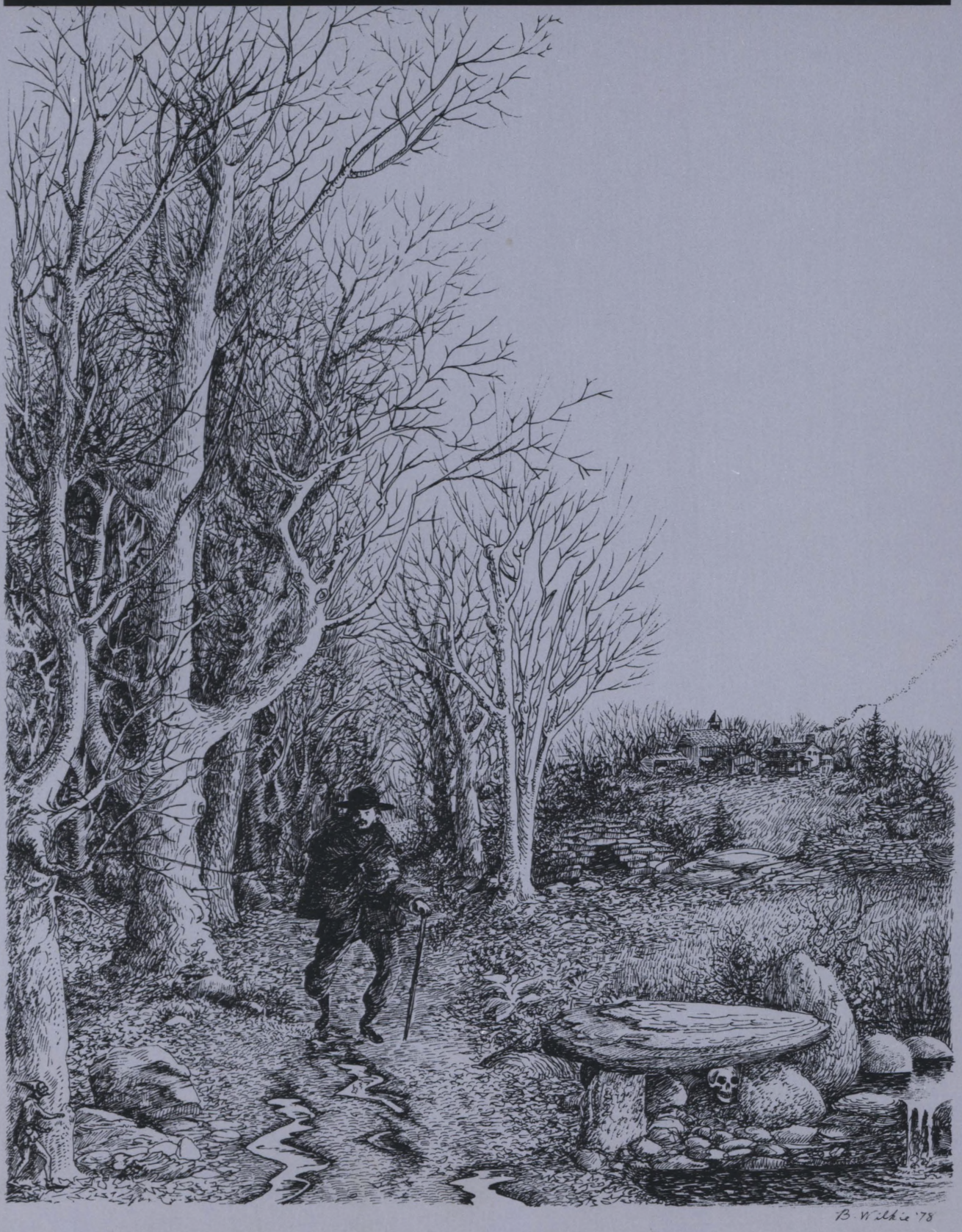
THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

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VOL. 12 No. 1 WHOLE No. 45 WINTER 1979

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Our publishing schedule is four (quarterly) issues of PURSUIT, dated Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall, and numbered as annual volumes — Vol. 1 being 1968 and before; Vol. 2, 1969, and so on. Membership and our quarterly journal PURSUIT is $10 per year. Subscription to PURSUIT, without membership benefits, for libraries only, is $8 for 4 issues. Order forms for back issues will be supplied on request.

