PURSUIT®

"SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNEXPLAINED"

VOL. 7 NO. 2 APRIL, 1974

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED
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Vol. 7, No. 2
APRIL, 1974

PURSUIT®

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

FOUNDED BY IVAN T. SANDERSON

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

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CONTENTS

Fortean vs. Orthodox Science, by Robert J. Durant 26
Ufology
UFOs in New Jersey, by Berthold E. Schwarz, M.D. 31
Chaos and Confusion
The Continuous Roll, Explained, by Sabina W. Sanderson & #1205 35
Fire Walking, Again 36
Ontology
An Extraterrestrial Space Probe 36
Biology
All Quiet on the Western Front: Bigfoot, April 1974, by Peter Byrne 41
Mystery Animals 42
"Mystery Animals", by Charles Bowen 43
An Addendum on "Mystery Cats" 46
Loch Ness 46
Loch Ness 1972--The Rines/Edgerton Picture, by Tim Dinsdale 47
Members' Forum 48
Book Reviews, by Sabina W. Sanderson 49

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FORTEAN VS. ORTHODOX SCIENCE

SITU concerns itself with the study of unexplained phenomena of a tangible nature that orthodox science, for one reason or another, refuses to study. The reasons for this reluctance to come to grips with the "things" that swell our files are worth some detailed discussion. Is SITU a "crackpot organization" at odds with the rest of the intellectual world? Are we "all right" and they "all wrong"?

The fact is that SITU, as an organization, has never been attacked is specific terms, but it does take very seriously a wide range of subjects that have been subjected to downright contumely at the hands of various professional scientists and journalists at one time or another. By association with subjects, and by our insistence that they be studied in some small way before consigning them to the trash pile, we have placed ourselves directly in the line of fire of these aforesaid scientists and journalists. Nevertheless, we have to date escaped denunciation, and have in recent times experienced quite the opposite phenomenon, in that scientists and journalists have begun to rely upon us as a reliable source of information on certain currently topical unexplaineds, particularly the ABSMs.

But whatever the Society's fortunes may be in this respect, the basic problem remains – there is a great range of physical phenomena that has been reported, and reported time and again for centuries, often in every part of the globe, but that orthodox science ignores. The records of these strange events threaten to burst the walls of our library, but one can search forever in the textbooks of all the arts and sciences without finding mention of a single one. [Even this may be changing. A publisher has borrowed one of Ivan T. Sanderson's drawings of sea monster types for inclusion in a textbook!] There are those who would postulate some great conspiracy of silence to explain this peculiar fact. We don't subscribe to any such theory.

Unexplaineds, or anomalies, or forteana, or whatever denomination you choose, represent a class of event that exhibits certain very special characteristics setting it apart from what, for the purposes of this discussion, we will call "ordinary" events. The methodology of orthodox science has developed certain characteristics of its own for analysing the external world. This methodology has been eminently successful in most respects, and we would be the last to criticize it in general. Certainly it has eclipsed its competitors in the search for knowledge, i.e., the scholasticism of the Middle Ages and the "who cares?" of the Orientals. But it has failed to catalog or analyse, or even to detect, forteana in most cases. It would seem that the characteristics of forteana events are somehow at odds with the characteristics of the methodology of modern science.

Our anomalies have slipped through the scientific net. This may not be an inapropriate metaphor, for one is reminded of other scientific problems which at first seemed to defy logic but ultimately yielded to improved investigative techniques. The invention of the microscope revealed a hitherto unknown or undreamed of world in a droplet of water. The electron microscope, with its vastly increased magnification, revealed yet another world teeming with "life". In this case, the unexplained "thing" remained unexplained, or unknown, because of a rather simple characteristic, namely its size. What, then, are the characteristics of forteana that have kept these particular "things" beyond the scientific pale?

To begin with, fortean events are generally of short duration and they occur sporadically. This is the case with UFO's, ABSM sightings, appearances of Loch Ness Monsters, and so forth. These characteristics make it very difficult to make the sort of study of a phenomenon that science has traditionally made. To put it another way, science is geared to the study of events that occur regularly or periodically, or in the case of most matters, simply stay put indefinitely for the leisurely inspection of the researcher. If one desires to study clouds, there are clouds in great supply in most parts of the world on almost any day of the year. If one wants to study fish, a supply of fish can be kept under the most carefully controlled conditions for minute examination at a moment's notice. These characteristics of clouds and fish make it a convenient matter, relatively speaking, to learn about them in a systematic manner. Now compare the neat little arrangement of the ichthyologist with the problem faced by the ufologist.

We can see that there is an enormous problem here in terms of efficiency alone. How long can a researcher wait for a "saucer" to appear? How is one to approach the study of events for which there is little evidence other than an eyewitness report? To be sure, there is a great deal of secondary or circumstantial evidence to back up the eyewitness reports. I refer here to footprints, feces samples, photographs in the case of the ABSMs, and to the various deformations of the ground and surrounding foliage in the cases of UFO landings, as well as all of the "EM" effects, movies, etc., that form the UFO evidence. But the scientist is neither trained nor accustomed to process anecdotal or circumstantial evidence. That is the domain of another highly developed, though rather inexact, field of knowledge – Law. The scientist must have a specimen to work with, and he must be able to observe the specimen under controlled conditions. Under any other conditions the typical scientist is lost. Events that are of short duration and that occur sporadically usually slip through the net.

That science has been remiss in ignoring events having the characteristics outlined above has been noted by that most admirable organization, the Smithsonian Institution. In 1968, the Smithsonian came to

grips with this problem by establishing the Center for Short-lived Phenomena. Writing in the New Scientist, 30 August 1973, Dr. Joseph Hanlon described the Center as follows.

"One test of any scientific theory is that it should explain any sudden abnormal event as well as the normal pattern of things. But the very nature of these events is that they cannot be set up in a lab — and when they occur in the real world, they are over almost before anyone knows about them.

"Getting scientists to these events while they are still happening is the goal of the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Short-lived Phenomena, based at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Laboratory in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"More than 2300 people in 138 countries have agreed to send reverse charge telegrams in case of any sudden event in their area. Twice a week on average, the center jumps into action — telephoning or telegraphing interested scientists who have already said they might go to such an event, and contacting the original source with questions."

This sounds like the sort of thing we might put in a brochure advertising SITU, but on closer inspection it develops that the Center has not really strayed too far from the traditional lines of scientific inquiry. This is the Center's selection criteria for events reported by the Center:

EARTH SCIENCES EVENTS: Earthquakes greater than magnitude 7.0 or earthquakes occurring in unusual areas or those creating exceptional interest. Crustal movements, faulting and fissuring, major land movements, and landslides.

Volcanic eruptions, submarine eruptions, the birth of new islands, island eruptions, the disappearance of islands, caldera collapses, fissure extrusions, nuees ardentes, and major mudflows.

Earthquakes under the sea floor greater than magnitude 7.0 or having a considerable effect on the marine geophysical environment. Island earthquakes, tsunamis, sea surges, and severe storm erosion.

Polar and subpolar events, formation of ice islands, unusual sea ice break-ups, surging glaciers, and sudden release of glacier-dammed water.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES EVENTS: Sudden changes in biological and ecological systems, invasion and colonization of new land by animals and plants, rare rapid migrations, unusually abundant reproduction or death of vegetation, establishment or re-establishment of flora and fauna.

Severe climatic changes affecting ecosystems, ecological aftereffects of short-term human intrusion into an area previously unvisited by man, and potentially imminent species extinction.

Sudden changes to marine and aquatic environment, oil pollution, unusual occurrences of marine vegetation, marine bioluminescence, red tides, plankton blooms, and fish kills.

Fires that have a major ecological impact on animals and flora; those that have a major environmental impact and that cause major devastation.

ASTROPHYSICAL EVENTS: Large fireball events, meteorite falls, and crater-producing impacts. Transient lunar events; obscurations on lunar surface, brightenings, lunar volcanic activity, moonquakes, and meteorite impacts recorded by implaced lunar seismometer.

URGENT ARCHEOLOGICAL EVENTS: Discovery of archeological sites threatened with imminent destruction.

URGENT ANTHROPOLOGICAL EVENTS: Newly discovered tribes; rapid changes in human ecological systems; short-lived acculturation: dying languages, customs, and people; and major human migrations.

The Center issues "event cards" describing in summary form the results of investigations into particular events. (See illustration) A compilation of these event reports was issued in 1972 under the title The Pulse of the Planet, Crown Publishers, Inc., 419 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y. 10016. Some of the reports contained therein would appear to be of fortean nature, despite the rather restrictive "selection criteria" employed by the Center. This is especially true in the case of "fireballs". The compilation lists 40 fireball events during the four year reporting period, 1968-71, and a number of these have the odor of UFO's. But even though the Center is, from all outward appearances, ideally suited for the study of fortean events, both by virtue of its excellent reporting network and its purported philosophy, neither UFO's nor ABSMs seem to find their way into the published reports. We rather doubt that the Center has never heard of either of these subjects, or of the multitude of others that would be amenable to their technique, so there must be some other compelling reason for this shying away from the truly anomalous events. This leads us to the next characteristic of fortean phenomena.

It has been said that at about the time of Leonardo Da Vinci, it was possible for one person to assimilate all of the knowledge then extant. The explosive growth of knowledge since then has made such a feat impossible, and has resulted in the increasing specialization of knowledge. Even 50 years ago it was still possible for one to undergo a course of instruction in the general field of physics, and to emerge with a good comprehensive grasp of everything of importance known in that field. But those days have long since passed, and today there is really no such thing as a "physicist" or a "biologist" in the sense of any one individual having a comprehensive knowledge of the entire subject. In the nineteen-seventies, a PhD in Physics is a specialist in a very narrow branch of the bewilderingly complex general subject. He is probably ignorant of many of the recent developments in other specialized branches of physics, and is almost certainly ignorant of even the basics of the other sciences. An increasingly

serious problem in physical research is the inadvertent duplication of previously accomplished experimentation. This has resulted from the sheer glut of information being produced, compounded by a serious lag in the development of methods for informing the scientific community, or even those engaged in roughly similar research, of the work already done.

This problem becomes quite unmanageable in the case where communication between two or more entirely separate and distinct scientific disciplines is involved. An example of this is presented in the field of cancer research, where the "shotgun" approach is being attempted. That is, the research is of a very basic nature, involving a multitude of different approaches, and so far there are very few clues to pursue. The researchers represent a variety of disciplines, and of specialties within those disciplines.

question. We are no better prepared to deal with such unclassified events than we are, (or were before the advent of the Center for Short-lived Phenomena), with events of short duration that occur sporadically. For instance, when the "saucers" first came to the attention of the public in the late forties and early fifties, there was a mad scrambling about to find the gentleman in charge of the proper pigeon hole. By some strange process it was generally agreed that, since the "saucers" apparently were spaceships, or at least the best selling book on the subject said so, and since they appeared in the sky, this must be a task for astronomers. It so happens that both the very best scientific thinking and the very worst scientific thinking on the subject of UFO's has been done by astronomers, but everyone will agree that in neither case did their specific training in astronomy have much to do with their analysis of the phenomenon.

EVENT	5-71	SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND BEACHED WHALES	18 JANUARY 1971	1090.

"On or about 0100-0400 hours, 8 January 1971, a pod of 29 pilot whales, Globicephala scammoni, were stranded on the beach at Pyramid Cove, San Clemente Island...The pod appeared to be composed of mature females and juveniles of both sexes. Animals were strewn along the high tide line for about 200 yards. Most were oriented in parallel axis with the beach. In general, the skin from many contact surfaces (chin, flukes, etc.) was abraided off, presumably due to thrashing, post-mortem degeneration and tidal action. Three animals had been extensively 'carved-up' prior to arrival of NUC (Naval Undersea Research and Development Center) personnel. Carcasses, especially the viscera, were bloated and discolored due to post-mortem changes. Due to advanced decomposition the gastro-intestinal system was not systematically explored. Bacterial, toxicological and histological specimens were taken from several animals. The visceral and parietal serosal surfaces of thorax and abdomen appeared to be normal except for post-mortem changes and the presence of several parasitic nodules. It is the current opinion of NUC Code 502 personnel that the grounding of this pod of pilot whales was a natural event comparable to those recorded for the same area for some 200 years. Meteorological and biological conditions (high tide, no surf, very slight wind, sloping beach with steep drop-off, and presence of spawning squid) created optimal conditions for stranding.

"On 12 January 1971, the Los Angeles County Museum sent a scientific party to the stranding site to remove and prepare the skeletal material on all 28 animals."

EVENT NOTIFICATION REPORT

TYPE OF EVENT	BIOLOGICAL
DATE OF OCCURRENCE	8 JANUARY 1971
LOCATION OF EVENT	PYRAMID COVE, SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND, off coast of CALIF.
REPORTING SOURCE	W.E. EVANS, HEAD MARINE BIOSCIENCE DIVISION(Actg.),DEPT OF NAVY,NUC, SAN DIEGO, CALIF 92132
SOURCE CONTACT	W.E. EVANS, HEAD MARINE BIOSCIENCE DIVISION(Actg.), DEPT. OF THE NAVY, NAVAL UNDERSEA RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (NUC) SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92132

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What we have developed since Leonardo's time is actually a multitude of pigeon holes for knowledge to replace the all-encompassing "natural philosophy" of the older and simpler days. The specialization of scientists has resulted in the very rapid growth of knowledge – in the areas encompassed by the pigeon holes. And that is the secret of the second problem faced by fortean events when they face the jury of Science. Fortean events very often are most difficult, if not impossible, to classify in any established scientific pigeon hole. Here we would list falls from the sky, the physical phenomena that are popularly but, we think, falsely, designated "psychic" phenomena, the "flying saucers", and so forth.

This taxonomic difficulty has had an effect that at times has been humorous and at other times pitiful, but that has seldom produced any noteworthy progress in the better understanding of the phenomena in

Similarly, the so-called psychic phenomena were until very recently the exclusive property of the mystics and religionists. Then several decades ago a particularly enterprising and courageous psychololist entered the field and began the study of certain very limited aspects of the subject. Today advanced degrees in the specialty of "para-psychology" are conferred, and a new pigeon hole has been established. Only in the past two or three years have the technologists recognized psychic phenomena as a subject worth looking into, but these researchers have had to do some very fancy footwork around the pigeon holes. To us at SITU, it would seem perfectly natural, not to say long overdue, for electrical engineers, say, to wire up some of these psychic performers, or to instrument the sites of "hauntings" or poltergeist manifestations. But the attitude of the electrical engineers, and here we refer to the aca-

demics, for the scientists working in the public sector haven't the flexibility owing to the demands of their jobs, to even contemplate this sort of "pure" research, has been very mixed. Their objection is that psychic phenomena are in the psychology pigeon hole, and unless and until the head of the psychology department sends over a formal memorandum requesting help, they dare not infringe on the other fellow's turf. A slight twist on this reasoning, which we have heard so often when bringing up specific anomalies in the presence of scientists, goes like this: "That certainly is fascinating, but, you know, its not in my field." And this is not said as a polite brush-off, but as a simple statement of a political fact of life in the scientific world.

