual pose, I heard, very close, a reedy wailing sound, apparently that of a baby crying. I then gave

way to others, including an elderly divine, who rose, eyes bright, to declare that he had heard the baby reciting the Surat, a holy text. Other holy texts have been recorded, and one newspaper, out to demolish belief, had been reduced to criticizing the quality of the baby's Arabic.

"Zahara and her husband are fluent in condemning those who suspect a trick. Has not Zahara's pregnancy been confirmed by nearly 50 doctors in four countries. And who can explain it lasting for 20 months? It is God's will. They say they have been received with honor in Pakistan, Japan and Malaysia. And they travel with a letter from the Indonesian foreign minister, Adam Malik, which requires all Indonesian embassies to render assistance if necessary and says they are travelling 'at the request of their unborn child.' It is dated Feb. 16 this year."

A week later AP came out with a flat denial of the whole business, branding it a hoax and one audaciously pulled on President Suharto and other high Indonesian officials. It stated: —

"A team of medical experts examined Mrs. Tjut Zahara, 22, at Jakarta's central hospital Wednesday and found she had been feigning pregnancy by distending her stomach muscles, the informants said. However, the doctors found indications she may have given birth some time recently. After the examination, Mrs. Zahara was taken to a secret location for psychiatric examination, the sources said.

"Antara, the official news agency, reported only that the 'parents of the miracle baby will be investigated by the attorney general's office as a step in clearing up the sensational fuss'. The report did not mention the doctors' findings. Several times, including once in Pakistan, doctors examined her and declared she was pregnant.

"Hundreds of persons said they heard the baby talk. One Indonesian newsman made a tape recording of quotations from the Koran apparently coming from the woman's body. But a foreign newsman who interviewed Mrs. Zahara reported that she left the room between the baby's speeches, and he speculated she was changing the reel on a tape recorder strapped between her legs."

The initial story is so exaggerated and generally balmy that its only truly odd feature was that no denial went with it, so when this did come, it came as a relief. However, with characteristic aplomb the deniers managed to seed the business with a whole

bunch of mysteries of such a nature, and to such a point, that it becomes almost as suspect as the initial story. We refer to such glib remarks as that the woman had been "feigning pregnancy by distending her stomach muscles"; she was "taken to a secret location for psychiatric examination"; and "the report did not mention the doctors' findings".

These have to be set against equally odd statements to the effect that the woman had been examined medically several times, including once in Pakistan, and had been declared pregnant. Further, surely a medical man would have been permitted to examine her for concealed electronic equipment. No, I fear me the "explanation" is just as much bunk as the original story, and one is constrained to ask if nobody in the Islamic world has ever heard of the high art of ventriloquism. It would be a much safer bet for the debunkers and the woman could be tested under hypnosis.

A TREE THEY COULDN'T CUT

We have had a number of odd stories emanating from Malaya, and this one is among the oddest. It appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle of the 24th September 1970, as a feature article by Manoff Abdullah (Chronicle Foreign Service), date-lined Kuala Lumpur.

"A school playground will be much smaller than planned because of an ancient tree which spooked all attempts to fell it. Three years ago officials at the Cochrane⁶ Road Secondary School authorized clearing of a thicket to make way for a playing field.

"The thicket was soon cleared — except for one tree. Workers who attempted to chop the tree down were stopped in their tracks before they could swing their axe. A bulldozer was tried. Its engine died each time it approached the tree, or the driver became dizzy and was unable to operate the machine. School officials finally gave up and decided to spare the tree.

"The tree, it is said, is the home of a deity. Allannah Pullikutaru, 55, said she had been told in a vision that Hindu goddess Esewary lived in the tree. 'I was told to take care of the tree and warn those who wished to uproot it that sad things would happen to them,' she said. Even if there's an earthquake, the tree won't be uprooted. 'I have been a regular worshipper here and my only purpose in living is to take care of the tree'. She has spent a large part of the money she earns as a domestic servant buying

A Dog of an In-Law

"Hamilton, N.Z. (Reuters) — A man has tried to enter his mother-in-law in the royal dog show here, in the hounds section for the best bitch. But the organizers are doubtful whether the entry is valid. The sender failed to give the breeding and did not enclose the entry fee."

milk, fruit, and oil to offer at the tree. Residents of the area erected a shelter around the tree after attempts to fell it had failed."

It is possible that the workmen's inability to wield an axe may have been 'psychological' after Allanah Pallijutaru's awful-warnings; there appears to be no real limit to the power of "the power-of-suggestion", even without the religious overlay present in this case. Whether the lady's talents extend to stopping bulldozers is another question, but again this is not impossible. If a Russian lady can move loaves of bread around by taking thought on the

matter — though she did not supply the bread, she was accused of using magnets, by the way! — there is no reason why someone whose only purpose in living is to take care of a tree, for religious reasons, could not stop an engine. Her motivation would certainly be strong enough.

The implication in the newspaper article is, of course, that it is the tree itself which is doing the stopping. There is now plenty of evidence that plants experience what are generally called emotions (see the work of Cleve Backster, using lie-detector equipment), but we have not yet heard of one fighting back or employing PK or its opposite.

III. PHYSICS

A MAD ELECTRIC SAWMILL

Another item that has intrigued our members is an AP report from Copenhagen:

"Hans Thustrip Nielsen, 63, is closing his sawmill at the village of Moebbet, south of Copenhagen, defeated and economically ruined by mysterious electrical forces that have blown out fuses by the thousands, bulbs by the hundreds, and electric motors by the dozen.

"The mystery has defied the efforts of experts from two electrical power companies, a university professor and the makers of motors and other installations in the mill. The professor said he was tempted to suggest that 'supernatural forces or pixies are at play'.

"It began 18 months ago and now Nielsen is \$13,000 in the red from replacing bulbs, fuses and motors. The strange electrical forces, with enormous bursts of excess voltage, have started four fires in Nielsen's home, which adjoins the sawmill. Power company experts measured 29,000 lightning-like electrical discharges in mill installations in one day. 'We have learned to stay clear of lamps since the bulbs keep exploding. It does make our home life

a bit awkward' Nielsen said. The bursts occur even when all electricity to the mill is cut off.

"The chief engineer of one power company, Lars Harsting, has theorized that the air and the ground on the spot are abnormally charged with electricity. Harsting and his colleagues, working without payment rather than concede defeat are planting dozens of metal poles in the ground and connecting them with apparatus designed to log, minute-by-minute, all electrical phenomena. One new theory is that the mill installations combine to form an antenna that picks up high-frequency radio, television and radar waves."

We bunged off a copy of this to member No. 22 who is an expert on electromagnetic interference. He is still making inquiries and may have more to add later, but says "My side-walk opinion is that somebody, either in the sawmill or in the vicinity, is experimenting with some kind of generator. It could be an off-shoot of Dr. Wilhelm Reich's orgone experiments; a form of Tesla's work or the rotation of one magnetic field inside another magnetic field which can produce tremendous amperages."

We will report again if any definite information comes to light.

How's That Again?

Member No. 517 sent us a little note, as follows: "Attached is a bit of inexplicable trivia. I have an uncomfortable feeling that Wilkinson is trying to tell me something I should know about their blades; like they might cause an infection if you use them to slash your wrists."

The 'trivia'? A small card that says: "Kini hanya tinggal sebuah sadja lagi. Belilah lagi pagi ini pisau tjukur Wilkinson Sword!" You'll have to make up your own comment on this one.

THE DEATH-RAY AT LAST — OR, HOW TO TURN OFF RIOTS IN ONE EASY LESSON

As reported in the London Sunday Times by Frank Dorsey, "A team of French scientists in Marseilles is working on a death-ray machine designed to provide an entirely novel method of human destruction. The project began when the electro-acoustical laboratory of the French National Center for Scientific Research moved into a new building three years ago. The staff complained of headaches and nausea. Investigations began. Electromagnetic waves were suspected, and all stray ones detected were eliminated. So also were all ultrasound waves, which have been the laboratory's major interest for 18 years. At this point, one of the technicians got out an antique apparatus for detecting infrasound — that is, air vibrations which oscillate at less than 10 vibrations a second, or 10 Hertz. (The human ear registers, as sound, vibrations from 16 per second, or 16 Hertz, to 20,000 Hertz.) It quickly identified the source of the unease: a giant ventilator in a factory next door.

"Sound is a succession of waves in which the air is alternately compressed and decompressed. Fast vibrations either go right through solid objects or bounce off them, usually doing relatively little harm even when very powerful. But slow air vibrations, below the hearing level, can create a sort of pendulum action, a reverberation in solid objects that quickly builds up to intolerable intensity. The wavelengths most dangerous to life lie below seven per second. At this point one has a vague impression of sound and a feeling of general discomfort. At 3.5 Hertz nothing can be heard directly but there is a curious incidental effect. Nearby sounds, such as air hissing into a pipe, take on a pulsing quality. All sounds in the neighbourhood seem to ululate rhythmically.

"The research team has suffered from its experi-

ments. Some of the invisible injuries appear to be persistent. These infrawaves not only affect the ears, but work directly on the internal organs, causing a rubbing-together of various adjacent organs because of a sort of resonance. This provokes an irritation so intense that for hours afterwards any low-pitched sound seems to echo through one's body."