PURSUIT is listed in Ulrich's Periodicals Directory and in the Standard Guide to Periodicals. It is also available from University Microfilms, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106. The price is $4.10 per reel. An annual index appears on the back cover of the Fall and Winter issues.

'SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNEXPLAINED'

VOL. 12, No. 1
WINTER, 1979

PURSUIT®

THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

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A STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF UFO ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE EVENTS

By M. J. Rodeghier

ABSTRACT

Data was gathered concerning 363 UFO events where land vehicles experienced electromagnetic interference in the presence of the UFO. Calculations are made which shed light on the chance of experiencing an event regarding sex and age of witness, as well as time of day. Contingency tables are constructed for selected characteristics; arguments therefrom lead to doubt that a natural physical phenomena can explain the reported events.

INTRODUCTION

The problem of the UFO phenomena has persisted, perhaps even intensified since the report of the Condon Committee in 1968.[1] During the 1970s, serious work has begun on the problem, as evinced by the studies of Saunders,[2-4] McCampbell,[5] Persinger,[6] and the *Proceedings of the 1976 Center for UFO Studies Conference*.[7] These and other investigations show convincingly that the UFO phenomena can be handled in an analytical manner and sense made of the available data. In a like manner, this study treats "EM" UFO reports — cases where electromagnetic effects are reported in the presence of a UFO — as hard data shedding possible light on the phenomena. By statistical analysis of the report characteristics, we hope to critically examine one prevalent hypothesis: that UFO reports are predominantly due to natural phenomena, following known physical laws.

There are a variety of EM effects associated with this broad category. One might break the data into:[8]

1. Reports involving interference with vehicles on the ground or water.
2. Reports involving interference with vehicles in the air.
3. Power failures attributed to UFOs.
4. Reports involving interference with electrical equipment, i.e., radar, radio, television.

The earliest UFO report involving EM effects was recorded in 1908; however the distribution of reports in time remained quite scattered until the early 1950s, when the frequency increased to about 15 per year. The spatial distribution of reports appears to coincide with that of the 60,000 cases from UFOCAT. For example, one-half of the EM reports originate in the United States; just over 50% of all primary entries in UFOCAT are from the U.S.[9]

Only reports from category 1, and only those which involve vehicles on the ground from that category, are treated in this study. There are two main reasons. First, they are by far the most numerous, accounting for about half the total EM reports. Secondly, if control is to be kept upon the data, so that effects like noise and physiological symptoms can be studied productively and consistently, one would not be justified in lumping, say, categories 1 and 3. Disparities in witness involvement are obvious and statistically damaging, as are the differences in extent of the EM effect.

DATA EXTRACTION

Sixty sources have been searched for data. The type of source material was not restricted to any category; thus reports have come from books, periodicals, catalogues, and computer listings. It must be admitted that only 31 original case reports were examined by the author. This is not surprising, given the nature of the field and the diffuseness of original reports in small organizations throughout the globe. No significant qualitative or quantitative differences exist between these 31 and the other group of reports gathered from secondary sources. Table 1 is a compilation by major source of the number of reports from each.

Table 1

Source	*Number of Reports*
Flying Saucer Review	52
Books of Vallee and Michel	32
Original Reports (CUFOS)	31
Books of the Lorenzens	29
Newspapers	21
NICAP	20
U.S.A.F. (BLUEBOOK)	15
UFO - Nachrichten	15
UFOCAT	14
The Ballestros-Olmos Catalogue	13

The total number of reports compiled is 363. A study by Claude Poher[10] of approximately 1,000 French cases found a figure of 1.5% as the percentage of cases that were EM. From UFOCAT one can estimate the total pool of cases at 60,000. Then 1.5% would be 900, but this should be reduced by half, as the observed frequency of category 1 EM cases is approximately one-half of the total. This final figure 450 compares favorably with the number of reports the author has compiled. (In addition, it is anticipated that over 20 further reports will be accumulated

between the writing of this paper and its publication, which will not be included in the statistics.) The access to numerous special files that has been granted the author has strengthened his view that the great majority of readily available EM reports have been compiled. (References are given in notes for the major sources from Table 1.[11-15])