The problem of terminology plagues SITU as well. We have invented a number of descriptive terms for various classes of "things" that hold our interest, and for the most part these terms result from an attempt to systematize the reported events in some logical manner. For example, ABSMs is used in PURSUIT as a general term for all unknown bipeds, although we often use the more common names such as Bigfoot, Sasquatch, etc. How is one to designate the category of events comprised by the fall from the sky of various objects? We have a list of over 500 "things" that have fallen from the sky and, we hasten to add, that did not fall from an airplane or from a "whirlwind." Charles Fort catalogued a huge number of these extremely puzzling occurrences. At SITU they are referred to by the acronym, FAFROTSKY, (FAlls FROm The SKY). OOPTHS are Out Of Place THings, another general category. As absurd as these names may sound, they nevertheless serve a most useful and basic function in the process of gathering information. In a manner of speaking, we have created some pigeon holes of our own. See the book review section of this issue for a discussion of an excellent system of classification of fortean phenomena proposed by William Corliss.

The usually austere New York Times did a long and straightforward article on a rash of ABSM sightings in Murphysboro, Illinois, and followed it with a very well researched summary of the latest discoveries in the search for the sasquatch in their Sunday Times Magazine. The magazine article quoted only one really negative comment from a scientist, but this was notable for its reasonable tone. His objection seemed to rest on the grounds that no specimen of the alleged monster is available for study, and that he could not justify taking time away from other projects to deal with such a speculative matter. This we consider a valid argument when expressed by an individual, although it is obvious that progress would quickly come to a halt if science in general were to take this approach. Every researcher must weigh the probability of a "pay off" when planning new research, and few scientists can afford to lavish their resources on problems that seem to defy solution. There are times, however, when the "pay off" is potentially so great that the ordinary considerations of prudent use of resources ought to be waived. Such was the case with the development of the atomic bomb, and this is essentially the approach being taken in the search for a cure for cancer. Several years ago a group of scientists were invited by a congressional committee to state their case for a federally funded study of UFO's. The scientists rested their arguments almost entirely on the "pay off" theory.

A third characteristic of fortean events that makes them unappealing to the scientific community is that they so often seem to present an enormous challenge to established theories. The first two characteristics really involved technical problems in the methodology of modern science, and in the case of the first characteristic, a fairly straightforward "fix" has been found. The second problem, that of the "pigeon holes", has also been recognized by the practitioners of science, and various attempts have been made to solve it, for example, the use of computers to store summaries of all research work being done, and the use of librarians specially trained in the storage and dissemination of scientific information. But this third objection, or problem, has more to do with human psychology than we would prefer to be the case. It has to do with that almost universally expressed human frailty, the closed mind. It is the blind refusal to even consider any alleged fact or event or theory that conflicts with a predetermined viewpoint.

We deliberately list this problem after the first two because in our experience its power is waning with every day that passes. The discoveries of modern science, particularly in the field of physics, have made it very difficult for a scientist to maintain a posture of unreflective opposition to any set of ideas on principle alone. The enterprising journalist still has no problem finding a "scientist" who will denounce UFO's as nonsense, but there has been an enormous shift in the attitude of the average scientist with respect to that subject in recent years. In a similar vein, a recent survey of scientists in England showed that the majority of those surveyed thought that psychic phenomena should be studied in a serious manner. This is a radical departure from the previously held position that this was simply not fit for serious consideration, period. It is interesting to note that many of these scientists thought that "parapsychology" ought to be renamed para-physics. We believe that this simple change in terminology alone would be sufficient to open the door to a vast new field of research.

The classic case of the "closed mind" is worth repeating here. It concerns the great French scientist, Lavoisier, and a physical phenomenon that he set out to investigate. The then anomalous event shared each of the three characteristics of fortean phenomena, though it has long since been thoroughly explained and is now understood by grade school

students. The best account of Lavoisier and the meteorites is contained in, of course, Charles Fort:

"About one hundred years ago, if anyone was so credulous as to think that stones had ever fallen from the sky, he was reasoned with:

"In the first place there are no stones in the sky:

"Therefore no stones can fall from the sky.

"Or nothing more reasonable or scientific or logical than that could be said upon any subject. The only trouble is the universal trouble: that the major premise is not real, or is intermediate somewhere between realness and unrealness.

"In 1772, a committee, of whom Lavoisier was a member, was appointed by the French Academy, to investigate a report that a stone had fallen from the sky at Luce, France. Of all attempts at positiveness, in its aspect of isolation, I don't know of anything that has been fought harder for than the notion of this earth's unrelatedness. Lavoisier analyzed the stone of Luce. The exclusionists' explanation at that time was that stones do not fall from the sky: that luminous objects may seem to fall, and that hot stones may be picked up where a luminous object seemingly had landed – only lightning striking a stone, heating, even melting it.

"The stone of Luce showed signs of fusion.

"Lavoisier's analysis "absolutely proved" that this stone had not fallen: that it had been struck by lightning.

"So, authoritatively, falling stones were damned. The stock means of exclusion remained the explanation of lightning that was seen to strike something – that had been upon the ground in the first place."

The modern analogies to Lavoisier and the meteorites are too obvious to dwell upon here, but the point, we think, is well taken.

Thus we are not quacks after all, but a group of researchers acting as an adjunct to orthodox science. The Society stumbles along, frought with deficiencies and inefficiencies, but in the final analysis its aims are quite consistent with those of traditional science. The essential difference between SITU and the mainstream of science is seen to lie in the mechanics of information gathering and analysis, rather than in some fundamental philosophical dispute.

It should come as no surprise that on occasion a torrent of abuse is directed at UFO's or ABSMs. Nor should it surprise us that, on balance, the systematic study of these subjects is met with the approval of most members of the scientific community. For the most part, those scientists who have gone so far as to join the Society continue to insist on the anonymity of our "Swiss Bank Account" system of identifying our members. We can fully understand and appreciate the reasons for their stance. The important thing is that they recognize that SITU, with all its warts, is an eminently worthwhile organization, right up there on the wild frontier of human knowledge.

Robert J. Durant

UFOLOGY

Do "nuts" see "saucers" ? This is the conventional thinking on UFOs, or was until recently when the Gallop Poll revealed that a majority of the American public thinks that UFOs are real. An enormous amount of damage has been done by the proponents of the theory that those who report unidentified flying objects, and those who take the subject seriously, are in some way mentally unbalanced. Unfortunately, a great many members of the working press have adopted this view and used it to editorialize on their newspaper accounts of sightings. Usually this has been done in a humorous manner, but the message has not been lost on those who were unfortunate enough to be the subjects of the joke. The attitude of the press has changed considerably in recent years, but it appears that there are still a few left who hold to the "nut" theory. One such is Mr. Harry Reasoner, a prime-time newscaster on a major television network. Mr. Reasoner was featured in an advertisement that appeared in the radio page of the New York Times and elsewhere, and the profundity ascribed to him, presumably by way of inducing viewers to tune in for more of the same, reminded us of those bad old days when each newspaper UFO story started out with "Its the silly season again...."

Mr. Reasoner quoted the Gallup Poll figures that 51 percent of the American public believe that UFOs are real. He also quoted Gallup's latest figures on the President's popularity – 27 percent. This, concluded Reasoner, might mean that we need a new President, but it certainly means that we need a new American public. End of profundity from Mr. Reasoner.

Doctor Berthold Schwarz, a psychiatrist practicing in New Jersey, has been a member of the Society since its inception. He has addressed the question of the connection between "seeing saucers" and mental illness directly, and found that no such correlation exists. If "nuts" see "saucers", it should be a rather common thing for a psychiatrist to encounter patients who are obsessed with thought about UFOs, or dreadfully afraid of them, or in communication with them, or whatever. But, as Dr. Schwarz relates in his paper, this is simply not his experience in treating nearly 3,400 individuals with mental problems. Nor

could anyone recall such symptoms in the records of the 30,000 patients institutionalized or treated since 1900 at the Essex County Overbrook Hospital.

The following article is reprinted with permission from the Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey, August 1969, Vol. 66, No. 8, pages 460–464.

UFOs IN NEW JERSEY

by Berthold E. Schwarz, M.D.

Few subjects have aroused more controversy than unidentified flying objects. The atmospheric physicist, McDonald,[1] has called them "the greatest international scientific problem of our times." The recently released University of Colorado study (by the Condon Group) concluded that "...nothing has come from the study of UFOs in the past twenty-one years that has added to scientific knowledge...and that further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified."[2]

Hynek,[3] professor of astronomy and chief scientific consultant to the Air Force on the subject, in a marked departure from his earlier skepticism, called for Congress to establish a board of inquiry for the specific purpose of an in-depth investigation of the UFO phenomenon.

The Aerial Phenomena Research Organization in its APRO Bulletin and the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena in its The U.F.O. Investigator, and other publications, have mentioned many possible UFO effects of interest to physicians, but there has been little in the medical literature. Meerloo,[4,5] a pioneering psychiatrist in so many fields, gave an analysis of possible errors of observation, and Walker[6] "presented various procedures for establishing the credibility level for observers." Walker used a hypothetical case to illustrate his methods of combining different branches of medical knowledge.

A Brazilian physician, Olavo Fontes,[7] studied an extraordinary alleged contactee case. In two recent reports[8,9] of close UFO encounters much of the relevant medical literature was mentioned. The first-hand studies showed how medicine could be useful (1) in evaluating possible UFO-induced biologic effects, and (2) in determining whether the alleged UFO episode was a reality, a delusion, an illusion, a hallucination, or a fabrication.

In thirteen years of private practice in which I have seen 3,391 patients in psychiatric examinations and have participated in thousands of hours of psychotherapy, I have never noted symptoms related to UFOs. A similar finding was confirmed on questioning Theodore A. Anderson, M.D., a senior psychiatrist, and Henry A. Davidson, M.D. (then Medical Director) of the Essex County Overbrook Hospital. Dr. Davidson recalled no patients with gross UFO symptoms out of three thousand in-patients, nor among all those presented to the staff while he was superintendent: nor of thirty thousand patients who had been hospitalized since the turn of the century. My own check of standard textbooks and journals in psychiatry, psychoanalysis, and neurology also confirmed this absence of UFO-like experiences in various "nervous" and mental diseases.

The physician can often be the first to obtain reports of possible UFOs and to uncover hidden cases because a patient will often turn to a family doctor as a trusted friend. With the kind assistance of colleagues and friends, I have learned of, and studied, numerous well-documented UFO sightings involving people from all walks of life, including professionally trained observers, such as physicians, engineers, psychologists, airline pilots, special police, and state troopers.

Let me here present five close-range sightings which occurred under favorable conditions in northern New Jersey and which involved trustworthy witnesses. In each case, I undertook telephone, and later psychiatric, interviews in the homes or offices of the witnesses. In each case, I inspected the actual place where the UFO episode allegedly took place.

Case 1

"Mrs. Janet Ahlers, age 32, of Oakland, New Jersey, is an artist-housewife and proprietress of an antique store. In excellent health, Mrs. Ahlers has had no serious previous illness or emotional disturbance. Excerpts from an interview with her follow.

"It was late spring, about 2:30 a.m., in 1957. I was expecting a baby and was up during the night. Our bedroom window faced east. I was lying in bed and was disturbed by a pulsating sensation in my head, like a sound that was too high-pitched to be heard. As it came closer it became a whining, pulsating, high-pitched sound. I tried to wake my husband but he didn't stir quickly enough. I got to the window just as the thing went over the house. I could see it clearly. It was close to the tree tops and it seemed to stir them. It was saucer-shaped and seemed to have a hard edge around the circumference where the lights were – the (port) holes. It had one light in the center, on the bottom, and it was circled by six to eight other bright orange-red discs.

"It seemed to be a solid metallic object with holes on the bottom. The one in the center was larger and lighter in color. The UFO seemed to make everything reddish as it very slowly went over. I had to look up at it and could see under it (Figure 1). It just seemed to clear the knoll which was a few hundred feet from the house. It lasted less than a minute. This UFO was much larger than an automobile and wider than the house or a lot . . . more than seventy-five feet. I woke my husband. I trembled for about two hours. There were no physical effects."

Shortly after this episode Mrs. Ahlers told her mother about it and at a later time a circle of her friends, one of whom informed the author.

Case 2

"John A. Collins of Glen Rock, New Jersey, age 49, has a responsible job in the world of banking. He is a lifelong outdoorsman, skilled in hunting and fishing. In his occupation he has flown all over the world and has dealt with many technically trained people, highly situated in the space-age industries. He is in excellent health and has never had any emotional disorder.

"It was one hour before sunset on July 8, 1958, the day of the All-Star Game. I was fishing with a friend at Canistear Reservoir in northern New Jersey. It was bright and clear . . . cloudless. There was a slight surface wind (on the water). In the south, we saw in the sky what I thought was a shooting star, a big light. (Figure 2a). When we first looked at it, the size was that of two thumbnails of an outstretched upper extremity. We sat in the boat talking about it. 'Do you see what I see?' Instead of disappearing it kept coming along. As it got closer it was plainly visible. At first it looked like a bar of hot steel pressed in a rolling mill . . . about the size of a railroad tie and uniformly cherry red in color (Figure 2b). It was low in the sky and came directly toward us. It [UFO] moved slowly. I had a "Rollie" (camera) in the boat, but I was so scared I was afraid to take a picture. It was heading right for us and we didn't want to excite it. We watched for ten minutes and it was ever with us. It tilted 45 degrees, then (Figure 2c), leveled off, and took another 45 degree turn. It was turning from red to bluish-white to white as it went up. There was still no sound, no hum, no vibration, no odor, nor anything. It leveled off and took a 90 degree turn. It was still the same color, then it turned more than 90 degrees and was coming back toward us. When we faced the end of the bar, it was like looking into the firebox of a locomotive: cherry red in color. The rest of it was white, like two railroad ties attached end to end. We watched it for forty-five minutes in all. It was once less than 400 feet up and we were afraid it was going to land on the water. Then it went faster, rose quite steeply, and rode away. My fishing partner and I had had nothing to drink. I have never seen anything like it before or since.