To study this phenomenon the scientists built a giant whistle hooked to a compressed air hose. However, when turned on the "test nearly cost us all our lives" said Prof. Vladimir Gavreau, who is in charge of the Electro-Acoustical Laboratory. "Luckily, we were able to turn it off fast." He went on "All of us were sick for hours. Everything in us was vibrating — stomach, heart, lungs. All the people in the other laboratories were sick too. They were very angry with us," he ended laconically. After this, they kept the power input very low and started probing downwards from the 16 Hertz point, and came upon the critical point of 7 Hertz at which, with a huge whistle as much as 18 feet across, constructed like a police whistle with a small airplane engine to rev the fan, they estimate that people could be killed en masse up to five miles away.

One would have thought that we already have enough ways of killing off people but it must be admitted that, if you want to do so, this would seem to be a perfectly splendid way of doing it. In warfare, it would be a lot neater than nerve gases and/or bacteria, and probably more 'humane' if you gave the enemy the full works. But it would be for controlling or eliminating mobs that it would seem to be best prescribed. You could soften them up with a bit of nausea and disorientation, and if the idiots persisted in continuing to riot, you could lay them out for days or weeks, thus avoiding the necessity for a massacre, which always seems to upset people.

VII. BIOLOGY

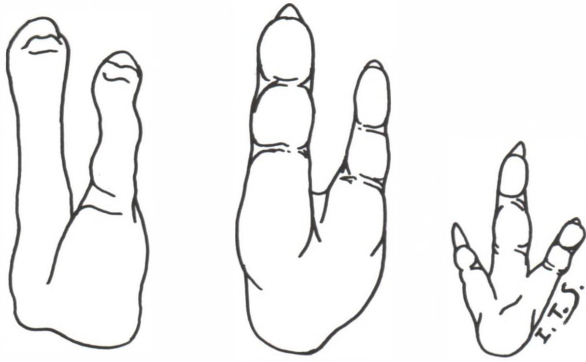
THE ABOMINABLE SPINIFEX MAN

Correspondents from Australia have passed on to us newspaper accounts of tracks found in the desert near Laverton, some 400 miles E.N.E. of Perth, in Western Australia. These are two-toed prints about 15 inches long, made by a 'something' that walked on two legs (dubbed the Spinifex Man by the Aussies). They were found by a Mr. Peter Muir, a dogger (i.e. dingo hunter) for the Agriculture Protection Board, who said that in 30 years in desert areas in Australia he had not seen anything resembling these footprints.

They do look most odd (see cut, p. 10), but there is a simple explanation: an Ostrich.

Your first reaction will probably be that we have gone balmy since "there are no ostriches in Australia; you mean an emu don't you?" No, we don't. Ostriches were long ago imported to Australia, along with other animals such as camels and rabbits. Presumably everyone knows how the rabbits have fared; and there are believed to be some truly feral populations of camels in some parts of Australia. As for the ostriches, we quote part of a letter from Harry Turner of Floreat Park, Western Australia, who originally suggested this 'diagnosis':

"In South Australia there was once an ostrich farming industry and no doubt when it became uneconomical the farmers might have turned their birds

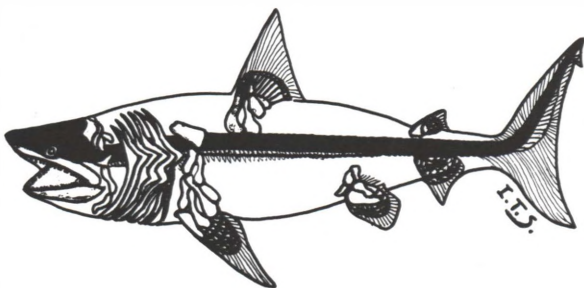


(Left) Imprint left in coarse sand by so-called "Spinifex Man". (Center) The sole of the left foot of an Ostrich, as seen from below. (Right) The sole of the left foot of an Emu, as seen from below.

loose to fend for themselves. But there is a lot of desert in between. One would suppose that an ostrich track would be similar to an emu track but rather larger. I keep some pet emus and their footprints are nothing like what is pictured."

The fact is that the only living animal — known animal, at any rate — that can and very often does leave such a two-toed track is an Ostrich. As Mr. Turner points out, emus' tracks are quite different. But both are Ratites. Emus pop up by the thousands, from nobody knows quite where, around salt-pans in the middle of Australia's worst deserts; ergo, there is no good reason why the real desert-type Ostriches could not have survived and moved over the years for hundreds of miles, and have done so undetected. To put it mildly, that part of Australia is sparsely populated — and those who do live there may have taken a few Ostriches for granted.

Spinifex, by the way, is an Australian grass with seeds that bear elastic spines; presumably it really is abominable.



WE'RE SORRY, BUT IT WAS A SHARK

Our members were really on their toes with this one, no fewer than eleven of them having called us on Monday, the 16th November, to tell us of the then still only tentatively identified and rather monumental corpse that had washed up on the beach at Scituate, Mass. This was followed by a mass of clippings, and photographs which member No. 363 took during the wee small hours of the morning. We are most heartened by this evidence of active interest on the part of our members — and subscribers! — and are as disappointed as you are that it did not prove to be a Sea Monster.

When washed up the body was badly 'mangled', partly from decomposition and partly from having provided dinner for other sea animals. Both jaws were missing, a fact that will have relevance in a moment. Police described the corpse as "a 30-foot sea serpent which resembled a camel without legs...(with) a small head, a long neck, and a large, finned body". (The idea of a camel with fins we find enchanting!)

Having been told that the New England Aquarium was 'in charge', we started telephoning and finally got through to Mr. Michael Wynne-Willson at the Aquarium. He was most helpful and forthright and read us the official release, which went as follows:

"The New England Aquarium, now in possession of the cranium of the vertebrate found last night on the Scituate beach, positively identifies it as a shark, probably a Basking Shark. It has been tentatively identified as such by not only the curatorial and educational staff of the New England Aquarium but also by Dr. Tyson Roberts, Curator of Fishes at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard, and Dr. Andrew Konnerth, Research Associate and Curator at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. The cranium, which is now being prepared for shipment from the New England Aquarium to Woods Hole, will give positive identification when compared to other shark crania, as to whether or not it is indeed a Basking Shark. These sharks are infrequently found

Basking Shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) 1/120th nat. size. Semi-diagrammatic. The skeletons of sharks are composed of cartilage or gristle as opposed to bone. Neither the upper or lower jaws, nor the throat "bones", the gill-arches, or any of the cartilaginous supports for the fins are anchored to the vertebral column, so that when the animal decomposes they fall away with the flesh, and only the small cranium is left attached to the vertebral column. These (shown in solid black) when left alone look like a snake with a rather small head.

on beaches in similar conditions with jaw bones missing, which lead to stories of unidentified swimming serpents”.

Though popularly thought of as “fish”, sharks are quite different and are properly called Selachians. Along with skates and rays, they have cartilaginous skeletons — not bony ones. Thus, a properly trained zoologist could not possibly mistake a shark’s skeleton for that of either a mammal or a reptile. However, without the jawbone it is very difficult to be absolutely certain of the exact species without consulting textbooks or comparing the cranium with positively identified specimens. The length of this corpse suggested the Basking Shark, of course (these average 30 feet in length, and the record is 45 feet), but the cranium is not vastly different from that of various other sharks.

The fact is that Basking Sharks are a positive nuisance to monster-hunters and have been mistaken for “sea serpents” on a number of occasions. On the other hand, “yesterday’s sea monster” will be tomorrow’s Basking Shark. Some of our members have contended that “even if it were a sea monster, ‘they’ wouldn’t admit it”. To this we can only say that the climate is changing; some very reputable scientists are currently delving in these troubled waters. And there probably is no scientist alive who does not — secretly at least — hope to discover a new animal. The bigger the better, even if he does have trouble putting it in a bottle. One can hardly ignore accounts of a 70-foot “sea-monster” in a scientific journal, and detailed accounts of just such a beast in 19th-century publications clearly refer to the Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*). Eventually they will all have Latin names.

TRACKS ON MT. ETNA

In the past decade a sort of insanity has rolled over the world. While this was a most ancient tradition in east central Asia, it only came to the attention of the Western world after W.W. I., via the explorers and mountaineers in the Himalayas. It had been nibbled at in Russia, Canada, and our Northwest but it did not cut loose until 1962 when our director, Ivan T. Sanderson, published his now classic Abominable Snowmen: Legend Come to Life, which covered the reports up till that date from five continents. These included rather massive documentation of this business from the states of California, Oregon, and Washington, and the province of British Columbia in Canada. The item is very large imprints of the soles of the feet of what look like sundry large unknown anthropoids, including huge hominids, in snow or mud, and often forming miles of tracks.