PROCEDURAL ASPECTS

It was anticipated that difficulties in the reporting of a UFO event would hamper the analysis. For example, estimating distances at night is a notoriously poor ability of humans, and recalling small details about an exciting and strongly stimulating event like a UFO sighting leaves most people somewhat at a loss. Moreover, it is known from numerous psychological and physiological studies that we can only make rough discriminations, not fine shadings of data.[16,17]

With these constraints in mind, characteristics of the UFO event were chosen. They were time of day, number of witnesses, type of witness by sex and age, area of sighting, color, sound, size of the UFO, type of EM effect, physiological effect, type of UFO, and the presence of a light beam. Individually the categories were divided as follows: the separation of colors was basically that of the simple spectrum, with metallic as a distinct category; the presence or absence of sound, the presence or absence of a physiological effect (e.g., nausea, smells, heat or cold), whether the UFO was disk-like, oval, a light only, or some other appearance; the presence or absence of a light beam; and the age distribution into 1-10, 11-19, 20-26, and above 26 years old. For the remaining characteristics, the following subsets were found convenient for later analysis. The size of the UFO was broken into the intervals 0-15 ft., 15-36 ft., 36-100 ft., and greater than 100 ft. The EM effect was either recorded as regular, meaning that lights, radio, and/or the motor were affected, or extra-regular, when destruction of engine components occurred. For type of area we selected the categories rural, urban, suburban, and deserted, such as a mountainous area.

The median distance to the UFO in all cases was reported as 200 feet, which is, even at night when 86% of the cases occur, near enough for the above data to be noted with some accuracy. The various subcategories are both distinct and simple and should cause the witness little trouble in either distinguishing the data at approximately 200 feet, or then reporting what he has experienced. Moreover, only in two categories should extreme difficulties arise — size and distance. For these characteristics the data was treated both as being accurate, for display purposes and as subsets of some dimension in the analysis section to avoid the inherent inaccuracies.

UFO EVENT CHARACTERISTICS

Of real and useful import is simply the presentation of the data that has been gathered for this paper. Some has been published before in other places,[18-19] but it is here gathered completely. Other kinds of report characteristics were recorded and are presented that were not discussed above, such as the weather. These results should be useful as comparison to others drawn from different types of reports, as well as the base upon which to build a model of the phenomena.

Because of incomplete reports of each event, the numbers in tables will not add to 363.

Table 2

Number of Witnesses per Case

ONE:	165	(50.0%)
TWO:	78	(23.5%)
THREE:	35	(10.5%)
FOUR:	20	(6.0%)
FIVE:	5	(1.5%)
MANY:	28	(8.5%)

Table 3

Type of Witness by Age and Sex

Children (0-10)	5	Male	2	Female
Teenagers (11-19)	36		23	
Young adults (20-26)	31		6	
Adults (27 and above)	107		37	
Unspecified age	175		55	

Table 4

Type of Locale		*Cases*
Deserted area	20	(18%)
Rural area	61	(54%)
Urban area	13	(12%)
Suburban area	18	(17%)

These areas were defined with reference to definitions of standard metropolitan statistical areas. This finding that roughly 70% of the events occurred in non-urban or rural areas is well in accord with previously obtained figures.[20]

Thus 19% of the cases include sound, a much higher figure than is reported for the like percentage of UFOCAT cases in general, or from Phillips' *Trace Catalogue*.[21]

Table 5

Sound	*Cases*
Explosive	3
Hum	23
Sizzling	4
Whine	13
Roar	3
Buzz	3
Whoosh	4
Whistle	6
Unclassified	12
Without sound	296