"When my partner got home and told his wife, she wouldn't listen. She was so scared. Once when I went to their home for dinner, about three months later, I thought I'd mention it as a conversation piece, but she wouldn't let me talk about it (confirmed by author's interview of the gentleman, whose wife interfered in the telephone conversation). Shortly after the event I told my wife, a close friend (a neighbor of the author), and a man that I do ousiness with. Strangely enough, another friend of mine, who was in the Catskills a hundred miles north of us, had noticed the thing the same day and at approximately the same time. I learned this one week after my experience."

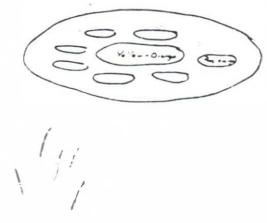

Figure 1

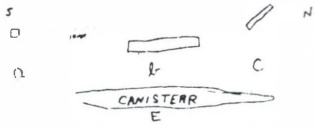

Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 4

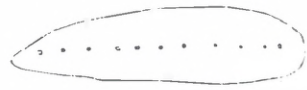

Figure 5

Mr. Collins' trustworthiness was attested by three people who have known him for many years: the author's neighbor, the author's father and the friend who had been in the Catskills.

Although there were no log-book fishing records going back to 1958, the time of Mr. Collins' experience, interviews with Officer Clyde Conway of the Canistear Reservoir Police, Mr. Conway's wife, his daughter, and his two sons revealed several sightings of possible UFOs in that area in the past three years. No member of Officer Conway's immediate family has had any emotional or psychosomatic illness.

Case 3

"Mrs. Carol Vander Plate, age 27, a high school graduate, licensed practical nurse and housewife,

lives on a mountain top in Hardyston, New Jersey, where her husband owns and operates a radio station, WLVP. Her past life is free of any emotional or psychosomatic disease. It was on April 1, 1966 at 8:45 p.m., during a clear day, followed by moonlight: "Our two French poodles started barking and carrying on. They refused to obey and be quiet. They went crazy, running in circles and jumping over the furniture. There was a horrible rumbling sound. It sounded like a jet coming over and about to crash. I looked out the window and saw this thing sitting on top of the trees about four hundred feet from the house. I watched it for more than thirty seconds. It turned pink. It had three port-holes that were black inside. The TV went off. When I turned on the porch light, the object seemed to turn off two big spotlights. It was white, then pink, then green; and then it took off like a streak of lightning. There was no trail of gaseous vapors. My husband announced it over 'open mike,' and from then until midnight four lines were steady with calls on each line from others who had seen it. It was fantastic. It was twice the size of a jet. Much bigger than my house. There were no effects on the trees; I checked that the next day. But we've had no robins or cardinals in this particular area since then." (See Figure 4.)

This experience was confirmed upon questioning Mr. Louis Vander Plate and five other observers from the town and neighboring area. Mrs. Vander Plate uses no alcohol or drugs. She became pregnant two months after this experience and delivered a healthy baby. She and her husband estimate they have seen and/or heard of similar sounds seven to ten times since this initial episode. Many of these accounts have been verified by others in the vicinity. One year after this particular sighting, Mrs. Vander Plate developed an allergy to nickel and her husband a severe reaction to "foam rubber – as in earphones – I turn beet red: it swells." The possible allergic condition was never related to the UFO experience, but is included should other similar observations be made.

The Vander Plates' experience might have been related to another sighting that occurred over the near-by Oak Ridge Reservoir that same night at approximately the same time. The Newark Evening News reported "a white light with red revolving lights under it. It was hovering over the reservoir. It remained stationary and then darted across the clear night sky and halted tantalizingly in midair." Many people telephoned in to the Milton Township police headquarters.*

*As a clinical check of the veracity of the witnesses, the author first learned of this event from a nineteen-year-old boy who lives near Oak Ridge Reservoir. He, with his teen-age sister and brother, had seen UFOs at close range over the reservoir on two previous occasions.

Case 4

"Mrs. Estelle Conway, age 51, a business-school graduate, housewife, and postal subclerk of Highland Lakes, New Jersey, looked out of her dining room window one fall day in 1966, at 7:30 p.m. She noticed a large "orange ball" with a dark vermilion border, suspended, or hovering by itself, over a pond a quarter of a mile away from her home. At that distance, she estimated the size to be that of a chicken coop, and guessed that it would have beeh much larger than an automobile. She couldn't make out any other details, but wondered if it was somebody's auto headlights shining on the trees in the woods. The lake is 1,100 feet above sea level and the hill about 1,400 feet; therefore, the object was estimated to be less than 300 feet above the water. The object didn't change color or shape; it had no sound; and it did not influence the radio or electrical devices in the home. The object was some 700 feet from high-tension wires.

"Mrs. Conway was embarrassed because people would not believe her when she told them what she saw. She does not use drugs, and only occasionally does she have a cocktail. She told her husband and other members of her family about the episode. The husband told a neighbor, who was a state policeman. Her experience was confirmed on telephone interview of the trooper. Mrs. Conway had no past history of any emotional disorder or other illness. When she looked for the object, approximately fifteen minutes after first seeing it, it was no longer there. (See Figure 3.)

"At the same time of Mrs. Conway's experience, Mr. Guy F. Adams, age 46, an electrical engineer, of Glenwood, N.J., while driving on the road and approaching the Conway's home, had the "surprise of my life" when he noted, "a big opalescent-like neon-green ball, 500 to 600 yards out. Not on a ballistic course, but gliding – not enough speed to maintain flight itself. It slowly went across the road – tree-top to tree-top – for an estimated six to eight seconds. It was a ball, straight ahead, right across the road. I have good depth perception. It was aquamarine in opalescence. However, it kept perfect geometry all the time. (It did not shimmer.) It passed over the mountaintop store. There were no effects in the car. If it had been a ballistic trajectory, it would have had to crash into the lake (in the valley).

"I stopped the car near the store and jumped out to see. I went down to the point where it had crossed and where I thought it should have crashed. But it had by then disappeared. There was still good light out. The sun was setting. Obviously the light of the object had to be greater than the light of the sun to be seen. I was very excited and wondered how could a thing appear to have no weight and "fly" across the road at such a very low speed. It traveled in an east-to-west direction. The estimated size was 50 to 55 feet across – approximately the size of a dime on the

windshield – roughly half the size of a B-17 bomber. I was a U.S. Army Air Force gunner in World War II, and saw active duty. I'm a student pilot and have designed beacons for space probes, and such, but have never come across anything like this in my life."

Mr. Adams told his wife and a state trooper at the time. The locale of the Conway-Adams sighting is only a few miles from radio station WLVP-FM. Aside from two weeks of a "nervous breakdown" in 1944 (when in the Service) he has had excellent health. Following the "breakdown" he returned to active duty in the Air Force, and served six more years as a career man. He does not use drugs unless prescribed and has had excellent emotional health.

The Newark Evening News contained several articles of similar sightings in northern New Jersey during the fall of 1966.

Case 5

"Frank Scanlon, age 56, has been a United Parcel Service driver for 37 years. He is a union steward. He has had a northern New Jersey route for twelve years. As a U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II (Fifth Air Force, ground crew in Japan) he is familiar with aircraft. He is respected by his boss and fellow employees. He neither smokes nor drinks. He enjoys excellent health. Psychiatric interview revealed no emotional illness. Although he could not recall the exact date of his alleged UFO experience, at that time he told his immediate family, his boss, many fellow workers, and several other people. Interviews with his wife, two of his children, and four other people, including a police officer, confirmed Scanlon's excellent reputation and his report of the experience shortly after it happened. It was stressed how excited and frightened he was.

"It was November, 1967. It was bare and there were no leaves on the trees. It was on Rudeville Road on the way to Great Gorge (within a mile of the Vander Plates' radio station) at twelve noon, on a clear day, I went to the back of the truck and heard this terrific pounding noise. As I went to the front, I stepped away from the truck as I thought the noise was from the well digger across the street. But he had dived into the hole. At tree height, I saw a cylindrical object, like a dirigible, more than twice the size of the von Hindenberg. It was big enough for several Mack trucks to get into it. It had no cabins or propellers, no markings of any kind. It was a duller grey than aluminum. There was no smoke, heat, or exhaust. There was no effect on my truck motor. It was unbelievable. It had roundish windows that looked black inside. There was no reflection on them. It took off with such force toward Newton that it disappeared in an estimated two minutes.

"I never saw such a burst of speed after hovering. I was amazed. There were no exhaust fumes. I wondered what could defy gravity and hover there. It was gigantic." (See Figure 5.)

Comment—— Single-witness UFO examples, and, in some cases, lack of specific dates, have drawbacks. However, the favorable close-range circumstances support the validity of the experiences. The witnesses were healthy and trustworthy. They had no gross defects of vision or hearing. They had ample time to observe the UFOs. There was nothing suggestive of malobservations, behavioral aberrations, mass hypnosis, contrived posthyphotic suggestion, or fraud. The unique characteristics of the episodes and the backgrounds of the witnesses excluded such explanations as satellites, airplanes, balloons, helicoptors, or birds, although very atypical ball lightning could have been a possibility for Case 4. There was nothing suggestive of a parapsychologic explanation in any of the examples. Most of the witnesses were frightened and had a vivid memory of their unique experiences. In Case 3, it was possible to see how easily mass panic could have developed. The physician, by having an awareness of UFOs, can help to avert mass hysteria.

Five hidden reports of UFOs from a relatively circumscribed area in northern New Jersey are but a small sample of the thousands of documented accounts from all over the world. UFOs indeed, do seem to be real. Physicians are in an excellent position to uncover "hidden reports" of UFOs and help to establish the reliability of the witnesses. By study of the possible emotional and physiologic effects of the UFOs, and of the witnesses themselves, the physician can go beyond merely establishing the event and contribute to the more meaningful questions of (1) what UFOs are (2) where they come from, and (3) what is their purpose.

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CHAOS AND CONFUSION

THE CONTINUOUS ROLL, EXPLAINED

by Sabina W. Sanderson & #1205

The answer to this apparently insuperable problem is so absurdly simple that I (S.W.S.) feel like two species of idiot, though I must also confess that it has the effect on me that the International Date Line had on Ivan Sanderson's mother: intellectually it is very clear, but I still don't understand it. Herewith some diagrams and the explanation supplied by member #1205.

"The figures are drawn as if looking at the end of the paper roll and typewriter platen from the side on your right as you face the typewriter. I called the front of each sheet the side toward you and the back the side toward the platen when the paper was working normally.

"Figure 1 shows the arrangement when things are working normally and the two sheets are fed from the bottom of the roll and around the platen so that the white sheet is on top where the keys will hit it and the yellow sheet is behind it to make the copy.

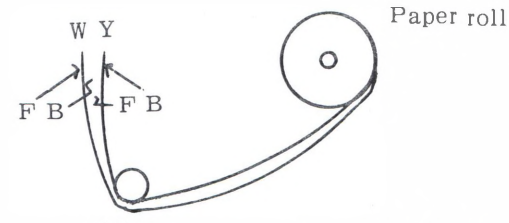
"Figure 2 shows what I think was the arrangement after you finished typing the last time...and left the two sheets hanging down. [Accepted as probable. S.W.S.]

"Figure 3 shows the situation after the cause of the problem occurred. Somehow, during the time between 'Figure 2 and 3', the white sheet only was unwound from the roll one turn. This left it hanging down longer than the yellow sheet. It also makes the white sheet come off the roll inside the yellow one instead of outside as in Figure 2.

"Figure 4 is after you cut the extra ten inches off the white sheet.

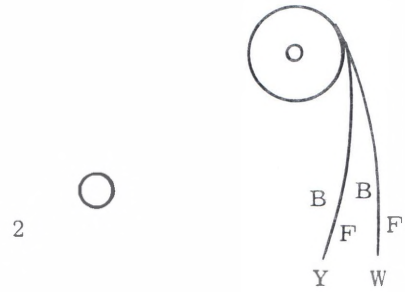
"Figure 5 shows the arrangement with the two sheets put around the platen after the extra 10" of white sheet had been cut off. Here we see that the yellow sheet now comes out on top of the white one, just as you found when the problem was discovered."

The solution is simply to cut off 10" of the yellow sheet. This I did, and the roll instantly reverted to its normal and proper state. As I say, I still don't understand it: but it works. Presumably it is the paradox involved: in the 'abnormal' condition, one sheet is shorter than the other, but they're still the same length!



W – white sheet
Y – yellow sheet
F – front
B – back

1



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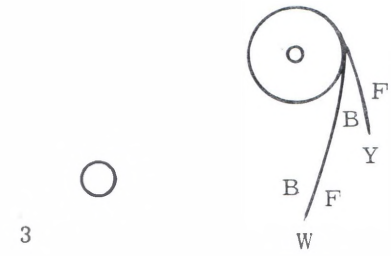

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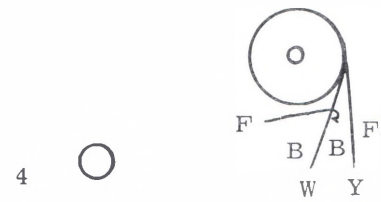

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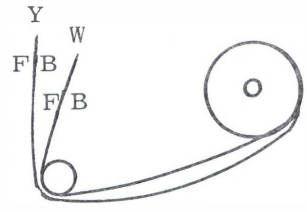


5

FIRE WALKING, AGAIN

The two gentlemen in the accompanying illustration who are apparently enjoying themselves so much are in fact engaged in a demonstration of "fire walking," a feat that ranks high in the list of "psychic" phenomena. Fire walking consists of taking a leisurely stroll over either glowing coals or, as in this case, over stones that have been immersed for many hours in coals. The conventional explanation for this has been to write off the fire walkers as frauds who cover their feet with some sort of insulating substance. However, on a number of occasions skeptical observers have very carefully checked the performer's feet both before and after the walk. In each instance the feet have proved to be free from any foreign substance. The same observers have checked the temperature of the coals and/or stones and found that scraps of paper dropped on them will instantly burst into flame.