Since that time reports of similar imprints and tracks have spread out from that center all the way

to Central Africa and eastern Europe to join up with another wave coming east out of Mongolia via south Central Asia and the Caucasus. There have now been allegations of the discovery of such tracks in nearly every state in this Union, even to such unlikely places as Texas, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts! Several dozen different plaster casts have been offered, together with dozens more photographs of same, several piles of excrement, two films of the creatures allegedly making said tracks, and a corpse in an ice-filled coffin. The creatures have been nicknamed Bigfeet, Sasquatches, The Iceman, Yetis, or ABSMs, and a whole cult has grown up around them with all manner of people from high school youngsters to college professors going charging off to hunt them with gun, rod, and camera as in the good old days of Poona-Poona. Literally millions of dollars have been spent on this endeavour.

The idea of giant hairy hominids wandering about the eastern states is bad enough but when one is asked to even consider their appearance in suburban areas in cities like Vancouver and Oklahoma City, one tends to become a bit peeved. But something more aggravating still has been the submission of photos of such tracks in solid rock, which is of course preposterous unless said rock was molten or muddy when they were imprinted, or they were chizzled out by some funster.

There is very considerable reason to suppose that some such hominids do exist in certain wilderness areas in Asia, in the Caucasus, and in our Northwest, but these whacky reports tend only to denigrate the evidence of these and even the possibility of their existence.

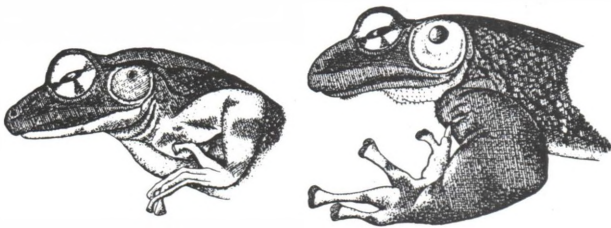
The worst of all came in last November from, of all places, Sicily! As reported by UPI it went as follows: —

“Catania, Sicily (UPI) — Residents of a village on the slopes of the Etna volcano say they have seen what looks like the footprints of an abominable snowman. Or was it one of the one-eyed cyclops who according to Greek legend had their smithy inside the crater? Whatever the being was, the villagers of Mascalucia say it certainly had big feet. According to the tale making the rounds of the mountainside communities, nine Mascalucia men, all ‘serious persons,’ saw seven footprints at an altitude of 10,335 feet on the east side of the mountain two weeks ago. They were 13 feet apart and one was more than five feet long, according to the story. All were about six inches deep in hard lava soil.”

Of all the overpopulated, deforested islands available, Sicily would probably cop first prize. Further, it has been infested for centuries by Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, and just about everybody else ex Europe, the Near East, and North Africa.

What is more, despite Etna's rambunctiousness, people always go back up the lava flows as soon as they cool enough to plant things, because of their marvellous fertility. So, unless a bunch of Vulcans do live under its crater, there is not the slightest chance of a race even of pigmies going unnoticed until today. However, this seemingly insane report should not be just declared either a lie or a hoax.

Point is, several other longer accounts mention that these tracks were in fairly fresh lava that had only just cooled sufficiently to be traversed. Now, both the Russians and some American volcanologists have actually "ridden" the crusts of molten lava while they were still moving downhill, wearing asbestos foot covering and other paraphernalia. There is a more or less permanently staffed observation post run by the University of Catania for geologists, seismologists, and volcanologists on the rim of Etna. Could any of the personnel have crossed a flow on their way down, during the last eruption, before it was fully set? If so, it is quite possible that they have left deep imprints which would have grown individually in size and become increasingly separated if the molten lava below the crust got held up below and so swelled up into a dome. Imprints such as these might not crack but retain their form, the surface being clastic, so that it stretched as a whole. Truly gigantic caves form in lava flows due to pockets of gas slowly enlarging while the rock cools around them. Somewhere we read that gigantic impressions of branches, seemingly of trees manytimes the size of any known locally were found on the slopes of the volcano Mt. Tana in the New Hebrides.



Petropedetes johnstoni. (Left) Male out of breeding season. (Right) Male at second breeding season.

MALAYAN FROG BATTLES

November of last year was a splendid fortnight effort, and never let it be said again that fortnights turn up only in the 'Silly Season'. An AP story, dated the 8th November 1970, ran as follows:

"Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (AP) — More than 3,000 frogs of four different varieties fought a furious battle lasting more than six hours, local newsmen reported yesterday. They said the frog war took place in a swampy valley beside a Hindu temple at a rubber estate near Sungai Siput, 100 miles north of Kuala Lumpur. At first, only about 50 frogs were involved but soon the numbers swelled, the newsmen reported, adding that about 1,000 people assembled to watch the frogs bite and tear at each other. Many were dead at the end of the battle.

"Maria Soosay, 30, who has lived for years near the area, said the war is almost an annual event. 'But they have been small fights. This is the biggest so far,' he said. Other frog wars have been reported at various times in different parts of West Malaysia. No one has so far come forward with any theory why such battles take place."

There was also a lot of rubbish about these frog wars being regarded as ill omens auguring war, revolution, or inter-racial outbreaks. However, identical or similar-appearing frog behaviour is not confined to Malaysia. It happens in forested West Africa and is not so much a war as, apparently, a form of population control. There is one species of frog known as Petropedetes johnstoni that has a very odd life history. The females just grow steadily from year to year, retaining one coloration and changing only in size. The males, on the other hand, change radically from their second to fifth years prior to the coming of the big rains when they descend from the trees where they otherwise live, to mate. Not only do they increase enormously in bulk, they change colour, their tympani or ear-drums become greatly enlarged and develop a large button in the middle, and their forelimbs more than quadruple in bulk, develop enormous terminal finger pads, and a sharp dentine-capped spike grows out from the bottom of the terminal thumb joint. In between mating seasons they revert to their yearling colour pattern, lose the tympanum knob, and the forelimbs lose the spike and return to normal bulk.

The males arrive at mating locations before the

Department of Geography: Demography Up to Date

Some of our favourite towns: Eek, Alaska; Enigma, Georgia; Waterproof, Louisiana; Steamboat, Nevada; Zap, North Dakota; Drain, Oregon; and, best of all, Panic, Pennsylvania. We're not making these up, you know.

females, and second, third, and fourth year individuals are then present together. Each age group keeps to itself but sometimes, due to crowding, the biggest boys will attack the next size down and rip into them both with their powerful jaws and also with their thumb spears. We wonder if this might not be what the Malayan frogs are up to. What is more, Malays are more prone to pull their "running amok" stunt at the onset of the rains.

A LITTLE VIETNAMESE MONSTER

May we be permitted to point out once again that the word 'monster' has two quite distinct basic meanings: monstrously large for what it is, or monstrous in form compared to what it should be or what is otherwise known. We once announced that we were going to show some little monsters on television, and the producer was most distressed when we offered some nightmarish Protozoans under a microscope. Monsters in most peoples' opinion must be at least 50 feet long. One wonders what they feel about baby monsters.

Comes then a fascinating report from Vietnam. This appeared in the Webster (Mass.) Times of the 7th October of last year. It bears no byline, and we have not heard of it from any other source. We give it herewith in full: —

"Army Specialist 4 Przystas Tells About Monster of Long Binh: U. S. Army war stories about the prehistoric monster living in the swamps of Long Binh, Viet Nam aren't as absurd as some people are inclined to believe, according to SP-4 Richard Przystas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Przystas of 66 Racicot Ave.

"Stationed at Long Binh, Sp-4 Przystas is on duty in the sector where a 'mystery' reptile was shot by a U.S. Army Depot perimeter guard, according to information in a letter to his parents. He also included a newspaper clipping, noting that it was 'headlines' in the war-torn country. This reads as follows:

"Long Binh's 'monster' first came into the lime-light when Spec. 5 Joseph Ott, an information specialist assigned to U.S. Army, Vietnam, wrote a story about several 34d Ord. Bn. personnel who declared they had seen what they described as a giant reptile in a swamp near the U.S. Army Depot here.

It was estimated at between three and four feet long and reportedly left footprints about as large as a man's hand, with the tail leaving a four-inch-deep trail in the mud near the ammunition storage areas, observers said. Several traps were constructed of wire mesh and baited with meat, but to no avail. In one instance, the monster got into the trap and broke out, leaving a pile of boards but no meat. At first the stories were scoffed at and dismissed as 'rear area war stories' — more fiction than fact. But the shooting of an actual specimen refutes disbelief.

"Spec. 4 Gregg Batzer and Pfc. Charles McKenna, depot security guards on the Long Binh bunker line, were standing guard duty in bunker 327. The summer monsoon rain had just abated when McKenna spotted 'something weird'. 'It was as long as the bunker' noted McKenna, and 'looked prehistoric'. Patzer remarked it was a 'very odd looking beast'. He admitted that seeing the reptile on his first bunker guard assignment left him spooked. McKenna shot the 'monster' as it entered the bunker. It measured five feet long and weighed more than 35 pounds. It was her mother instinct which had attracted the 'monster' to the bunker. The giant reptile had put her offspring in the opening back of the bunker until after the rain, and she was returning to them.

"Since this 'monster' was killed, many amateur zoologists have searched for information about the fearsome reptile and its possible mate. So far, no authoritative text has certified the 'monster' as a known zoological species. The most attractive theory is a popular belief that it is a giant newt, perhaps the last survivor of the descendants of Plesiosaurus reptiles, believed to have been extinct for more than 50 million years, isolated in the Long Binh swamps until Army personnel moved into the area and discovered them.

"Meanwhile, the knowledge that the dead reptile was a mother means that 'papa monster' is probably still lurking in the swamps. The traps are getting bigger and more numerous each day."

The description of this animal conforms very closely to the common Monitor Lizard (Varanus) of southern Indochina. This animal might well come as a bit of a shock to a United-Stater on his first tour of that area. The account would have been pretty good if the reporter had not seen fit to add the usual bits of zoological baloney. This is the way monster stories get started.

It may be "the most attractive theory" and a

Our Favourite Title

Taken from the Journal of Zoology, Vol. 161: "Character analysis: an empirical approach applied to advanced snakes." We don't know what this is all about, never having got past the title.

"popular belief" that it is a giant newt, but newts live only in Eurasia and North America, and they are not reptiles, but amphibians like salamanders, with slimy skins, that lay their eggs in water. By no stretch of the imagination could a salamander be a descendant of any reptile, let alone the marine Plesiosaurs, which incidentally are believed to have become extinct 70-million years ago. The zoologists involved must certainly have been amateurs, and probably of the Hollywood-Comic-Strip variety.

A THREE-TOED, BIPEDAL WORM!

The fossil three-toed track shown in the photograph is one of several found by a chap named John Mittl. The exact location has been kept secret to prevent vandals from destroying them, but they are on top of a "mountain" in northern Berks County, Pennsylvania. They are identical in outline to those of some newly hatched dinosaurs' tracks possessed by the American Museum of Natural History and therefore presumably should not pose any problem — except for one thing. "Dinosaurs" only started in the Triassic period, but the rocks in which these tracks were found are apparently Silurian — in other words, about 200 million years too early.

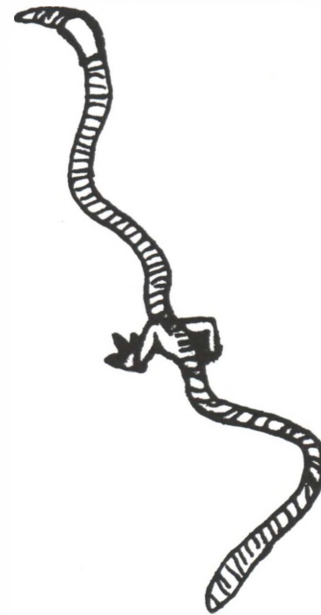
Mr. Mittl is said to have consulted various scientists but, to quote the Reading Times of the 15th September, 1966, appears to have chosen the wrong ones.



"Some of these scientists thought the tracks were fossilized bird tracks only some 250-million years too soon! ; some thought they were dinosaur tracks and some thought they were 'petroglyphs' or carvings of bird tracks which were made by Indians. This last theory, however, is not borne out in light of the history of Berks County Indians, nor by the appearance of the tracks."

Others decided that the rocks must be Triassic if these tracks are those of dinosaurs. But apparently not one of these pundits was willing to go there and determine once and for all just what age the rocks are. There are said to be other fossil tracks in these strata, and these should help in identifying them, unless they too are 'out of place'. But the real pay-off is the identification of these three-toed tracks made by a certain Dr. Richmond L. Myers of Moravian College. He insisted that the impressions were the trails of a fossil worm! Oh, mirabile dictu.

We found the accompanying reconstruction of this hilarious beast by our director, in the margin of the clipping.



Myervermis tridactylia (Gen. Nov.)

VIII. ANTHROPOLOGY

WERE EGYPTIANS FIRST IN AUSTRALIA?

This was the headline on a short piece from the London Sunday Express, sent us by member No. 162. It was date-lined Sydney and read as follows:

"Did Ancient Egyptians surf at Bondi? a suburb of Sydney Historian Rex Gilroy plans to lead an

expedition into central Australia to prove that Egyptians and other races found Australia thousands of years before Captain Cook. He believes he already has evidence that Arab dhows explored the New South Wales coast about 3,500 B.C. He is studying a collection of bronze plates, coins, pottery and hieroglyphics found near Bondi and other parts of Australia. Now he will search for huge reliefs of

Egyptian deities reported to have been found by Aboriginals on a cliff face in central Australia.

"These discoveries could rewrite the history of Australia", said Mr. Gilroy, director of the Mount York Natural History Museum. "Evidence of the landings of Egyptians, including Aboriginal carvings of their dhows and clothing, is coming to light all the time."

This is intriguing, though one wonders which 'Arabs'. Had Mr. Gilroy said Phoenicians, it would seem more likely. Also, the Egyptians were not notoriously good sailors, despite Thor Heyerdahl's latest success. Bear in mind that Ra's I & II were built, not by Egyptians, but by imported Bolivian Indians! Nevertheless, we pursued Mr. Gilroy.

Our own reference works having failed us, we called the Australian News and Information Bureau. They had heard nothing of it and were no more successful in finding a town called Mount York than we had been; nor were they able to find any reference to Mr. Rex Gilroy. We then wrote to the Foreign Editor of the Sunday Express, who very kindly checked with his correspondent in Sydney and sent us an address for Mr. Gilroy. In the meantime we had also written to the Australian Museum in Sydney to ask their help. And we got it — in the form of one of the most refreshingly frank letters we have seen; and we quote:

"I have your letter of 14th September, 1970 addressed to the Director of the Australian Museum. Dr. Talbot, our Director, is at present overseas but in his absence I think I can completely answer the request made in your letter about Mr. Rex Gilroy, self styled Director of the Mount York Natural History Museum.

"Without being too strong I think I can state that you can completely disregard any claims as to discoveries, either of a natural history nature or archaeology, made by Mr. Gilroy. We have already notified all the responsible newspapers in Australia that they should disregard any claims he makes. His work is bogus and he is possibly slightly deranged. He has a small private museum situated on the Blue Mountains of New South Wales near Mount York, (nearest large town Katoomba). We have had trouble with him in connection with fossils; this particular claim that he has found traces of Arabs and Egyptians in Australia, and on many other occasions.

"He makes wild statements to small local news sheets which publish them as 'sensational findings' and then these get extracted into large city dailies in Australian States.

"If you want some details as to his 'craziness' I would suggest that you communicate with our Curator of Palaeontology, Dr. Alex Ritchie, at this address.

"I repeat, you can completely disregard any claims of Gilroy in this matter.

/Signed/ Yours faithfully,
Elizabeth Pope
Acting Director."

It would be rather fun to have Egyptians and Arabs in Australia, but it seems clear that Mr. Gilroy has a bee in his bonnet. We would like to know more about the alleged "bronze plates, coins, pottery and hieroglyphics" mentioned, and in fact had written to him before receiving Miss Pope's reply to our enquiry. But Mr. Gilroy has not answered.

There are some very curious — and fully authenticated — Aboriginal paintings of 'people' who bear no resemblance to any Australian Aborigine; they don't resemble any Arab or Egyptian either. And, despite the fact that we have a tendency to be very cautious in accepting flat statements by orthodox scientists, the comments on Gilroy's general reputation indicate that anything he offers should be fully backed with facts and artefacts.

RED-HAIRED PEOPLE-EATERS

Scores of red-headed mummies, averaging 6½ to 7 feet tall, and thousands of artefacts have been taken from a smoke-coated, exceptionally dry cave some 22 miles southwest of Lovelock, Nevada. Piute Indians living in Lovelock state matter-of-factly that these were cannibals who preyed on the Piutes and were eventually exterminated by them. The last remnants of the cannibal tribe holed up in this cave and were suffocated by enormous fires built at the entrance. Annie Bill, 68, a Piute and a lifelong resident of Lovelock, said, "All members of the tribe who were exterminated had red hair. I have some of their hair which has been handed down from father to son. I have a dress which has been in our family a great many years, trimmed with this reddish hair. Old

SPECIAL NOTICE

Richard Lanthier (Laan-tee-ay), our member No. 640, formerly worked for Le Monde Insolite or Strange, Strange World at the MAN AND HIS WORLD Exposition in Montreal, and is thoroughly familiar with our work. He now has an English-language television show in Montreal, though with national (Canadian) outlets, and has asked us to invite SITU's members to call him when in that very beautiful city, with a view to a possible appearance on his program, which is devoted to the Unexplained. His telephone number is (514)-321-2512 or, if there is no answer there, (514)-324-0987.

Piutes always called the redheads Siwash Indians, but many of my people really wondered if the redheads were Indians at all". Her grandparents told her that their grandparents described the cannibals as having long faces and light skin "like white man". This may seem a rather remote source of information, but non-literate peoples often do transmit their tribal history from generation to generation with remarkable fidelity.

The anthropologists and archaeologists are rather rude about the story of cannibalism and red hair, claiming that the color of the hair was due to "age or chemical action". And Donald R. Tuohy, curator of anthropology at the Nevada State Museum, has announced, apparently with some heat, that the Piute stories are "myths — pure and simple fabrications". He further "believes" that the Piutes knew of the existence of the cave and its contents long before its discovery by white men in 1912, and concocted this story to explain it. He is quite right on one count.