Fire walking is still unexplained, but an explanation that seems to go far toward the ultimate solution was published in Pursuit, vol. 5, no. 1. To date we know of no attempts to check this theory, but with the recent interest of some medical researchers into other quasi "psychic" things such as acupuncture and various feats performed by "yogi's", it would seem that fire walking is next in line for investigation, and that the explanation published here would be the logical one to check first. In sum, the writer suggested that fire walking is an example of something called the Liedenfrost Effect. This is seen when a drop of water is placed on a very hot surface such as a frying pan. The drop does not evaporate at once, but sizzles around for a long while. The water that is in direct contact with the hot surface of the pan is vaporized almost at once, but it then forms an insulating barrier between the droplet and the pan. This slows down the complete vaporization of the water droplet. The fire walkers, according to this reasoning, are experiencing the same effect, with the perspiration from the soles of their feet acting in exactly the same manner as the droplet in the pan. The proponents of this explanation add that it is the extreme heat of the coals that makes the feat possible and that, conversely, if the walk were attempted on a relatively cooler surface, say 200 degrees, it would result in severe burning.

After we published this explanation a number of readers objected to it on several grounds, not the least of which is the fact that fire walking simply does not work for everyone who tries it. Many would-be fire walkers have been seriously injured on the first few steps. The fire walkers themselves have been fairly unanimous in making the claim that they are essentially practicing a spiritual exercise involving mind over matter. In the main, fire walking has been a religious ceremony, though the photograph shown here is taken from a brochure published by an airline advertising a tour of the South Pacific. All of those folks sitting in the background are tourists, not mystics. The fire walking feat is presented for their edification promptly at 8:30 p.m., five nights per week.

II. ONTOLOGY

AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL SPACE PROBE

The principle by which radar works can be stated quite simply. A short pulse of radio energy is transmitted, and if the pulse should strike an object that reflects radio waves, such as an aircraft, the pulse is reflected back to the transmitter site. The speed of propagation of the radio energy is known to be about 186,000 miles per second, and thus it is possible to calculate the distance of the reflecting object by timing the elapsed interval between the transmission of the radio pulse and the reception of its reflection. The direction of the "target" from the radar site can be found by using highly directional antennas. In this way both the bearing and the distance of aircraft can be found electronically. Of course, in practice it is much more involved than this outline would suggest — putting this theory into operation taxed the best minds in Europe and America for many years.

The first systematic use of radar, and the real reason for its development, was as a defense against attack by enemy aircraft. The military soon found, however, that the great advantage of early warning of the approach of aircraft was somewhat blunted because

the radar screen could not discriminate between the "good guys" and the "bad guys." A flight of returning friendly bombers often could not be distinguished from a wave of attacking enemy craft. Directing the interception of enemy bombers or fighters was impossible when the two forces came close to each other.

The engineers went back to work, and produced a device that overcame this serious deficiency. The modern name for this device is "transponder," but in the early days of World War II and for some time thereafter it was called IFF, for Identification Friend or Foe. The transponder was a small electronic device containing a receiver and a transmitter that could easily be fitted aboard an aircraft. The receiver was tuned to the frequency of the radar station and served to pick up the pulses sent from the ground. The transmitter then sent the pulses back to the ground station.

However, there was a third operation involved within the transponder, and this we should note very carefully. The transponder was not merely a repeater, that is, the signals retransmitted were not precisely the same as those received. The received signals were changed slightly before being retransmitted, with the result that the transponder-equipped aircraft, in this case the "friendly" aircraft, took on a very special appearance on the radar screen. Thus it was possible for the radar operator to immediately identify the friendly aircraft within a mass of otherwise similar targets. Shortly thereafter, another modification allowed the pilot to change the electronic circuitry in his transponder at will so that the "programming" of the retransmitted signal could be varied to avoid enemy jamming. In effect, this produced something like a password or a lock combination. Transponder codes were eventually assigned as part of the briefing on each individual mission.

The airborne transponder is still with us. Modern air traffic control is largely based on the use of the transponder, which now is required equipment for all large commercial aircraft.

The point of all this is that the transponder has certain abilities that make it the logical basis for the construction of a mechanical device sent by one planetary civilization to contact another planet. Though there are a great many possible means of making contact with alien civilizations, one of the favorite systems of those who have devoted some thought to this problem is the orbiting space probe equipped to detect intelligent life and to communicate with it. Of course, one must make a number of rather basic assumptions here, not the least important of which is that both civilizations have evolved a similar logic. That consideration, however, is well beyond the scope of this introductory discussion.

The way such a probe would work is as follows. Once placed in orbit near a planet suspected of harboring intelligent life, the probe would passively listen for radio signals, or perhaps for other forms of advanced communication. It may be the rule in cosmic evolution that the development of radio is the turning point in the advance of a civilization. In any event, it is difficult to imagine even the most preliminary sort of space travel without having first developed something of a nature similar to radio.

Next, the probe would attempt an "attention getting" maneuver, such as sending radio messages that would call attention to its presence. This could take the form of simply repeating the signals sent from the planet. An ingenious method might consist of repeating the signals being generated on the planet, but to delay them in such a way that the "echoes" would obviously be artificially produced. It has also been suggested that the probe could send series of pulses, or "dots" in the morse code, giving the prime numbers. This would rule out coincidence or natural phenomena, but as Professor Bracewell has pointed out, it would only prove that the signals are coming from someone who can count. And we must add, with a sigh, that to a great many inhabitants of this particular planet, at least, it is not possible to rule out coincidence or natural phenomena, viz., the standard reaction to UFO's, ESP, and so forth.

Another twist on the question of precisely what is acceptable evidence of intelligence elsewhere in the universe, and whether that intelligence is attempting communication with us, is quite aptly demonstrated in the report below taken from the New York Times, March 14, 1974. Apparently these scientists are taking an extremely narrow view with respect to the means an alien civilization might use to contact us.

"A systematic search of the 500 nearest stars that seem the likeliest centers of planetary systems like that of the sun has failed in a preliminary analysis to reveal any radio emissions suggestive of other technological civilizations.

"However it was theorized here recently that a far more ambitious 'eavesdropping' approach would have a strong chance of success.

"Dr. Frank D. Drake, professor of astronomy at Cornell University, told an audience that emissions from such civilizations 'certainly are now going through this room.'

"The problem, he explained, was finding ways to detect them. He spoke at a session of the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"The scanning of some 500 stars was carried out by Dr. Benjamin M. Zuckerman of the University of Maryland and Dr. Patrick E. Palmer of the University of Chicago. It was performed last year, but the data are still under analysis.

"They used two movable radio antennas 140 and 300 feet in diameter at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, W. Va.

"In noting this and earlier Soviet and American experiments—the first of them Project Osma, carried out by Dr. Drake himself—he said a search of millions

of stars would be needed for a reasonable chance of success.

"The 500 stars are thought to include all the likely candidates within 80 light years of the earth, one light year being the distance traversed by light in a year. The distance to the sun is eight light minutes.

"It may well be, Dr. Drake said, that no one is seeking to make contact via radio transmissions and that eavesdropping will be the only way to find other civilizations. To this end, the array of 1,400 antennas proposed in Project Cyclops would have a high likelihood of success if a civilization exists within 200 light years, he added.

"The project, a study under the auspices of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, proposed stage-by-stage construction of a 10-mile-wide field of antennas, each of them 100 yards in diameter, at an ultimate cost of $5-million. If done in increments, scientific research could be performed early in the project and, in daytime, the system could be a potent source of solar energy.

"This, it was noted, would be cheaper than the Apollo moon landings and, Dr. Drake said, would give mankind 'a very great chance' to make contact with the 'galactic community' of other civilizations with their libraries of information concerning science, their own histories and cultural evolution.

"The outcome, he said, depends on motivation. 'If we want, we can and will,' he said. 'I do not know if we will or not.' "

It is suggested that the taxpayer fund a huge listening network at a cost of some five billion dollars in the hope that an alien civilization, somewhere in the universe, will have in operation an equally huge transmitting network patiently tapping out the prime numbers. And the alien transmitters will also be using what we call "radio" rather than some other means of communication. Much as we admire the determination of Dr. Drake and his colleagues, this scheme makes about as much sense as our own 1974 civilization on Earth maintaining a network of vast signal fires on mountain tops for the possible benefit of relatively primitive aliens. If, on the other hand, advanced alien civilizations were to be listening to us, rather than vice-versa, they could hear a veritable barrage of signals, though these would contain precious few prime numbers. Radio emmissions in the frequency range above 50 megahertz go right through the ionosphere into outer space. It is rather frightening, then, to learn that by far the most powerful sources of radio transmission on this planet in the over 50 MHZ range are those of the American television stations. Little wonder that the alien civilizations have been a bit circumspect about visiting us openly. Charles Fort, writing long before the appearance on our airwaves (or on the cosmic airwaves) of Archie Bunker or the Roller Derby, concluded that aliens did not communicate with us "for moral reasons." He probably had a point there.

What is really fascinating about the work of Dr. Drake and other exobiologists is the extent to which these scientists have utterly refused to even consider the evidence for the existence of other — and more logical — forms of alien communication. As a start we would recommend the extraordinary results of the research done by Marjorie Fish (Pursuit, vol. 7, no. 1). But her work proves the existence of the most logical and effective of all interplanetary exploratory and communication devices, namely, the manned space vehicle. The idea that personalities, and embodied personalities at that, must ultimately be the source of intelligent signals from outer space seems to cause a profound psychological aberration. So long as the problem can be stated in purely abstract terms there is little resistance to the concept of life elsewhere in the universe. We are fully prepared to enter into a discourse with the intelligent life, but only if they will "de-humanize" themselves to the point of speaking strictly in mathematical abstractions such as series of prime numbers.

Nor is this strange and illogical approach to extraterrestrial contact limited to "orthodox" scientists. For many years American UFO researchers refused to take seriously any report of a landing of a "saucer" and actually spent considerable effort denouncing any and all reports in which humanoids were allegedly seen to emerge from the saucers. Ivan Sanderson got himself in trouble with these ufologists very early in the game when he urged that this attitude was eminently illogical. If, as was popularly thought, the saucers are interplanetary craft, then they must on occasion land. Embracing only those reports that had the saucers continuously airborne, and rejecting as prima facie frauds those in which the saucer landed, just wouldn't stand up as a logical way to study this phenomenon. Furthermore, if the saucers were manned craft, rather than robots, it seemed quite natural that the crewmembers would step outside for a look-see now and then. This heresy got Sanderson little more than a hail of brickbats, but as in so many other matters, he was well ahead of the pack. Today few would deny that the study of precisely those cases of close encounters with UFOs that were initially anathematized has been the most fruitful avenue of UFO research.

Returning to our discussion of the hypothetical space probe, the next act in the scenario would consist of a listening period, this time searching for some indication that its presence and its initial messages had been properly understood. Presuming that the proper responses have been sent back to it, the space probe would presumably launch into a more complex series of messages conveying a great deal of information regarding its origin, purpose, etc.

It would appear that something along the lines of a transponder in orbit close to Earth has been sending signals of several sorts back to us over a period of many years. We have some data that indicates that this might be the case (Pursuit, vol. 6, no. 2). We

were also aware of the fact that Guglielmo Marconi was convinced that he had received signals originating from an extraterrestrial source, and had spoken openly about this to many other pioneers of radio.

Several years ago, Mr. Duncan A. Lunan, then president of the Association in Scotland for Technology and Research in Astronautics, began to study reports that had been published in scientific journals in the late 'twenties concerning a phenomenon known as "long delayed echoes." Radio engineers sending test signals had heard echoes of their signals that could not be accounted for by any known laws of radio propagation. Most of these echoes were recorded, though without the degree of precision that would be possible today, and certainly without the degree of attention that we would devote to them if they were to occur again. Mr. Lunan did something that apparently no one else had thought of doing before. He plotted the echoes on graph paper, and discovered that when viewed in this manner, the echoes seemed to form a series of messages containing a great deal of information. If one is to accept Mr. Lunan's interpretation of these signals, they were sent by a space probe transponder placed in orbit around our moon about 13,000 years ago.

Before we see specifically what Mr. Lunan has to say, it might do to review the technical aspects of radio wave propagation as they apply here. In other words, how do radio signals ordinarily act, and why did the various researchers find those echoes that they were receiving so strange? Radio waves of most frequencies are reflected from layers of ionized air in the upper atmosphere. This effect makes long distance radio communication possible, and is particularly notable on the short wave bands. The degree of ionization varies throughout the day, as does the height of these layers of ionized air, with the result that the radio reflections are at a maximum at certain times of the day on certain frequencies and practically nonexistent on other frequencies at other times.

In the '20's, the causes of these reflections were still very much an open question. The existence of the phenomena was being explored in an empirical way by radio amateurs, but the theoretical aspects were still cloudy. The data used by Mr. Lunan was produced by scientists attempting to secure definitive data on these reflections. Most of their results showed a reflecting layer in the upper atmosphere, but on some occasions they received echoes which were delayed so long as to make reflection from the upper atmosphere completely out of the question. The delay caused by the transit of a radio signal around the world is about 1/7 second. The delay resulting from a reflection from the ionized air layers is about 1/10 of the round-the-world delay. Yet some of the delays recorded by these experimenters were on the order of 3 to 15 seconds. The best explanation offered at the time for the delays was that some were reflections from the moon, and that others were reflecting from a stream of electrons emitted by the sun. The delay time for a moon reflection is about 2½ seconds. However, it was generally agreed that neither of these explanations was at all satisfactory. One explanation that never occurred to the scientists was that the long delayed echo phenomenon might be caused by a space probe.

The mechanics of these propagation tests consisted of sending a short pulse of radio energy and then listening for the echo. Signals reflected from the ionized upper atmosphere were heard after a very short lapse of time and with a weak signal intensity. It is most important to note that the researchers were prepared to measure several parameters, such as the time lapse, the intensity of the reflected signal, and changes in the frequency of the reflected signal. The long delayed echoes showed characteristics remarkably different from those of the ordinary echoes in each parameter. The echoes often had an intensity of 1/3 that of the pulses sent by the ground station, which is quite astounding. Furthermore, there was no detectable frequency shift, which is also inexplicable if these signals were in fact being reflected from a great distance. In short, everything about these "reflections" indicated that they were not echoes at all. The data was, however, perfectly consistent with the operation of a transponding space probe.

Now a word about the method used by Mr. Lunan to decrypt the information contained in the echoes. As we have indicated, it was something of a flash of genius on Mr. Lunan's part to even begin thinking of the long delayed echoes as the result of messages sent by a space probe. Then came the problem of extracting the information contained in the echoes. We admit to being stumped by some of Mr. Lunan's reasoning, particularly in his analysis of the more complicated sets of echoes, but the simpler decoding seems to make good sense. We hope in the future to get further information on this from Mr. Lunan. We also hope to reprint some of the original papers written by those who accomplished the experiments that produced the long delayed echoes.

Let us take a practical example to illustrate exactly what Mr. Lunan did with the echo data. Assume that the ground station is sending a short pulse of radio energy once every 30 seconds, i.e., a morse code "dot" followed by 30 seconds of silence. Very shortly after the pulse is sent, the experimenters hear the weak "natural" reflection. Then, after a lapse of some seconds, they hear a strong echo.

Now assume that during the first 30 second quiet period there are two strong echoes, one coming after 3 seconds, and the second coming after 6 seconds. No long delayed echoes are heard after the second, third, and fourth pulses are sent. After the fifth pulse is sent, a long delayed echo is heard with a delay time of 6 seconds. No further long delayed echoes are heard for the remainder of the day.

The original researchers merely recorded the long delayed echoes and scratched their heads in wonder. Mr. Lunan took the data and plotted it on a sheet of

graph paper, with the pulse sequence shown on the vertical axis, reading upward, and the delay time on the horizontal axis, reading left to right. By plotting the echoes in this way a series of dots appears. It is now the task of the analyst to connect the dots with straight lines, or to otherwise make sense out of them. In the hypothetical example given here, there are only three dots in the "message," and if one connects three dots with straight lines the result is always a triangle. But this particular triangle is a 3,4,5, right triangle and thus a bit special as triangles go. Now suppose that in subsequent runs the dots plot more triangles, and these turn out to be right triangles whose sides are all whole numbers. It would then be obvious to all but the most obdurate Project Bluebook officials that the signals were coming from an intelligent source.

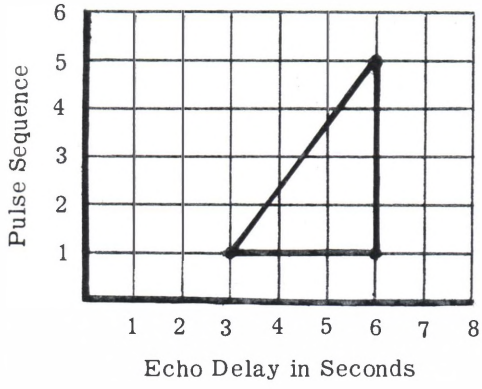


Figure 1

The example given above is for purposes of illustration only. When Mr. Lunan made a graph of the simplest set of echoes, it resulted in a much more complex picture. The later sets of echoes are increasingly more complex. Remember that the dots on the graph paper were produced by some unknown source. This is the raw material. And though we have the greatest respect for Mr. Lunan, we feel compelled to point out that the connecting lines in the diagrams are his personal interpretation and must be recognized as such. In other words, the dots stand by themselves, but the interpretation of the meaning of the dots is Mr. Lunan's creation.

We have been unable as yet to secure permission to reprint the full text of Mr. Lunan's article describing the various messages received from the space probe. We shall, therefore, reconstruct the first set of echoes. Mr. Lunan has written detailed descriptions of his work for the January, 1974 issue of ANALOG Science Fiction/Science Fact Magazine and for the April 1973 issue of SPACEFLIGHT, the Journal of the British Interplanetary Society.

Figure 2 is a graphical representation of a series of echoes received by researchers on October 11, 1928. The delay times received were 8, 11, 15, 8, 13, 3, 8, 8, 8, 12, 15, 13, 8, and 8 seconds. The second

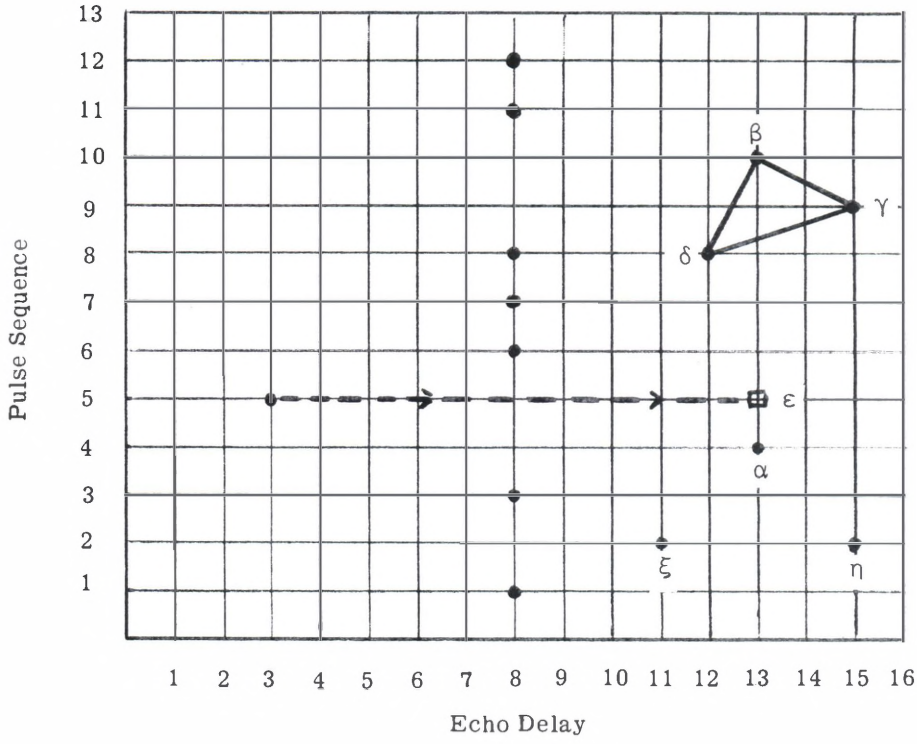


Figure 2

and third delays came within the quiet period following the eighth pulse transmitted from the ground station.

Mr. Lunan thinks that the row of vertical dots formed by the seven eight-second echoes is meant to be an attention getting device, as well as an invitation to move the three second delay dot over to the right of the vertical line. It is probably also an internal check of the "code" because, if the 3-second dot is moved an equal number of spaces into the right side, or reflected about the vertical dot axis, one finds seven dots in the pattern. When all of the dots are placed in the right hand side of the diagram, the constellation Boötes appears. The position of alpha Bootes, commonly known as Arcturus, corresponds to the position of that star approximately 13,000 years ago. The special operation that had to be performed on Epsilon Boötes, thus calling particular attention to it in the completed constellation, indicates that this is the "home" star of the space probe.

As we have said earlier, the patterns sent by the probe on following occasions are all quite a bit more complicated than this first one. They eventually form a map of a large section of the sky bounded by and including the constellations Lyra, Libra, Spica, Ursa Major and Ursa Minor. Bootes is in the center of these. The final echo sequence forms an extremely complex pattern which Lunan interprets as detailed information regarding the planetary system of origin of the space probe. It is at this point that Mr. Lunan lost us, but this is not to say that we disagree with his interpretation. We simply can't follow it. In any event, the message in this last series is as follows. The probe originated in Epsilon Boötes, which is a double star. The home planet is the sixth of seven planets counting outward from the larger of the two suns. The sixth (home) planet has one moon, the fourth planet has three, the first and third planets each have one moon. And finally, the probe is located in the orbit of our moon.

VII BIOLOGY

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT: BIGFOOT, APRIL 1974

by Peter Byrne

Here in the Pacific Northwest, the western front as we Bigfoot searcher-investigators call it, it has been a very quiet time. Through 1971, 1972, sightings averaged two a year and footprint findings averaged three. Then came 1973 and a long dry spell broken only by one sighting – by four commercial fishermen, Bute Inlet, B. C., in March—and a footprint finding by myself in B.C. in the fall. There were no other sightings in 1973 of which we can write and it was not until last month (March 1974) that another sighting was reported. The incident took place in Florence, a small town on the Oregon coast, where a young boy (age 14) said that he saw one. A search of the area revealed almost no evidence but intensive questioning of the boy convinced me that he was telling the truth and that he probably did see a medium-sized (about six feet) young male Sasquatch. I spent three days in the area and then returned later to look at what might have been old tracks.

In 1973 I and my associates made a total of twelve field trips, each lasting from one to four weeks. Three of these were in the coastal ranges of Oregon and Washington. Four were into British Columbia, and of these latter four, one was by plane with Explorers Club writer-photographer Russ Kinne, the remainder by chartered boat. Several of the deep inlets were explored (some of which go back 80 or more miles into the mountains), including Bute Inlet, the scene of the March sighting. An interesting discovery was made at the head of Bute: Sasquatch Pass, a high pass out of the Homathko Icefield. It is so marked on the Canadian geological survey maps.

In the full-time search and investigation field here, there is presently only one group, and that is the group which I operate from The Dalles, Oregon. Various individuals make temporary sorties into the mountains, and among these the Colville, Washington searchers are probably the most active. Principal among these are Bob Hewes and Dwane Scott, Don Byington and Norm Davis. In other areas, mostly in northern California, serious searching is done during the summer months by George Haas and his colleagues. Haas is based in Oakland and each year spends a total of about 100 days in the field. There are no other fulltime or seriously interested searchers at present in the Bigfoot field.

This situation, however, is soon to change. In mid-May the National Wildlife Federation, of Washington, D.C., the foremost and most respected wildlife conservation society in this country and one of the biggest in the world, is to sponsor a serious, well organized, long-term scientific search. Leader of the expedition will be Bob Morgan, explorer and adventurer and one of the few men who has actually seen one of the objects of the search, as well as the leader of the 1970 expedition to the Mt. St. Helens area, which found footprints on two occasions. I shall be working with this group, probably for a period of at least a year. General areas of search are at present confidential but this information will probably be released for Pursuit readers in the coming months. The approach that Morgan and the NWF are taking is one I personally support. None of the group will carry

guns, and the object of the expedition is a humane temporary capture and release of one of the giant primates. A few misguided people still think that a Sasquatch should be shot, simply to prove that they exist. (A small boy said to me recently, what if the one they shoot is the last one?) Morgan and his team think otherwise and I personally believe that his approach is one that will pay off.

What else is happening in the Bigfoot field? Here in the Dalles, to open on May 1st, a scientific and educational museum/exhibition based on the theme of the Bigfoot. Presently under construction by myself and designer Celia Killeen, the exhibit will contain panels depicting the search and investigation to date, using both colour ahd black-and-white photographs: the Himalayan searches (as a comparative phenomenon), various groups of prehistoric men that might have been related to the Sasquatch, the Loch Ness investigation (again as a comparative phenomenon), old newspapers dating back to 1842 that contain references in various form to the Sasquatch, drawings and photographs of footprints of bear, man, gorilla, sasquatch, etc. And in glass cases, 3-D maps of the Pacific Northwest showing where the various findings have been made, edible plants of the Pacific Northwest of the type that a Bigfoot would eat, plaster casts of the various footprints (man, apes, bear, sasquatch, etc.) and fossil skull reproductions of some of the prehistoric men, including Gigantopithecus, etc.

MYSTERY ANIMALS

Ivan Sanderson, the founder of S I T U, was a zoologist of considerable accomplishment in that science who worked for many years "in the field" collecting specimens for the British Museum of Natural History. Perhaps as a natural outgrowth of this professional specialty Sanderson developed an intense interest in "unknown" animals, that is, animals reported on numerous occasions but as yet uncaught and unclassified. His writings on the subject stand as the definitive scientific works on unknown animals, and the Society has continued to collect data to further his pioneering work on unknown animals.

The bipeds commonly known as Yeti, Sasquatch, Bigfoot, etc., and the Loch Ness Monster are the best known of these anomalous animals, though they represent only a fraction of the total number of reported "unknowns" on record. In very general terms, there have been three major explanations put forward in an attempt to account for these reports. The first holds that the reports are the result of misidentification of known animals, or simple frauds and hoaxes. For an example of this see the Encyclopaedia Britannica under the heading of "Abominable Snowman." The second explanation, which seems to be the consensus of most students of the subject, is that the animals are indeed real, and in most cases are well known to the indigenous "natives", but that they have merely avoided being caught to date. The third explanation is to the effect that the reported animals are the product of some paranormal or even extraterrestrial agency, perhaps ghosts or phantasms.

It is interesting to note that the adherents of all three theories recognize the fact that despite considerable effort we have yet to capture a specimen of any of these animals. Of course, each group explains this rather embarrassing fact in accordance with its own idea of the nature of the beasts. Group One says that one can't very well capture something that is not there in the first place. Group Two asks us to wait a while. Group Three seems to believe that the phenomenon is by nature so far removed from our usual understanding of the words "animal" or "capture" that capturing one is a practical impossibility. This we shall examine in more detail later on, and not merely as an exercise in liberality, but because some of the keenest students of monster reports have collected an impressive amount of data that we feel deserves careful consideration regardless of how bizarre this theory may sound at first glance.

Most ABSM hunters are very firmly of the opinion of group number two. We have had the opportunity to ask a number of them, including some genuine professional "big game" trappers, why they suppose it has been impossible to capture an ABSM. They are fairly unanimous in the opinion that capturing a large, extremely strong, extremely swift, and most importantly, presumably intelligent animal such as the ABSMs are reported to be, is a most difficult task. What follows is a gross oversimplification, but when setting about trapping any animal one must first learn the habits of the animal. Then a hunting scheme based on the animal's habits is formulated. Finally, the hunter must be a very patient and diligent fellow. The popularly held view of trapping, with a mob of people roaring off into the bush in a caravan of Land Rovers, is, we are told, strictly Hollywood. The "native" assistants on hunting expeditions for rare animals are valued mainly for their intimate knowledge of the terrain and the habits of the hunted animal, rather than for their strong backs. To sum up, it is the opinion of the "pros" that ABSM hunts have been lacking in most if not all of the essential ingredients, namely, sufficient manpower, sufficient staying power, and, most especially, an adequate knowledge of the creature's habits.

This was brought home to us in a very vivid manner several years ago in a nearly tragic event that made headlines throughout the country. A young couple had been picknicking in a state park with their nine-year-old mentally retarded son. Sometime during the afternoon the boy wandered off. His parents searched for several hours for the lost child, and were eventually forced to call for help. By nightfall over four hundred searchers had been assembled and were combing the area. At daybreak helicopters

and light airplanes were pressed into the search. The aircraft and key personnel on the ground were in constant two-way-radio communication. The boy was spotted a number of times, both by aircraft and members of the ground party, and at times was seen no more than 50 yards away. Nevertheless, he managed to avoid capture. After three days the boy surprised one of the searchers by walking directly up to him in a clearing and asking for help. The moral for ABSM hunters, and especially for those who are inclined to dismiss the subject because we have not yet captured one, is quite plain.

More recently, a crocodile was the subject of a large scale search in a small, shallow lake in Florida. This one was finally caught, but only after three weeks of Keystone Kops chases through the clear water, and the combined arsenal of grappling hooks, nets, electric shock and baited buoys. All of this was to no avail. Finally, the temperature dropped to 30 degrees, and the croc decided to end the game by leaving the water for a sun bath. Little wonder, then, that Nessie has avoided capture in the depths of Loch Ness, where the water even a few feet below the surface is nearly opaque with suspended particles of peat.