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, daughter of the Piute chief, Old Winnemucca, published a book entitled Life Among the Piutes in 1883, in which she gives the whole story and states that the last of the cannibals were exterminated by her people earlier in the 19th century. Recent carbon-14 dating tests indicate that the cave was occupied as late as 1800-1850, which certainly supports her story; and no one has even tried to suggest that this late occupation was by the Piutes, who were never cave dwellers in any case.

The question of who these cannibals were and where they came from is still unresolved — the earliest occupation of the cave is dated as somewhere between 2000 and 3000 B.C. but it was not occupied continuously up to 1800. Most of the artefacts are what one would expect: baskets, nets, duck decoys, arrowheads, and the like. But one is most unusual. Preserved at Stoker's Museum in Winnemucca, this is a calendar stone marked with 52 dots on the inside and 365 (please note well) on the outside. Clarence (Pike) Stoker, curator (and presumably owner) of the Museum, has speculated that if the redheads weren't Amerinds "It's very possible they were descendants of Egyptians who sailed to America hundreds of years ago". Red hair suggests Phoenicians rather than Egyptians. And Phoenicians do seem to have got around (see p. 16) but that they were all giants and indulged in cannibalism is questionable. Current studies of the artefacts, the mummies, and some 5000 human coprolites (fossilized excrement) may provide an answer to this conundrum. In the meantime, we think it impolite to call the Piutes liars, and unwise to lean too heavily on Thor Heyerdahl's Egyptian exercises.

"THEY ALL DISCOVERED AMERICA"

The most startling pronouncement in the field of archaeology last year was undoubtedly Professor

Cyrus H. Gordon's considered pronouncement that some Mediterranean people, probably including at least some Hebrews, got to this continent 1000 or more years before Columbus. Dr. Gordon stated for the record that a tribal group of indigenes called the Melungeons offer clear evidence of this fact not only in their legends but in their physical appearance, while an inscribed stone was unearthed from one of their burial mounds in Tennessee in 1885. by one Cyrus Thomas who was working with the Smithsonian. He further stated that "This group of people are neither Amerindian nor Negro, and are Caucasian but not Anglo-Saxon."

The stone was found under one of nine skeletons in the mound. "The archaeological circumstances of the discovery" Dr. Gordon said "rule out any chance of fraud or forgery and the inscription attests to a migration of Jews [i.e. Hebrews]". It was brought to his attention by Dr. Joseph D. Mahan Jr., of the Columbus, Georgia, Museum of Arts and Crafts. It has been lying in the Smithsonian since its discovery but ignored because the inscription was initially read upside down and made no sense. It bears eleven characters including five letters which Dr. Gordon reads as "For the Land of Judah", in a style of writing used in Canaan around the beginning of this millenium, and he suggests that they were inscribed about the time when "Jews migrated here to escape the long hand [arm] of Rome after the disastrous Jewish defeats in 70 to 135 A.D." He adds that the Melungeons are descendants of Mediterranean people, who themselves believe that they came to the New World in ships about 2000 years ago.

This is but another nail in the coffin of the "Ocean Blue in 1492" and all that 'discovery' nonsense, and a cornerstone in the ever-growing edifice of Near Eastern exploration of, and settlement in, the New World, starting 2000 years before that episode. It was Dr. Gordon, moreover, who jolted us two years ago by pronouncing another inscribed stone slab found in the Amazon Basin as being of Phoenician origin. Before that we have the massive work of Prof. Ramos bringing to light dozens of other petroglyphs including perfect fish and Indian rhinoceroses filled with Aramaic-type Phoenician letters in the same country. Add to these, coins found in the bottoms of wells all down the eastern coastal plain of North America, tombs in South America, and statuettes of bearded men with Caucasian features in Centroamerica, and the Columbus buffs begin to look a bit silly. Sure that splendid Genoese made it over but he was accused of being unable to read the maps by his own captains! Wish I had had some maps when I "discovered" a new mountain in Africa; it would have saved me a lot of time, trouble, and expense.

A point of interest may be worthy of addition to this matter. It is not generally realized that not all the Hebrew tribes of old were land lubbers. Several groups broke away from the God Yahwe and followed

Baal of the Phoenicians and the Palestinian coastal strip and became Sea People like the Philistines and the subjects of the Ancient Sea Kings. They nonetheless remain Hebrews (the term Jew is only a religious designation), and they were still around at the time of Columbus, usually as the specioneers (or pursers) on ships of almost all nations, handling trading and financial matters. There is the fascinating story of the specioneer on Cortez' flagship who was a Hebrew and who, on seeing the first Ocellated Turkey Birds, named them in Hebrew tokhé (verbally) since when they spread their tails they displayed eyes on them, like those on peacocks' tails, a bird that he alone knew. (Incidentally our turkey was taken to Spain but developed in Holland and Belgium, then the Spanish Low Countries, but did not spread to Turkey until very modern times!)

There is massive evidence that the crews of trading vessels from the eastern Mediterranean were always extremely mixed, and that not only the coastal Hebrews but even the inland tribesmen did an awful lot of boating. Hebrews, and notably Sephardim, settled in earliest times at the terminals of sea lanes everywhere and apparently of ocean lanes as well. They were the brokers and the first maritime insurance agents. If the Phoenicians got to the New World, Hebrews undoubtedly arrived with them.

ENIGMAS IN LEAD

By Gaston Burrige

One of the fascinating riddles of our great Southwest has several names — "The Tucson Artefacts", "Lead Crosses", "Arizona Romans". It all began along the Silverbell Road northwest of Tucson, Arizona, on the 13th September, 1924, when Mr. Charles E. Manier discovered the first relic by accident. The mystery of their origin continues to patina these items with ever increasingly colorful words — from plain "hoax" to romantic "adventurers of 800 A.D." — and little has been done to scrape away this patina and learn the truth. Could a band of late Roman adventurers possibly have managed to get into Arizona so early? Present academicians in archaeology look askance at the entire idea, while laymen tend to emphasize the positive and neglect the negative, both of which exist.

More than 30 relics have been unearthed, and there may well be others still buried. One large cross weighed 62 pounds.* There were other crosses,

*The crosses vary in size: the largest is 18 inches long, its cross arms 12 inches overall. The face is 4 inches wide and 2 inches thick; the smallest 8 5/8 inches long, its cross arm 8 1/4 inches, its face width 2 1/4 inches, but only 7/16 inch thick (this was very poorly cast).

spears, spearheads, batons, daggers, sword-like weapons — and a "something" which looked rather like a giant pancake turner but is far too thick. Other objects bear serpent-like appendages wound around them. Many items are inscribed with letters, words, and graphic symbols. These words and symbols have been deciphered and yield comprehensible messages. It is from these that the dates 560 A.D. to 800 A.D. are derived.

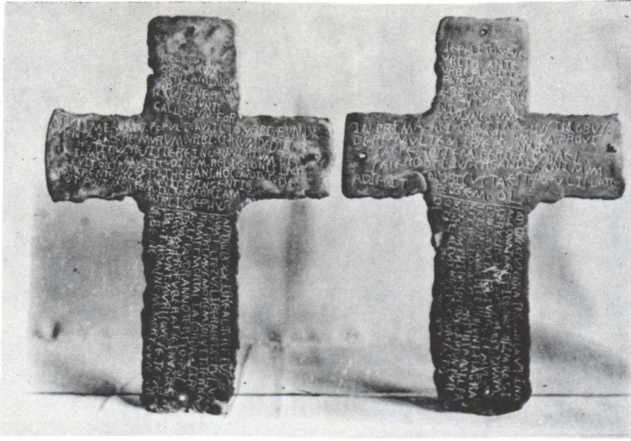
One 'item' proves intriguing and seems important. It rests with the word caliche (kǎ-lě'-chā). What is caliche and why is it important here?

Caliche exists in most desert soils. It "grows" as a result of water action and reaction with certain chemicals in the soil — calcium carbonate in particular. Caliche gathers as a hard, crust-like sheet or layer at varying depths in desert soils, generally at that place where surface water stops descending for lack of reinforcement from above. In dry years a layer of caliche builds close to the surface. In wet years the stratum forms much lower. There are often several layers, one above the other. Caliche also accumulates around buried metal objects and builds a tough, hard deposit of uneven thickness around them. Photographs taken immediately after some of these artefacts were exhumed show heavy deposits of caliche. Others of the relics were recovered from between layers of caliche. Photographs of the site itself indicate several strata were below the five-foot surface level. This seems to indicate a wide range of rainfall and the passage of a great deal of time, and thus suggests that the artefacts are very old indeed.

The first Tucson Artefact was discovered by accident on land belonging to Mr. Thomas Bent, an attorney of Tucson, but not by him. He retains the entire collection of artefacts, and has also kept careful records of each "dig", recording the date, who was present, what conditions were encountered while the digging took place. Further, Mr. Bent had made a careful photographic record of each item as it was dug out. The negatives are still in his possession. Bent has never tried to commercialize any of the finds. He has sought only to further a scientific investigation of these pieces. Now 73 years old and in ill health, Bent is no longer actively attempting to foster general interest in and investigation of the riddle.

Some prominent archaeologists and mine engineers were present at the site during several digs. They included Drs. Frank Fowler, Byron Cummings, Andrew E. Douglass, Neil Judd, and Charles Vorhies.

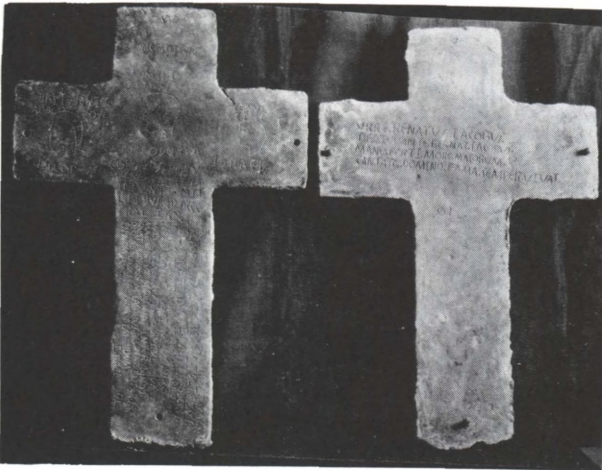
The artefacts themselves are cast of lead — some of the crosses in two halves riveted together. This metal resembles that which is present in ores found in the area now. The relics showed no radioactivity when unearthed, indicating that they had been buried for a considerable time; but no really accurate method of determining age was known in 1924-25. The objects were not found in a cache but well distributed



One of the Tucson Artefacts, showing inscriptions on the inside faces of the cross. The halves were sealed with a kind of wax which prevented deterioration of the inscriptions. Photo from Arizona Pioneer's Historical Society, Tucson.



The 'exterior' of the same cross, showing the heavy encrustation of caliche on the outside. Photo from Arizona Pioneer's Historical Society, Tucson.



Another cross with Latin-Hebraic inscriptions. The three heads shown may have been leaders or other prominent persons. Their names are given as Jacob, Theodore, and Israel. Photo from Arizona Historical Museum, Tucson.

over an area of 80 by 100 feet. They were located from three to six feet below the surface. This would seem to rule out the possibility that they had been "planted". It has been pointed out that the inscriptions incised upon some of the relics contain words and idioms which did not come into general Latin usage until much later than the indicated 800 A.D. This is one of the factors some authorities cite as a basis for the claim that this is a hoax.

In 1964 Mr. Bent published a 400-page monograph covering all the then known facts about the relics. It is detailed and complete but was published in a very limited edition, and all copies have been distributed, being given to those institutions and individuals Mr. Bent felt would be most likely to further genuine scientific study to determine the true nature of the entire matter.

It seems too bad: — whether the Tucson Artefacts prove a hoax or history — that they do not occupy a secure place in some Southwestern museum, for they are part of the historical heritage of that region and have become as important as any of its many gunfighters.

UFOLOGY

We are being asked ever more frequently why we appear to be decreasingly interested in this phenomenon. The appearance is valid; in some respects. This does not mean that we have lost all interest in the subject; far from it. The reasons for our current attitude are twofold.

First, we are frankly bored with what are called mere "sightings" — a word which we abominate anyway. They are endlessly repetitious, though we would

be the first not only to admit, but to point out, that no two are alike. In fact, we have a feeling that every damned one ever recorded is intrinsically different. Nonetheless, recording the cases as of now serves only one purpose. This is to accumulate as much data as possible for the computerized analysis that is being undertaken by The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, Inc., of 3910 E. Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona 85712 (phone: (602)-793-1825).

We say this because we now believe it to be quite useless waiting for one of these things to "land" and be captured or properly examined. If this could be accomplished, it would have been done long ago. Further, we have very good reason for thinking that it cannot be hoped for in present circumstances, and that it would not be comprehended if it were. But more on this aspect of the matter in a minute.

Let it be said that, while we say we are bored with "sighting" reports as a steady diet, we are increasingly keen to collect them, just as an entomologist does up to tens of thousands of specimens of the same species of insect, because this is the only way by which one may classify variation; and by classifying variations, we almost invariably bring to light hitherto unknown and unsuspected facts. But, for this kind of investigation computers are essential, so we shoot everything we receive on to A.P.R.O.

The second reason for our apparent indifference to this matter of late is quite different; and this is only an appearance indeed, for it actually lies very near to the core of our own work and the kind of investigation that we, SITU, are set up for. This may come as a bit of a shock to those of you whose primary interest is ufology, but it should be stated bluntly. It is simply that, after very mature consideration, and an enormous amount of discussion and debate, we, as a body, feel that at least one sound, logical, and scientifically acceptable explanation of and for the phenomenon has now been offered; and, in view of this, we, as a scientifically based and oriented organization, feel that we should concentrate all our attention and energy on this theory with a view either to producing worthwhile suggestions for those elaborating it to consider, or to collect measurable evidence of its invalidity.

This, in turn, should not be construed to mean that we are no longer interested in other theories. We most certainly welcome any and all, however crazy they may appear, because we have now entered the second stage of the old fundamental 'What-How-Why' procedure. To reiterate: we now have enough 'whats' to analyse and should therefore proceed to examine all the possible 'hows'.

So far there is only one theory that has come to our attention that meets all the very stringent strictures that we place upon any and every theory. As far as we know, this was first mooted by Luis Schonherr in four articles in the Flying Saucer Review, of London, dated March-April 1963; January-February 1964; November-December 1965; and November-December 1968. We say 'mooted' because Mr. Schonherr actually speculated upon only one aspect of this concept — the physical one. This suggestion does not, however, appear to have been considered up to the present, though it forms a cornerstone of what we call (for convenience and easy reference only) The New Theory.

This has now been put forward by more than half

a dozen advanced scientists, several technologists, and four or five workers in other fields, notably journalism. Each has come to the same point independently. This we consider to be of the utmost significance, perhaps of an even higher degree than the standing of the scientists involved. These are primarily the Frenchmen, Drs. Jacques Vallee and Aime Michel; and among the independents, whom we refuse to refer to as 'amateurs', John A. Keel, and Gordon Creighton. The technologists, while all of the highest standing also, have not as yet published on the matter — as is their wont! The 'theory' can be very simply stated, but the 'mechanics' of it are enormously complicated and very advanced. However, the hypotheses on which they are based are all established and proven — at least mathematically — and, in turn, form the bases of Quantum Physics.

We have arranged for one of our members (No. 208), a nuclear physicist, to write up these technicalities for our next issue. For now, let it be stated as follows.

UFOs, and several other types of "items", may be projections from another, or other, space-time-continua that may be said — for simplicity's sake — to exist and run on parallel lines to the one that we are in. (Of course the word 'parallel' is an oversimplification and, if taken literally, very misleading. Also, it might be better to say a 'space-time-gravity' cosmos.)

This is an old theory but the current approach to it is novel in that these projections are now being conceived of as holograms in form but material in content. In other words, they "come through" from other space-time-gravities and go back into them; and can do so at any time-speed up to, and possibly surpassing, that of light. In other words, they are teleports. The most fascinating aspect of this New Theory is, however, something corollary to this rather simple concept, and this is where we come in.

Teleportation or ITF, meaning instant transference, is a term devised to cover the "transference" of solid matter through solid matter. Now, it would appear that this is a phenomenon that is fairly widespread and by no means infrequent in nature. But then again, as those who have propounded this New Theory suggest, it now looks very much as if it can also be contrived artificially and purely mechanically. Thus, the theory envisages other continua being inhabited by intelligent (in our meaning of that expression) entities who have mastered the technique of artificial ITF, and who employ it to come through into our continuum by what we may call 'projection', and then influence us and our environment. Further, these scientists consider that any such intelligencies must have concurrently mastered the art of 'creating' anything they want — ranging from UFOs to Little Green Men. And surely, if their chemiphysicists can make the former, their biochemists should be able to manufacture the latter. We are on the brink of doing

both ourselves, after only about a century of serious consideration of the possibilities.

Until we do so, however, we will neither be able to capture or truly contact either of them; for, from

our present way of thinking, they are actually "here-not-heres" and material-nonmaterial; in fact, manifestations of Charles Fort's concept of Determinism-Indeterminism.

DEPARTMENT OF LOOSE ENDS

This column will appear here from time to time as we have something more to report on some of the items discussed in articles in PURSUIT, but not enough to warrant another article. Checking reports or obtaining further information is often difficult and almost always a long process — e.g. our query to du Pont in September was not answered until mid-November — hence the delay in keeping some of our promises.

Giant Skeletons on Lundy Island (Vol. 3, No. 1): This concerned a release by the National Geographic Society, stating that 8-foot human skeletons had been found on Lundy Island. It turns out that the release was written by a chap who got the information

on the giant skeletons from "an old clipping" and from reference books on Lundy, not specified. We have not gotten anywhere in trying to track these down.

"Noah's Ark(s)": Enquiries to the Turkish government concerning the 'ark' allegedly blown up, have gone unanswered. We also wrote the Soviet Permanent Mission to the UN concerning photographs of an 'ark' taken by Russian fliers; they referred us to TASS. We have had no reply as of the time of writing this. It should be pointed out that the Russian fliers were apparently 'poaching' over Turkish territory, which makes it a little sticky for the Russians, though we carefully refrained from asking where it was seen.