All of this makes fine sense to us, but we are nevertheless forced to admit that a number of cases of unknown animals present an array of most unsettling circumstances that would seem to require an "unnatural" explanation. In these cases the animals apparently share some characteristics with what have come to be known as "ghosts" – though what "ghosts" are is something we don't know at all. To be specific, the tracks of these animals at times seem to suddenly appear, meander about in a "normal" fashion, and then disappear. The animals themselves often inhabit a small area for weeks or even months, but eventually disappear just as suddenly as they appeared. Sometimes they glow in the dark, or glowing objects are seen near them. Ordinarily courageous and even fierce dogs absolutely refuse to track them. It is claimed that in a number of instances the animals have been seen immediately after the appearance in the vicinity of UFOs, though to date we know of no case directly linking the two phenomena. That is, no one has spotted a UFO depositing an animal, or collecting same (we are not here referring to reports of "attacks" on domestic animals).

In the main, the animals we are describing here are the large "cats" variously described as pumas, cougars, panthers, etc., though in the few instances where the witness was qualified to make a fairly precise identification as to the species of the animal, the anatomical details have been strangely inconsistent with those of any known animal. Often these visitations are accompanied by the widespread slaughter of livestock and other domesticated animals, and indeed there are many instances in which such depredations have been the only indication that any animal was about. Some of the most chilling reading in Fort concerns the panics caused by these "mystery cats."

Charles Bowen, the editor of the preeminent ufological journal, Flying Saucer Review, wrote about these mysterious animals in the November/December 1964 issue of FSR. The case he details is an excellent illustration of the problems, both practical and theoretical, posed by these appearances, and we are reprinting it herewith.

MYSTERY ANIMALS

By Charles Bowen

The increase in the appearance of large mystery animals of the cat family has been most marked in the past eighteen months. Reports of the sudden advent of feline predators in regions where they are normally unknown among the local fauna, have filtered through from far and wide. Not so far, either, in some cases, for there has been a veritable rash of reports from Southern England.

It may surprise the general public, but not, surely, readers of this REVIEW, to learn that the "lion" hunts that have been mounted are neither isolated incidents, nor are they peculiar to the 1960's. There have been several instances in England alone during the last hundred years.

For example, in March 1906, the good people of Windsor were greatly perturbed by the ravages of a strange animal which mauled sheep so severely that they had to be killed. Before the disturbance died down, fifty-one sheep had been killed outright.

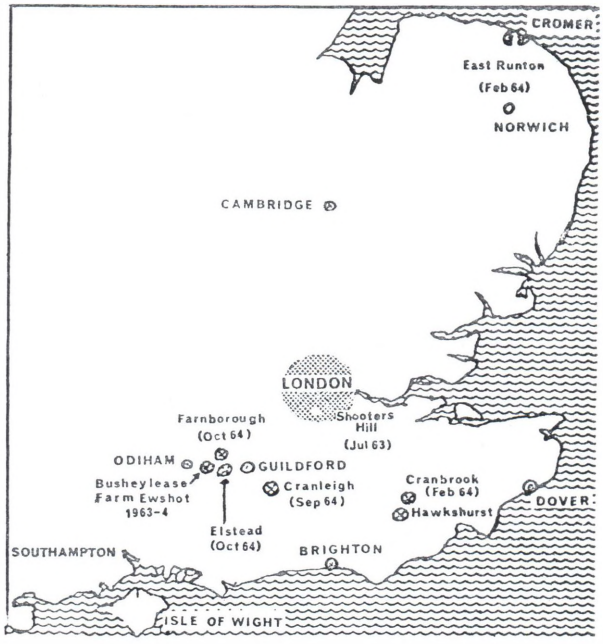
Little purpose will be served by cataloguing numerous other incidents from the past. Suffice it to say that the works of Charles Fort abound with evidence of identical scares!

Not unnaturally, Ufologists have been interested in the recent developments, and more than a year ago, I heard the view expressed that it would be only a matter of time before there would be evidence of a tie-up between the animals and the flying saucers.

That remark was made after the fuss about a cheetah which was encountered in the Shooters' Hill area of Kent, had died down. There were several cheetah "sightings", and a serious and well-organised hunt was mounted in this populous district in the south-east corner of London. Police and tracker dogs joined in, but to no avail.

The Shooters Hill affair was in July 1963, a time when we were deeply interested in the happenings at Mr. Blanchard's farm in Charlton, Wilts., (see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW of September/October 1963).

On February 14, 1964, a new mystery animal was reported, this time in the Hawkhurst-Cranbrook area of Kent, some 50 miles from London. This animal



was alleged to be "huge", with two-inch razor-sharp claws. A Mr. John Golding, of Park Cottages, Hawkhurst, found a set of giant paw marks on Duval's Farm. He and the owner, Mr. F. C. Brinsley, followed the trail across the farm. The marks were described by the local veterinary surgeon, Mr. Douglas Good, as probably having been made by a member of the "Big cat" family with front feet nearly twenty-four inches apart, and heavy enough for the feet and claws to sink nearly two inches into fairly firm ground.

Five days later, a tiger was reported at large in East Anglia. This creature was seen on a railway enbankment at East Runton, near Cromer. Appeals were made on television for further information: some thirty police dogs were employed in a search, again to no avail, although there were persistent eye-witness reports describing the animal variously as a tiger, a puma and a cheetah.

The Vereeniging Story

It was at this time that we heard tell of an amazing story which had been published in "Die Brandway", an Afrikaans language magazine from South Africa. A translation appeared in the May/June 1964 issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

The two men, who were driving at night on the Potchefstroom/Vereeniging road, were surprised to see a strange, large animal. In a land which boasts a vast array of magnificent beasts, they were surprised enough to stop to investigate this creature, which they merely supposed could be a large dog. They weren't too sure on that point, and events which followed must have driven thoughts of the animal right out of their minds, for their car was "buzzed" by a UFO. Several spectacular passes were made at them, and they were petrified.

To us, in the comfort of our armchairs it seemed that the UFO was trying to distract the attention of the men while the animal escaped. This then, was the first hint of an apparent connection between mystery animals and flying saucers. There would have to be closer investigation of any future mystery animal story.

Of one thing we could be certain: mystery animals, and those who saw them or suffered their depredations, would be accorded the full ridicule treatment, and there would be an ample flow of evasive official explanations and denials. Indeed. there was a precedent in the 1906 case at Windsor, for a sentry who shot at the animal was put on a charge, and confined to barracks for firing without cause!

There was also the engaging possibility that Randallism (defined by Waveney Girvan in page 7 of the September/October 1963 issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW) would again rear its ugly head!

Surrey-Hampshire Border Country, 1964

In August a mystery puma was the subject of a wave of reports from the area around Godalming, Farnham and Odiham. Much of the country is farmland, but there are large tracts of woodland and dense bushy undergrowth. Hunts were organised, with headquarters at Godalming Police station, and when farm manager Edward Blanks reported that one of his steers had been savaged, the search was intensified. It was then that seriousness gave way, at least in some sections of the national press, to ridicule, and, as was expected. Randallism appeared in the form of a Canadian lion-hunter who called himself Billy Davidson.

It was time to investigate the mystery.

A quick perusal of a volume from Allen's Naturalist's Library, Cats, by R. Lydekker, revealed that the Puma (Felis Concolor) is one of the largest cats of the New World. The native Indians, and the French, call it the "Cougar", whilst U.S. hunters called it the "Panther". The average size of the Puma is 40 inches from nose to tail root, with a tail of some 20 inches. It has a small head, with no mane, but with large rounded ears, and is tawny coloured on its upper parts, dirty white underneath. It often attacks its prey for the sheer pleasure of killing, leaping from prominent rocky positions or from overhanging trees. It rarely attacks man, and will usually only do so if cornered. In fact, there are records of Pumas actually defending men from attacks by other wild beasts.

Bushylease Farm, October 1964

Fortified by this reassuring information, I made my way to Bushylease Farm on October 11.

The well-appointed farm comprises about 300 acres, and the houses and outbuildings are some quarter of a mile from the main road. Access is by a roadway which rises over a low ridge, and then drops down to the farm, flanked by woodland (mostly silver

birch and pine) and large areas of bushy undergrowth which are quite close to the farm buildings.

Two fiercely barking dogs, one an alsatian, gave the alarm at my approach.

Mr. Blanks, weather-beaten and down to earth, told me that the woods were not preserved by game-keepers, and are known to contain foxes.

It seems that the mystery puma has been around the farm on and off for two years. During the severe winter of 1962/63, when the farmer expected to trail it easily in the snow, it failed to put in an appearance .At other times during its earlier visits, Mr. Blanks let the dogs off their leads, but they flatly refused to go after it. They were terrified.

Apparently the animal has a very strong smell, with a tang of ammonia, which Mrs. Blanks can detect at some considerable distance—surprising, seeing that it is in the open air.

The mystery animal is usually nocturnal. There have been daytime visits, but these were in fog. It betrays its presence with a screaming, or "yowling" noise, like one would expect, says Mr. Blanks, from a dozen cats whose tails are trodden on simultaneously! The "yowling", furthermore, only appears to be made when the animal crosses open ground.

The puma has been seen on a number of occasions: once it stopped when caught in the headlights whilst crossing the approach road in front of the Blanks' car. For an instant or so it stared at them, then made off with a swish of its tail. Quite recently Mr. and Mrs. Blanks and their son, had walked under a tree which overhangs the road, unaware that the puma was lurking in the branches. They heard it jump down after they had passed, and just caught a glimpse of it in a torch beam. It had landed on, and crossed, a manure heap, and its pad marks have been preserved: they were more than four inches long. I also saw claw marks and scratches on the smooth-barked tree.

By this time, Mr. Blanks was talking freely: at first one had the feeling that he was apprehensive of being thought ridiculous. He had been perturbed by the attitude of authority, and disappointed by the reactions of the press. Then there was the search by the Canadian hunter—but more of that in due course.

By now, satisfied that here at last was an interviewer who was prepared to treat the matter seriously, Mr. Blanks ventured to tell me the most surprising part of his story—the matter of the STRANGE LIGHTS. I should point out that at no time did I mention my interest in flying saucers.

Part of Mr. Blanks' routine is to make the rounds of his farm before retiring for the night.

On two occasions he suddenly became aware of a mysterious light on the roofs of the farm buildings. The light moved from roof to roof, yet he could not see the beam which produced the light. It was certainly **not** produced by car headlights from the Odiham Road: the local topography precluded that possibility. Mr. Blanks could not trace the source of the light, and he was puzzled and worried by the phenomenon, because on each occasion the mystery puma arrived on the scene shortly afterwards!

I can only presume Mr. Blanks did not give this part of his story to the press for fear of further ridicule.

The story "blew wide open" when one of Mr. Blanks' steers was attacked. The mystery animal had been around on the night of the attack, and when the farmer found that his herd had panicked and smashed through a fence in three places, he rounded them up and discovered that one steer was missing. It was found lying in a pool of mud and blood in the undergrowth, with terrible claw marks down its shoulders, on both sides of the neck and along its flanks. It was still alive, and subsequently the veterinary surgeon's treatment cost £20. Six days elapsed before the steer could get back onto its feet.

The visit of the Canadian hunter must have been quite a pantomime. "Give me 48 hours", said Mr. Billy Davidson, "and I'll get me a cat!" Much hard work was done in the undergrowth, with more than 40 reporters in tow; the one thing missing from the proceedings was stealth! This strange interlude was treated lightheartedly in sections of the press, particularly by the London Evening News of August 31.

Mr. Davidson retired defeated, and one is left with the feeling that this was another instance of Randallism, that he had been put up to his task merely to be shot down like an Aunt Sally, with the object of discrediting the whole affair.

Mr. Blanks assured me that the puma had returned several times since the Davidson fiasco: the frequency of appearance is about once in every five days. He had concealed himself in carefully constructed tree hideouts, but has never seen the puma on these occasions. Strange droppings, some covered, have been found.

As one would expect of a countryman. Mr. Blanks knows a great deal about foxes, and he laughs at the suggestion that he has mistaken a fox for the mystery puma. He pointed out that when the animal is in the vicinity, foxes have broken cover, which is most unusual: perhaps they, like the dogs, are terrified, but for them it is merely a case of "out of the frying pan and into the fire", because in one fortnight alone Mr. Blanks shot eight of them in the open!

No doubt our farmer, and many others who have seen the mystery animals, will be amused by the recent attempt in the press to say that the "puma" chased at Farnborough airfield, proved only to be a fox. If it was a fox, then what was it doing on the runways? Perhaps it was scared of the terrifying thing in the nearby woods!

As usual, any old explanation is seized upon to kill an inexplicable mystery. Authority does not like a mystery: nor does the press, when it remains a mystery!

And mystery it does remain. Even as I finished this article, I learned of a report of two more sightings of the Hampshire puma by new witnesses. This report

was in the B.B.C. "Today" programme of October 18.

Where do these animals come from? Certainly not zoos and circuses, for no such losses have been reported. It seems highly unlikely that a number of private persons have had cheetahs and pumas as pets which they cannot report as lost because they smuggled them into the country in the first place. So I repeat, where do they come from, and what is their purpose?