CURRENT PURSUITS

The items listed below comprise a roster of those which SITU is currently engaged in pursuing actively or which have already been investigated. They are numbered chronologically from the date of the initiation of the first enquiry in 1968. Primarily they constitute items that, at the time of their reception, were either new to our files or which had, until then, been represented only by casual references therein. Secondly, however, their selection is dependent almost solely on the availability of a potential set-up for further investigation, meaning that personnel are physically near enough to the locus to prosecute search, and that members and communicants have the time and are willing to initiate bibliographical research. Third, we have to consider the availability of requirements called for by whatever is discovered — both physical specimens, and written reports. All members are not only invited, but urged, to join in these pursuits. You don't have to be a working scientist or even have any scientific training. The most astonishing discoveries have so often been made by what are called, so scathingly, amateurs, and just about all new items that come to us, and suggestions as to procedure in investigating them, come from this ilk.

To save space, the wordage in this column has to be reduced to a minimum and to this end, when a number and title alone appears, it indicates that either (a) there is nothing new to report on it, or (b) that it is in limbo, or in a sort of intellectual suspended animation. Thus, there are some investiga-

tions that might be considered to be 'closed', in that either an explanation has been found, or we appear to have reached a dead end. This, however, is not to be construed as meaning that they are permanently closed out. All the findings on any one, once initiated, remain on file, and new information invariably comes in that initiates either further search and research along old lines or which opens up new lines of approach or corollary matters of importance, or which brings to light lapses in past initiative. New members interested in this listing are invited to apply to us for further information and, if then wishing to carry on where we have temporarily left off, to make arrangements either to visit our HQ to examine the files or ask for an estimate of the cost of having all the material on file copied. However, we should warn that some cases, like No. 8, fill half a room with pertinent literature! Current Pursuits constitutes the most respectable way of recruiting new membership since it offers something concrete in return for effort expended, while there is nothing so satisfying as having an objective in life, and especially in the field of one's chosen work or hobby.

It should be understood that anything mentioned in this journal constitutes a potential "pursuit", and we would be grateful to receive suggestions as to any you consider should be more actively pursued. We have, in addition to the list below, a file of Desiderata, and we contemplate publishing this in our next issue. There are literally hundreds of items

that we cannot pursue actively at the moment due to shortage of time and funds, but more particularly due to distance from the locations of incidence.

- (1) STONE SPHERES
- (2) STONE SOFTENING
- (3) RINGING ROCKS

Three separate laboratories are still working on the composition and constitution of the rocks themselves. In the meantime, having released our observations on the possible archaeological aspects of the Upper Black Eddy rock-field three separate organizations have offered their cooperation in this department of enquiry. A morticed wall has been found under the pile at one side, and there is a current suggestion that there may have been a large series of structures here, having something to do with copper smelting.

- (4) LITHIC IMPLEMENT FACTORY IN BRITISH HONDURAS
- (5) CHAIN IN ROCK

Member No. 49, as of the time of writing, is preparing to stage an 'onslaught' on this item now that the leaves are off the trees and, he hopes, before excessive snowfall.

- (6) PADDLE-BUGS
- (7) MECHANICAL DOWSING
- (8) "BOZO", THE "ICEMAN"
- (9) THE OLDEST & LARGEST PLANT
- (10) GRAVITY II
- (11) IK-NISH
- (12) ANCIENT ELECTRONICS

To clarify a statement made in our October issue, Mike Freedman's analysis of ancient depictions that appear to represent static generators, forms part of a chapter in Ivan T. Sanderson's book Still More "Things", which will be published by Prentice-Hall sometime next year.

- (13) ENTOMBED TOADS

Marion Fawcett is still plugging away at this, though with considerable frustration. Our major requirement now is any kind of photographic or other concrete evidence — affidavits and the like. Thus far Miss Fawcett has traced one house in which a "toad-hole" was preserved; unfortunately the house burned down before 1860! A dozen other enquiries remain unanswered.

- (14) A POLTERGEIST MANIFESTATION

- (15) SOUTH NEW JERSEY TREE STUMPS

Alas, nothing to report, and we are still searching for any photographs of same, and with ever-increasing urgency because a publication date for this item is fast approaching. [Got it!]

- (16) BIG CATS AT LARGE

Dan Manning, who has prosecuted this search and research is working on a map covering the incidence of these reports, and will not be issuing his own report until this is completed.

- (17) THE CROOKED HOUSE

When constructing an extension to the library in this building, the same thing happened again with a series of book shelves. These had been installed one day but had to be altered in level to allow for some outsized books. When we tried to put the shelves back (five witnesses to both operations) some were over an inch too short, others too long. All had been numbered, but no amount or rearrangement would make any of them fit. They ran between two permanent and very solid walls and were of well-seasoned wood, having been used as shelving in New York for 25 years.

- (18) STUFF FROM THE SKY, OR "FAFROTSKIES"

This has developed into a major 'industry' and one of our principal pursuits. We started listing these "falls" from scientific journals and books in our library. But, by the time we had worked through about a quarter of what we have, our Managing Editor (MLF) had typed, standard double-spaced, on a continuous roll of paper, a list of one-line references that measured 26 feet! (Please send us any and all references you come across; but, more essentially, report to us on any case you hear of locally.)

- (19) THE BOSSBERG SASQUATCH

Four members are, as of the time of writing, in Bossberg, Washington State, investigating this case. A Mr. Ivan Marx of that township took 200-ft of colour film of what he alleges is a wounded, young male Sasquatch at close range last October; and he has a large collection of plaster casts of different humanoid tracks from the area. He says that there is definitely an old male with the wounded youngster, and that he believes there are three others in the neighbourhood. We have made an offer for his stills and out-takes from his film for one-time publication, and we have first option from Mr. Marx; but, there are others in the field. We will be reporting later on the outcome in any case, and will include the results of an appraisal of the validity of the film.

(20) SHOE IMPRINTS IN ANCIENT ROCKS

Ron Calais of Lafayette, La., tells us that he has a collection of about 50 reports, with many photographs, of this item, and he may be going to let us copy them for our files. This is an item that we can pursue only through bibliographical research, but it has almost reached a stage when a special committee will have to be set up to supervise this.

(21) THUNDERBIRDS

This is one of the most frustrating items in our files. There is a photograph of a group of men holding a very large bird with an enormous wingspread;

this is alleged to have appeared first in the Tombstone Epitaph, but that newspaper denies ever having published such a photograph and — despite the fact practically 'everyone' seems to have seen it reproduced somewhere — no one seems to be able to find a copy. Our members No. 17 and 49 investigated rumours of this giant bird in Pennsylvania several years ago and are reported to have had a photostat of this elusive photograph with them. We have pursued them, and they are currently digging into their files. Should they find it, we will publish it in our next issue. In the meantime, if any other member or subscriber has a copy of this photograph, PLEASE send it to us by certified mail, return receipt requested. We will copy it and return it to you.

LIBRARY

We have talked to a number of our members who are still in or have just left college, in an attempt to learn the titles of truly useful and up-to-date texts on inorganic chemistry, 'ordinary' physics, astronomy, and geology. Thus far, our search has been fruitless — their comments on the textbooks used in their classes are hardly printable. We need these for general reference and will be most grateful

if you, our members, can help. Should you know of an outstanding text on any of these subjects, please drop us a note giving the title, author, a brief account of the book's content, etc., and the approximate cost of a decent second-hand copy; we will be in touch with you promptly, either to say no, or to ask that you get us a copy and send it along with the sales slip so that we can reimburse you. (Of course, if you'd like to donate a book, we won't object!)

BOOK REVIEWS

Daniel S. Halacy, Jr. Bionics. New York: Holiday House, 1965. \$4.50

This is another in the science series published by Holiday House and noted in our October, 1970 issue. It is equally as good as Halacy's other book, though less fortan in a way, since it deals with matters that are considered the proper province of orthodox science: specifically, the study of how man and animals perform certain tasks and solve certain problems, and of the application of the findings to the design of computers and other electronic equipment. It makes quite fascinating reading and is occasionally a bit hair-raising in its implications. I think the author is too optimistic concerning the possible dangers from computers (see page 5) but otherwise have no fault to find.

Lincoln and Jean LaPaz. Space Nomads: Meteorites in Sky, Field, & Laboratory. New York: Holiday House, 1961. \$4.50.

This is a straightforward and thorough account of meteorites, craters, and related phenomena by probably the top expert in meteoritics and his daughter. It is helpful as a reference but is valuable primarily because it states plainly and in considerable detail how the layman can help to further this particular branch of science. Also included is a carefully selected and annotated bibliography.

Geoffrey Ashe. Land to the West. London: Collins, 1962. (In the U.S. try the British Book Centre, Maxwell House, Fairview Park, Elmsford, N. Y. 10523).

The "land to the west" is America, and this book can be described as a detective story. Among the many claimants to pre-Columbian discovery of America is St. Brendan of Ireland; Ashe has 'dissected' the manuscript accounts of Brendan's life and voyages to try to determine the truth of the matter. He points out that "The tale belongs to that fascinating body of literature which enwraps unknown quantities of tradition in unknown quantities of fiction, and has a way of upsetting documentary scepticism by turning out to be sounder than it looks" and that "a legend may not be a record of facts, but the existence of the legend is itself a fact, and requires explanation".

Ashe contends, quite rightly I believe, that the real issue is not whether Brendan himself actually made all the voyages attributed to him, but simply whether or not the geographical knowledge indicated in

the manuscripts could have been known to the Irish at the time, and whether or not there is any hard evidence that the Irish did reach this continent.

Ashe is one of that splendid British breed who can make the most scholarly works as much a pleasure to read as a favourite novel. And, no, I am not going to give away the answer.

William R. Corliss. Mysteries Beneath the Sea. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1970. \$5.95.

This is an excellent book, carefully researched and clearly written by our member No. 258. Much of it deals with the various and conflicting theories concerning the origins and history of the earth as a whole, but with — as its title implies — special emphasis on the oceans. Other chapters are concerned with the origins of life — and what is life anyway? — and the great extinctions. Also included are an eminently fair discussion of the question of Atlantis and a chapter on sea monsters.

The basic thread throughout the book is the history of the chronic (and sometimes rather virulent) feud between the Catastrophists and the Uniformitarians, the two 'schools' of geological thought. The former contend that periodic cataclysms have been responsible for all changes in the earth; the latter insist that all changes have been very gradual, and their view has prevailed since the early 1800s. William Corliss documents the fact that both groups are beginning to realize that they may both be right, and that a combination of gradual and catastrophic changes may provide better answers to some of our greatest riddles.

We also recommend Mr. Corliss's previous book, Mysteries of the Universe, also published by Crowell, at \$5.95.

Daniel Cohen. A Modern Look at Monsters. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1970. \$5.95.

Dan Cohen is one of our members (No. 419) and an old friend of the 'family', but I am afraid I must take him pretty severely to task for this book. He has never made any secret of the fact that he is a professional sceptic, but...

The jacket blurb burbles happily that "This entertaining and enlightening safari into the borderlands between myth and reality will appeal to monster buffs and skeptics alike". It isn't and it won't.

Cohen begins with a description of "buffs" which is unflattering, to say the least: "A buff is a person with a passionate, almost obsessive interest in a small area of knowledge....Sports and railroads are respectable areas of interest, but there are plenty of buffs whose interests are in subjects that lay [sic] on the fringes of respectability. These are perhaps the most passionate of all...Any fringe area seems to attract them, perhaps because it appeals to their generally anti-establishment outlook. A sometimes not too gentle paranoia hangs over the world of the buffs....They often feel trapped and defensive. It is this feeling that brings out some of the monster buffs' least attractive characteristics. They are much too quick to denounce their opponents as a pack of blind fools. They are also too quick to grasp at any straw which seems to support their view, and far too quick to rush into print with sensational claims for half-baked evidence. Indeed, it almost seems that to be a true monster buff one must be half romanticist and half mountebank."

Cohen invariably refers to those who don't agree with him, as buffs — a word that already carries a "more enthusiasm than brains" connotation — and makes no noticeable distinction between hard-headed forteans, 'ordinary' buffs, and the lunatic fringe! Some of the attitudes and ideas he attributes to the buffs (he never uses quotation marks around this word) sent my eyebrows up a considerable distance.

But the worst of it is that with very few changes, the description also applies to the author of this book.

It is impossible in the space available to do more than hint at the 'horrors' contained in A Modern Look at Monsters; there are so many that I hardly know where to start, so let us peek at his general attitude.

Says he, "Experienced seamen have often made errors which would seem impossible for any sane and sighted person to make. Nothing proves this more abundantly than the history of the sea serpent." Now I ask you, what sort of reasoning is that? And could we have examples of all these "often made errors"? No, Daniel Cohen has a bad habit of announcing that so-and-so contradicted himself or that "authorities" disproved something or other, without ever giving details or examples. He also sets up more "straw-men" than I could count. After a fairly sympathetic introduction to a particular type of 'monster', he almost always uses a proven hoax or misidentification as the first case to be discussed. This is certainly loading the dice — and makes it easier to lead the uninitiated reader to suppose that subsequent cases are equally ill-based. In some instances the simple elimination of truly pertinent details (as in his discussion of Bozo) or the inclusion of misinformation — it is never clear whether this is deliberate or merely the result of ignorance — has the same effect. And some of his errors in this respect are really inexcusable; he refers to Albert Ostman as Osterman.

Also, he doesn't know ordinary zoology, let alone cryptozoology. On page 112 he states that eels are born in fresh water and migrate to the sea; exactly the opposite is true. On page 189 he describes living

elephants as “two closely related species”; sorry, chum, but they comprise two distinct genera. He gets his ‘monkeys’ mixed up and is unaware of the existence of the Himalayan pheasant called the Tragopan. Etc.

And one wonders what he wants in the way of witnesses. I gained the impression that anyone who reports any unknown animal, UFO, or other ‘unorthodox’ item is automatically and ipso facto unreliable. (His treatment of Russian scientists of the calibre of Professor Porshnev is very nearly insulting; in fact, he errs again in saying “There was even supposed to be an official ‘Soviet Study Commission of the Snowman Question’”. Not “supposed to be”; we have their voluminous reports in our office.) On the other hand, anyone who brings in ‘evidence’ that something does not exist, is apparently automatically and ipso facto reliable. A case in point is Edmund Hillary’s scalps, which, as we all knew even before he brought them to America, were made from the skin of a wild, mountain goat, the Himalayan Serow, in imitation of the genuine Meh-Tah scalp treasured in another monastery. Cohen obviously does not know the whole story, which is much too complicated to go into here, but quotes parts of it as “proof” that “there ain’t no sich animal”. Some of his comments on the Yeti, and particularly his version of scientific beliefs concerning the identity of the original ABSM, are absolutely drivelling.

So, I am afraid, is much of the book. Many of Dan Cohen’s theories simply do not stand up to analysis at all, being quite simply contrary to fact. He insists, for example, that no ‘monster’ could hide in any body of water less than 300 feet deep (!); he brings up the hoary old “melted snow” ‘explanation’ of Yeti tracks, not even mentioning those in mud; he states that no monster is depicted in cave art, ignoring Norse petroglyphs of Draki (sea monsters, to you); and so on.

In fact, one feels rather sorry for Dan Cohen. His mental wriggling in this book leads one to suspect that he would dearly love to believe in sea monsters and such but feels that no ‘sensible’ person should and is therefore bound to explain them away. He hasn’t; and some of his ‘explanations’ are just as bad or worse than some of the ‘proofs’ he attributes to his major straw-man — the buff — some of which no sane fortean would consider.

Marion L. Fawcett

Ivan T. Sanderson. Invisible Residents. New York: World Publishing Company, 1970. \$7.50.

The subtitle of this book is “A Disquisition upon Certain Matters Maritime, and the Possibility of Intelligent Life under the Waters of this Earth”. This description is well chosen and sorely needed because the main theme becomes clear only very slowly and is not pinned down until the concluding chapter. Even then, I find it rather hard to follow.

Ivan Sanderson’s works on forteana and fortean aspects of the natural sciences, while great fun to read, invariably bring to my mind the picture of a developer bulldozing his way through an ancient oak forest, and I find this a little aggravating, though I suppose I should admit that I am one of the silent majority who prefer a mystery unsolved. But this book is aggravating also on another score. This is that, despite its heavy documentation, I simply cannot bring myself to believe most of it; and this is the more aggravating still because one can’t accuse the author of making it up. As he makes it quite clear, it is, apart from the final two chapters which he makes equally clear are pure speculation, straight reporting.

As a whole, the book is at first reading apparently disjointed to the point of dismemberment of its advertised theme, and this is going to infuriate several groups of “buffs” as the author calls them. For instance, at first, the UFO fraternity will feel sure that they are in for a pleasant sequel to Sanderson’s previous Uninvited Visitors: A Biologist Looks at UFOs, only to be persistently clobbered for their self-appointed interference in such matters as the Marine Lightwheels and the Bermuda Triangle throughout the remainder of the book. As one reads on, in fact, one becomes convinced that this appalling iconoclast takes a very dim view of that fraternity and all but one of its current popular theories.

Despite what I said above about this seeming hodge-podge of only vaguely related matters, it does, however, come together with a sharp snap, when the author says: “The dozen or so apparently unrelated matters that we have discussed would seem to have nothing much more in common than that they all have something to do with water”; but this is where I lost the fellow. Perhaps the documentation is too overwhelming; perhaps it is just that my paltry mind cannot cope with the width and enormity of scope embraced by the speculation; perhaps it’s all just too new. So help me, I don’t know; but I’m reeling.

Anyway, it’s a spanking good book; highly entertaining and fascinating and, as usual with this renegade scientist, more than just clean fun. And here a word of warning. Don’t ever sell Sanderson short on his facts or be misled by his levity, and try never to get into an argument with him.

A. Delaney Wilkins.

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