AN ADDENDUM ON "MYSTERY CATS"

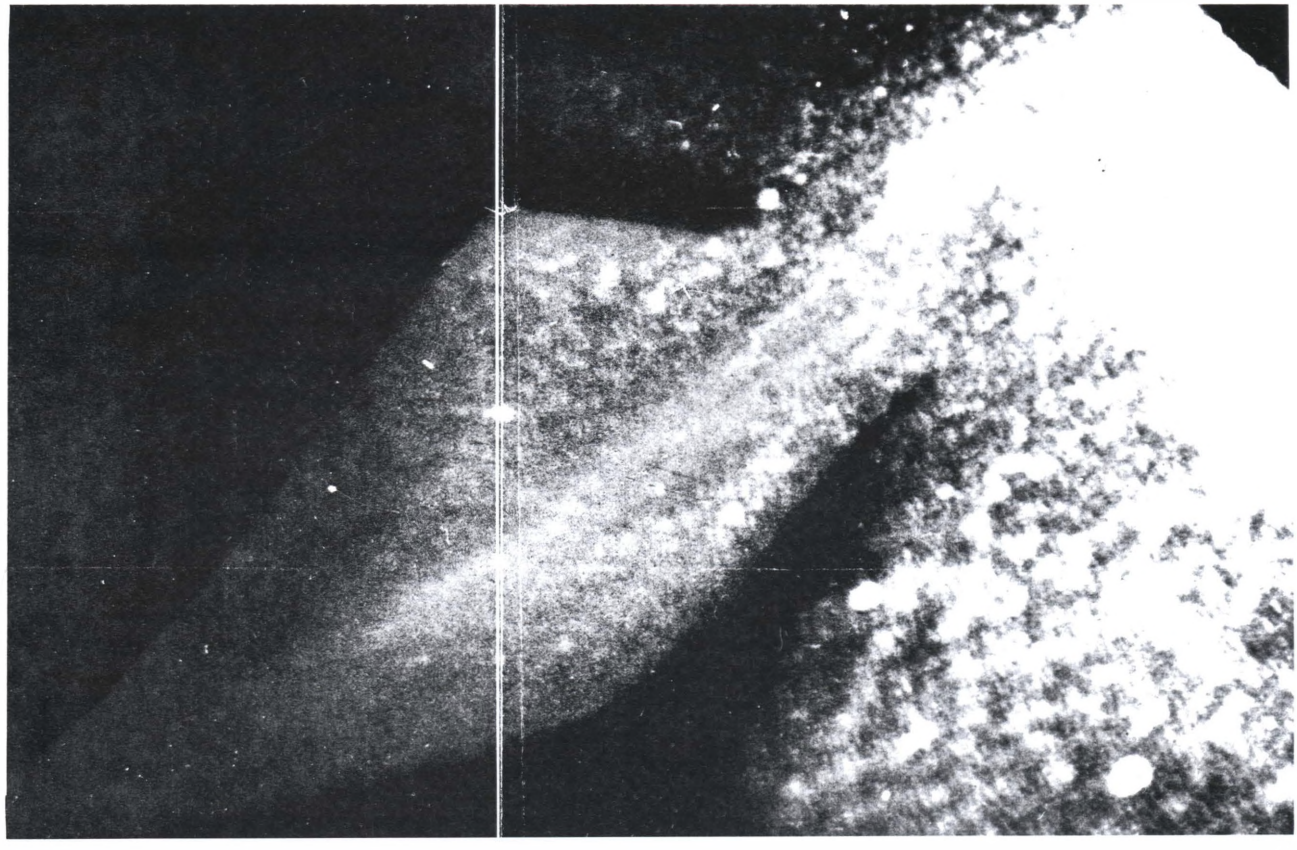
Janet Bord has been keeping track of "mystery puma" reports in England, and has furnished us with a compilation of newspaper accounts. Her initial contribution includes 19 reports, but these newspaper accounts are so stereotyped and lacking in detail that we think it instructive to reprint an example or two after Mr. Bowen's article for the sake of comparison. Just a little investigative "legwork" can yield a wealth of detailed information about these strange appearances. Mrs. Bord commented that it is a wonder the reporters who cranked out these reports can make a living, and we quite agree with that sentiment. Members who come across reports of this sort should make an effort to interview the witnesses in order to gather all the facts for us.

From The (London) Times, 23 July 1971: "Police seeking a dangerous wild animal that attacked a dog in Ashdown Forest, Sussex, have enlisted the aid of a big game hunter. They have sent him plaster casts of the animal's paw prints in an attempt to identify it. People who have seen the animal in the forest, including two policemen, describe it as like a puma, black and tan coloured with streaks of yellow and pointed ears. It attacked a dog belonging to Mr. Alistair Whitley, a farmer of Outback Farm, Nutley."

From the London Evening News, 14 June 1972: "A large, catlike animal, that can run at speeds up to 35 mph, has been sighted for the second time near Polegate, Sussex. A taxi-driver told police that early today he saw the animal, which is several times larger than a normal cat, running along the road between Folkington and Polegate. The first report about the animal came last week from a man who saw the animal jump a five foot fence."

LOCH NESS

Tim Dinsdale began studying the Loch Ness Monsters in 1959, and has been personally responsi-



The extraordinary photograph obtained at Loch Ness from a camera suspended at a depth of 50 feet. This is reproduced from an off-print of Tim Dinsdale's article; the white line down the middle is simply the separation between the pages.

ble for so much of the really serious study of this phenomenon that when one thinks of Nessie the name Dinsdale automatically comes to mind. He has made a total of 25 expeditions to date, seen Nessie three times, and filmed one once. The film was analyzed by a number of photographic experts including the British Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre, and is accepted as proof of the existence in Loch Ness of a very large and unknown marine animal.

Mr. Dinsdale was born in 1924 and spent his youth travelling extensively up and down the China coast where his father was a shipping agent. He was educated in England, then joined the De Havilland Aeronautical Technical School working under the famous aviation pioneer, Sir Geoffrey De Havilland, and took part in the development of the renowned "Mosquito" fighter plane. Later he worked for Rolls Royce in the development and flight test of the first jet engines.

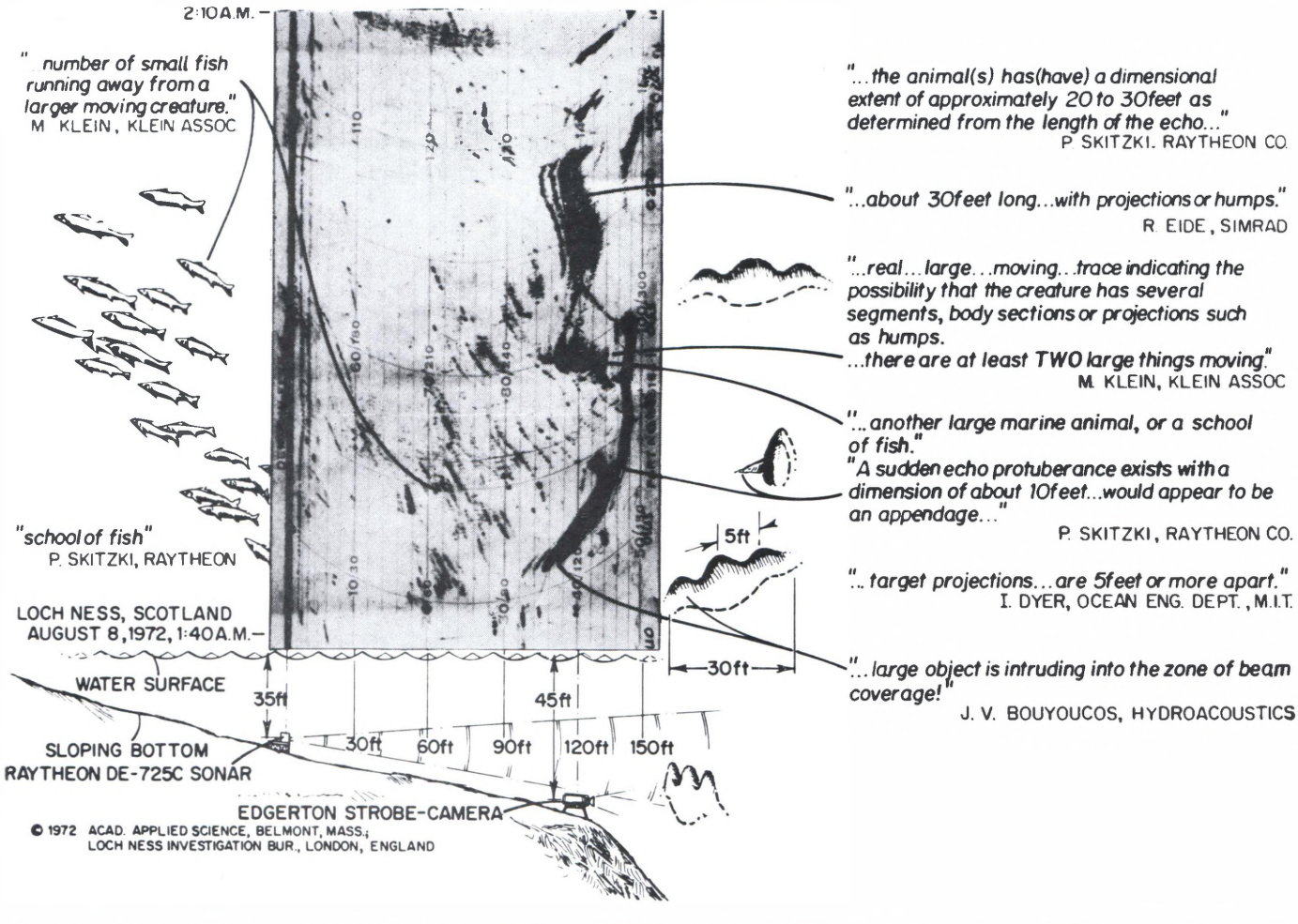
He has written five books on the Loch Ness Monster, Loch Ness Monster (1961), The Leviathans (1966) (Routledge & Kegan Paul), Project Water Horse, by the same publishers, due for publication this coming fall, Monster Hunt, Acropolis Books, Washington, D. C., and for young people, The Story of the Loch Ness Monster, Target Books, 14 Gloucester Road, London SW 7, for a mere 25 pence. Loch Ness Monster is still available from Routledge for £1.25, 68 Carter Lane, London, EC 4.

The following article by Mr. Dinsdale was reprinted from the Journal of the Royal Photographic Society.

LOCH NESS 1972 -- THE RINES/EDGERTON PICTURE

By Tim Dinsdale

In years past, the cry at Loch Ness would be – "Where is your scientific evidence?" Today, no one who is aware of the facts concerning the phenomenon



How the picture was made and the sonar record of the event with comments by technical analysts. Also reproduced from the off-print.

of the "Monster", and the results obtained from recent probings, would bother to ask the question. He would know that, since 1966, reports have been published which are scientifically based, analysing the results of photographic work above and below the surface and the sonar contacts obtained—indicating large midwater moving objects—the echoes from which are not apparently spurious or from any known species of fish.

To establish credibility, and to gain a sense of perspective, it is useful to list these more important results starting with the RAF's Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Centre Report on the film I shot of the Monster at Loch Ness, in 1960. This report, which was published as an HMSO document in 1966, accepts the film as genuine and as showing an object which moved at some 10 mph— a cross section through which would be at least 6 feet wide and 5 feet deep. As it submerged during the course of the film and travelled half a mile without a propeller wash, it was clearly animate.

In 1967, Richard Raynor obtained a short sequence of 35mm black and white film through one of the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau's ultra-long-range cine cameras. It showed a big V wash moving on calm water, which ceased when Scott 2, a local passenger boat, appeared in frame, proving the locality beyond doubt. The RAF analysis found a 7 foot object at the apex of the wash, just breaking surface.

In 1968, Professor D. Gordon Tucker and Hugh Braithwaite of the University of Birmingham tried out a new type of digital sonar at Loch Ness over a period of two weeks. Filmed recordings of the display showed echoes from large moving objects, the behaviour of which ruled out fish.

In 1969, Robert E. Love, Jr., sponsored by Field Enterprise of Chicago in conjunction with the Loch Ness Investigation (LNI) obtained more contacts, using a Honeywell sonar mounted at the bows of a patrolling boat. Both these sets of photographed results were published by the LNI in its 1968 and 1969 Annual Reports.

In 1970, a small team of sonar experts from the Academy of Applied Science, Belmont, Mass., including its president, Dr. Robert H. Rines, and the designer of a highly definitive sidescan sonar, Dr. Martin Klein, obtained more clear contacts in both the static and mobile sonar modes. These were described at a national news conference in London, and after further analysis details were published by Klein in the USA.

In 1971 calibration tests were run in Loch Ness and Loch Morar by the Academy/LNI teams using a flashing strobe-light cine camera underwater, working on the time-lapse principle. In the spring, at the Academy's invitation, I had talked about the research to audiences in America and Professor Harold Edgerton, Hon. FRPS, pioneer of strobe-light photography had attended. Afterwards he invited us round to his lab at M.I.T. and promised to put some special gear together. Thus, Bob Rines was able to obtain photographs even through the peat-stained soup of Loch Ness in 1971.

In August of 1972, working from boats in Urquehart Bay, the Edgerton camera was suspended at a depth of some 50 feet. Nearby, from the LNI's workboat Narwhal, a compact Raytheon sonar chart recorder scanned the depths surrounding it.

During the very early hours of 8 August 1972, a large intruding echo appeared on the Raytheon chart, and remained in the vicinity of the sonar transducer and the strobe-camera which was flashing every 15 seconds. It was moving, and fish echoes which came up as tiny dots on the chart turned into streaks as the fish swam away from it.

The 16mm film cassette was subsequently removed, flown back to the US and developed under bond by Eastman Kodak. In several frames, coincident with the sonar trace, a large but indistinct body had imposed itself.

Next, the sonar chart was submitted for analysis to no less than five separate authorities—and the film duly "computer enhanced" by the same process used to clarify some spectacular pictures from space, most recently in the case of the Mariner unmanned probes to the planet Mars.

In one frame of the film there is a remarkable improvement, showing what appears to be a huge paddle-like structure—an obvious limb; the conservative photo optical measurements of which establish a length of 6—8 feet and a width of 2—4 feet. It was photographed at near to maximum range, which in the impenetrable gloom of Loch Ness water is about 20 feet.

In view of the inescapable reality of this underwater picture (and its stunning significance) comment is superfluous; unless it is to pay credit to the technical brilliance and sheer persistence of the two Americans who helped to make it possible. In this connection, and in keeping with a now established Loch Ness tradition, the picture deserves an identifying title.

I can think of no better one than the "Rines/Edgerton Picture".

MEMBERS' FORUM

Mrs. Janet Bord, 34a Barnsdale Road, London W9 3LL, is researching the subject of mazes and labyrinths. She is trying to find examples of these from any geographical location, in any source, ancient or modern.

We are more than grateful to our member David Weidl who has donated a telescope to our Society. It is all the more gratifying because he is still a student and not one of the "idle rich". We are also investigating, through one of our members, the possibility of

microfilming at least the most important sections of our files. He remains anonymous for the moment, since he suggests that their prices are due to the low salaries they pay their employees!

Members should not be alarmed by the apparent disappearance of "Marion L. Fawcett". She and Sabina W. Sanderson are one and the same person, and Mrs. Sanderson notes that having two names confuses everyone, herself included. Apparently even some of our oldest members failed to read (or at least remember) Ivan T. Sanderson's note announcing their marriage and the fact that he had asked her to "revert" to her original name, thus—by marriage—acquiring his mother's initials.

We are more than pleased, also, to report that Mrs. Sanderson, by the time you read this, will have finished the manuscript for Green Silence, started by Ivan Sanderson before his death and telling of his trip to the jungles of the Orient at the age of 17. The book is scheduled for publication by the David McKay Company in November of this year. Please do not ask Mrs. Sanderson to place an order for you—this is not her department.

Member 949 would like to hear from other members in the southern California area. He is interested in investigating ancient desert ruins or any forteana in the area.

WRITE FOR PURSUIT

Each issue of Pursuit contains between 20,000 and 25,000 words, with the bulk of this space devoted to in-depth analysis of unexplained phenomena. Compiling this much material on a regular basis is no small matter, especially in view of the fact that nearly all of this writing has been done by one person — Sabina W. Sanderson — with occasional assistance from a few others.

Pursuit could be published with a great deal less effort by simply turning it into a seed catalog, i.e., a collection of newspaper clippings and quotations from articles published elsewhere, and with little or no additional commentary. We have always felt, however, that the extra time and energy expended in order to make Pursuit a highly readable and interesting journal has been well worth the trouble involved.

The journal is our major means of communicating with the membership of the Society, and it is the only tangible reward that most members receive for their annual dues. Thus it is imperative that we continue to make that reward as attractive as possible. We are quite certain that the intangible rewards of membership in the Society would be quite sufficient to keep most of our members on the rolls even if Pursuit were indeed a seed catalog. We refer here to the intrinsic fascination of the subjects that SITU studies, and the desire we share to pursue the study of unexplained events in a systematic manner. When the Society was founded it had nothing more to offer than this intangible reward, but it was nevertheless adequate incentive for several hundred individuals to join.

We have never solicited material in the past for several reasons, mainly because the amount of material we could produce "in house" was approximately equal to the amount that we could afford to print. This seems the appropriate time and place to put it directly to the readers of Pursuit — please write articles for possible inclusion in our journal. The editorial staff is, of course, fully prepared to render every sort of assistance from correcting spelling to doing considerable re-writing of your material, so don't be shy about it. We cannot guarantee publication — articles submitted may be unsuitable for a number of reasons — but all manuscripts will be given equal consideration.

Those readers who are not in a position to write for Pursuit can render a great service by recommending articles that have appeared in other publications. On occasion, we intend to reprint articles that have appeared elsewhere, if they contain information of special interest to our readers. SITU receives a number of periodicals, but there are always a few that we miss or that we are not really able to assess properly. In this connection, the Society is in need of an individual who is thoroughly conversant with the "psychic" field, and who can write for us on developments in the study of the physical aspects of psychic phenomena.

And finally, please send us newspaper clippings, with the date and name of the newspaper clearly shown. Stories on unexplained events that are printed in local newspapers are especially valuable.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Sabina W. Sanderson

William R. Corliss. Strange Phenomena: A Sourcebook of Unusual Natural Phenomena. Volume G—1. Order from Mr. Corliss, P. O. Box 107, Glen Arm, MD 21057. $6.95 postpaid (Maryland residents add state tax). 1974.

This is a splendid addition to fortean literature and is the first of a series (two more volumes are nearly ready). It is, as its compiler makes clear in both the title and his preface, a sourcebook and quotes the

original reports, complete with old spellings, punctuation, and typos, as garnered from scientific and more popular journals. Mr. Corliss also emphasizes the fact that the collection of material presented here —this volume is limited to geophysical phenomena— is a mere sampling from the literature and includes only a small portion of his own collection. We here quote from the author's Preface and the section entitled "Organization of the Sourcebooks":

"The data included have been filtered only slightly. Doubtless some hoaxes and honest misinterpretations will be found in the pages that follow. This is unavoidable in a project of this scope. Indeed, it is unavoidable in all phases of inquiry, especially those relying heavily upon observational evidence. Data were selected for inclusion according to their 'strangeness' and their tendency to contradict current scientific hypotheses or stretch them beyond their present bounds. There has also been a deliberate effort to gather in observations from the 19th Century that have gathered dust too long on library shelves. Anomalous events are too rare to let them be discarded merely because they are old or money cannot be found to put them into computerized data systems....

"Data selected for the data banks must have current relevance and be acceptable to the science of the day. Hopefully, these sourcebooks will preserve something of value and help focus the diverse, widely dispersed anomalies on the frontiers of science...."

Volume G1 deals, as noted above, with geophysical phenomena, and a second volume, G2, is nearly ready, as are volumes on ancient man and on "unresolved geological problems". Judging from the first, the whole series should be most valuable, in part because of its most unusual format. Strange Phenomena comes in a 7 x 9 inch loose-leaf ring-binder, and for a very good reason. Mr. Corliss has devised an organizational system which looks, at first glance, rather complicated —almost excessively so— but is actually very simple and easy to use in practice. Each entry is given a label consisting of three letters and three numbers; e.g. GLB-012. This conglomeration indicates that the entry concerns Geophysics (G), a major field of science; Luminous phenomena (L), a section of that field; Ball lightning (B), a subsection. The number is simply the "accession number", i.e. the 12th item on that subject. The running heads on each page give both the "label" and the specific category, so that one may find what one wants with ease: for example, the running head on page G1-28 is "GLA-011 Aurora-like Phenomena". And there are no less than five indices —subject, date-of-event, place-of-event, author, and source— which give, not the page number, but the entry number. And herein lies the beauty of the general arrangement.

In the first volume there is given a complete list of the section codes and titles for geophysics, but not all of these categories are included in this first volume. Section GG (Gravitational and temporal phenomena) is missing entirely but can be inserted in its proper place when it becomes available. Mr. Corliss has also left space for additional entries or, since the page numbers are not really useful in any case, you may add your own pages, continuing on from the last accession number.

One of the most difficult problems facing us is the organization of material into 'proper' categories, and here I feel that William R. Corliss has done a truly excellent job. Presumably one might quibble in a few cases but we have not noticed any gross areas of contention.

There is virtually no 'editorializing' included, though the compiler has commented briefly on a few reports. This is not for most people a book to be read straight through, though each section does constitute a "chapter" on a particular subject, but it is great for browsing, and it is my impression that Mr. Corliss has obtained some of his material from sources not culled before.

Jean-Pierre Hallet with Alex Pelle. Pigmy Kitabu. New York: Random House. 1973. $10.00 (Autographed copies are available from Jean-Pierre Hallet Productions, 5630 West 79th St., Los Angeles, California 90045, for $10 postpaid; indicate to whom the book should be inscribed.)

The 'blurb' on the front of the flyer for this book reads "Who is God? Where was the Garden of Eden? What is Hell? Is there a life after death? The Pygmies... —living fossils from the dawn of time— reveal the answer to these, and many other questions that have puzzled man for centuries ——" Inside the anonymous writer asks "Were your ancestors Pygmies?" and promptly replies "This revealing book proves it!"

Now all this is enough to set anyone's teeth on edge, and I am ever sceptical of a book alleged to "prove" anything that is incapable of concrete proof, particularly when the author is well known to be "in

love" with his basic subject —in this case Jean-Pierre Hallet and the African Pygmies. I therefore approached this book with a considerably jaundiced eye —and was most pleasantly surprised.

Chapter 1 provides an excellent introduction to the Pygmies and their way of life; who and which have, by the way, been assiduously ignored by such as Robert Ardrey and others who insist that Man is descended from "killer apes" and is innately aggressive. As Hallet points out, the Pygmies have a moral code which sounds remarkably like the Ten Commandments (about which more later) "But the laws are much more faithfully observed in Pygmy society [than in ours], in which there is no crime of any consequence and no war at all". In fact, the Pygmies are "very amiable, warm-hearted, fun-loving, sometimes mischievous, but wholly non-agressive characters who behave more like the elves of European legend than the awful killer apes of modern myth". This applies only to the Pygmies who have not been ruined by "civilization"; Hallet states quite bluntly that "Wherever alcohol has been introduced into Pygmy territories, the physical and moral health of the community has been all but destroyed. The Efe bands of western Uganda, near Fort Portal, offer a particularly tragic example. Some are chronic alcoholics and most of them behave like hoodlums. Tourists who visit Uganda have gathered the very false impression that these grossly corrupted Efe bands are typical Pygmies".

Though generally classed as a branch of the Negro race, the Pygmies physically have more in common with the Caucasoids: thin, uneverted lips, prominent eyebrow ridges, and very heavy body hair and beards. Their skin color ranges from yellow-tan through a warm red brown; many have gray-blue or even, in some cases, dark blue eyes; and some have dark auburn-hair (blond or red-gold in childhood). Hardly typical Negro characteristics, or even closely related to them. Nor is their culture, admittedly most "primitive", anything like that of their Negro neighbours. As for their religion with its attendant legends and customs, it bears a striking resemblance to our Old Testament, except that it antedates even Moses by at least a thousand years, possibly many millenia; and here I believe that Hallet does prove conclusively that they did not 'borrow' their beliefs from early Christian missionaries, or even earlier Hebrew wanderers or the like. The ancient Egyptians apparently borrowed their ideas from the Pygmies.

Much of the book is devoted to what I can only call a relentless recital of Pygmy legends —the creation; the "Garden of Eden", whatever it was called by those of various religions; the first man and woman; the sacred tree or fruit; the Deluge; a law-giver deity; a saviour; the apocalypse; death and its aftermath; the theft of fire; serpent-dragon legends; and underworld journeys— all of which should sound extremely familiar to those of the Judaeo-Christian faith and are also to be found in many other areas of the world among "primitive" peoples and in the early European pagan legends, ancient Egypt, etc. etc. Jean-Pierre Hallet gives full credit for this exhaustive research, and that on linguistics, to his collaborator, Alexandra Pelle, who is said to have spent more than seven years on this study. The religious evidence is impressive indeed. The mere fact that the Pygmies have all these legends is in itself much too remarkable to be dismissed as "coincidence", and means that, however controversial the basic thesis, it deserves very serious consideration. I am personally less impressed by the linguistic evidence, partly because much of it constitutes a comparison between European languages which have been known for a long time to be related; nevertheless, the similarities to the Efe Pygmy language are, I believe, sufficient to warrant further study.

Another section of Pygmy Kitabu ("kitabu" means "book") deals with the dispersal of Pygmy ideas and of the people themselves. In general, the legends "prove" this, but Hallet has added quite a number of sometimes rather unusual 'artefacts' such as string games (i.e. cat's cradle, etc.), macrame writing (even the Pygmies can't explain how this works); etc. Too, there has been the recent discovery of no less than

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The "Primitive" Pygmy Laws:
The Eighteen Sins of Man

1. Cruelty toward children
2. Murder
3. Wanton slaughter of animals
4. Disrespect toward parents and elders
5. Failure to help a wounded or stray Pygmy from elsewhere
6. Wasting food
7. Fouling water
8. Sorcery
9. Adultery
10. Cowardly behavior during the hunt
11. Husband-beating
12. Wife-beating
13. Cutting the tall trees
14. Blasphemy
15. Setting traps for animals, it is wasteful and unmanly
16. Theft
17. Eating eggs, which are like "seeds of life"
18. Slander

seven Pygmy graveyards in Venezuela, definitely identified as African Pygmies (the first of these was noted in Pursuit some time ago), coupled with traditions in the Americas of ancestors who were of very small stature. Hallet quotes a charming story anent the latter:

"The Eskimos tell many stories concerning a first or ancestral race of very diminutive stature. In Alaska, for example, the Eskimos of the Cape Denbigh area say that a 'little chief' and his people left the artifacts and ruins of an ancient village that was excavated by archaeologist J. Louis Giddings. He argues with a group of Eskimos, trying to convince them that 'there were no miniature people. ... The first men in America, whenever they came and whoever they were, and all of those who descended from them, were most likely full-sized people—no larger, no smaller, than the tall and short people we know today,'declared Giddings. After a moment of silence, an Eskimo named Nakarak politely replied, 'We thank you for explaining all these things to us. We do read a little, and we go to Bible School in the winter, but no one has ever explained these things to us before.' Then he added, 'We understand those things better now. The world has had big people and small people—and we think it must be true that the little chief was one of the smallest, all right, and we think all the other people in this village were pretty small, too!' "

So where did these "primitive" people get their very 'sophisticated' religious ideas (monotheism for one), an at least possible ability to travel widely, and such? According to them, they were once a technologically advanced group and derived their religious ideas, at least, from a tall, bearded, white-skinned man. The technology they abandoned because they found it spiritually debilitating. They do not even make fire —for religious reasons— but carry it from place to place. This general concept is virtually impossible of proof, but there are some extraordinary bits and pieces that must make anyone wonder: why (and "how come?") do they traditionally describe Saturn as "the star of nine moons"? Telescopes maybe?

Though many readers may wish to skim some of the material on legends and linguistics, there is much here to interest any reader but particularly those of fortean bent.

There is a detailed map (on the end papers) and other illustrations, both line cuts and halftones, and there is an index though this has some irritating deficiencies —e.g. there is no entry for linguistics as such, or technology, and some of the entries are confusing or unclear.

Alwyn T. Perrin, Ed. The Explorers Ltd. Source Book. New York: Harper & Row. 1973. $4.95 (paperbound).

This is not a fortean book (except for mention of INFO and SITU in the front) but is a very good source of information that may be useful to our members. Most sections, of which there are 26, are divided into three parts: 1) sources of information: organizations, publications, places to learn; 2) descriptions of equipment, basic equipment kits, sources of equipment; and 3) application of these two in the field. As the editor states emphatically, this is not a catalogue, i.e. don't order equipment as listed, write first for information and prices.

The subjects covered include some rather specialized fields such as caving, ballooning, and dog sledding, which are not likely to be indulged in by the "average citizen", but others, photography for example, will be of considerable interest to many if not most of our readers. In fact, the amount you can save by buying (by mail) a camera in Hong Kong, is many times the cost of this book.

Robert R. Lyman Sr. Amazing Indeed: Strange Events in the Black Forest, Vol. 2. Coudersport, Pa.: The Potter Enterprise. 1973. Hard cover $4.50; paperback $2.50; add 25¢ postage and handling (Pennsylvania residents add 6% sales tax).

The Black Forest referred to here is the Black Forest of Pennsylvania, not Germany, and this is the second book recounting unusual, unexplained, or otherwise strange events from that area, compiled by Robert R. Lyman, an indefatiguable local historian. The previous volume contained relatively little of specific interest to forteans though much to interest those interested in folklore generally and local history in particular. This second volume includes quite a number of accounts which can be called truly fortean, not the least of which is the difficulties they ran into in printing volume one! Mr. Lyman has done his utmost to confirm the stories recounted herein.

Though the printing leaves much to be desired, this little book is certainly entitled to a place in fortean literature. There is a full table of contents and an index of proper names.

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