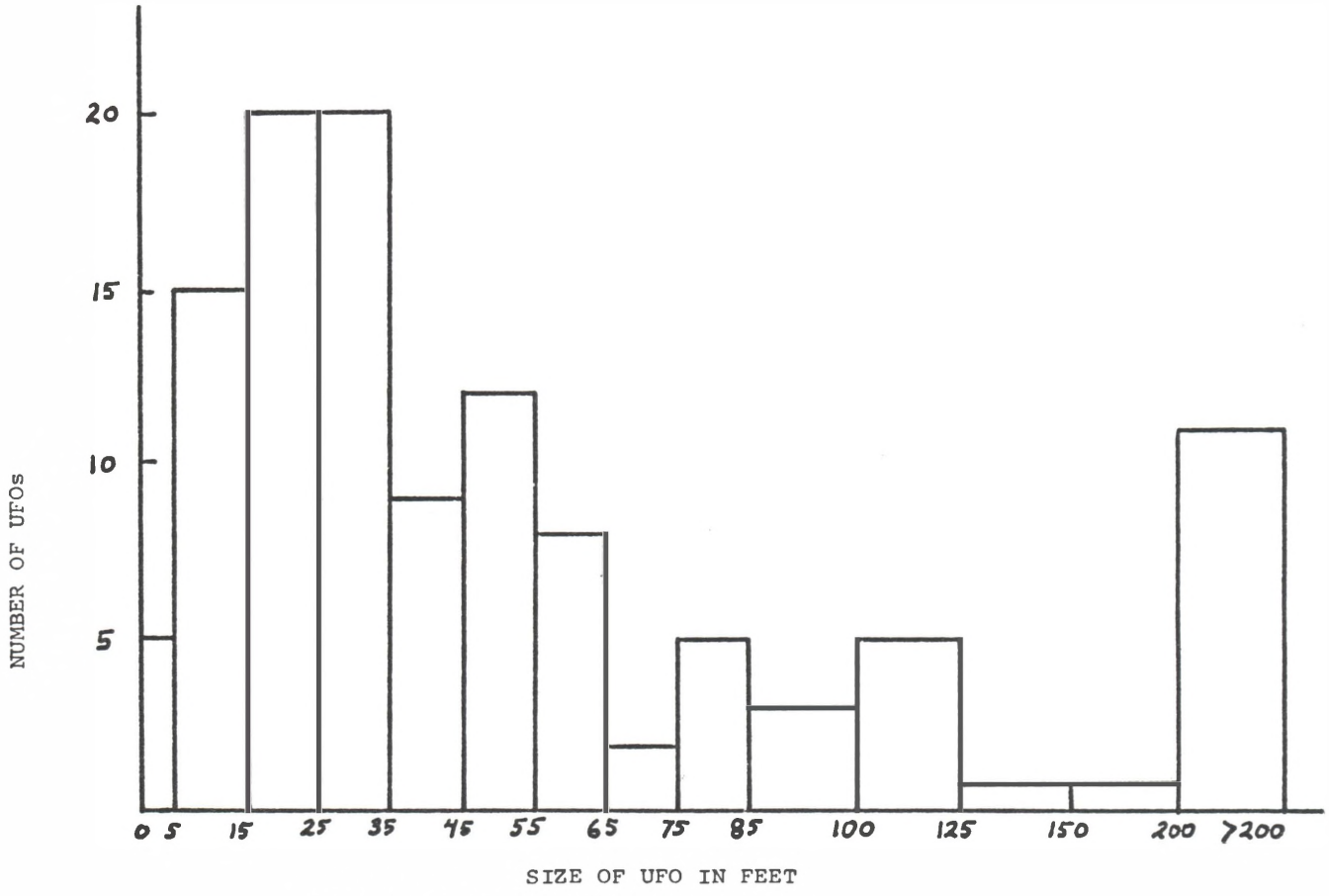


FIG. 1. NUMBER OF UFOs VS. SIZE

The sizes of UFOs and the distances to the witnesses are graphically displayed in figures 1 and 2. One should note that two sizes are preferentially reported, approximately 100 meters and 9 meters, both sizes appearing in literature before as being common. The distance graph has a node at a value near 30 meters, but falls off in a rough but recognizable exponential decay as distance increases. Whether this is due to perceptual patterns of the observers or is related to the UFO itself cannot be distinguished with the available data.

This pattern seems to imply that the EM effect is a short-range effect, though. One might well look for some cause of the effect then with the proviso that its driving energy is highly attenuated by atmospheric absorption.

Since 2 or 3 effects may occur in one case, approximately 25% of the total number of cases involved this effect, again a much higher figure than has previously been reported in the literature.

Table 6

Type of UFO	*Cases*	
Light	50	(23.0%)
Oval	38	(17.5%)
Disk	64	(29.5%)
Other	65	(30.0%)

These are representative values only, but they exemplify the vast variance in distance when the same level of EM effect is observed. There is no correlation (p = .99)

Table 7

Physiological Effects	*Cases*
Heard voices	4
Sighted humanoids	7
Cooling	4
Heating	21
Paralyzed	12
Stunned	6
Static in air	12
Smell	11
Felt at peace	1
Felt under observation	3
Other	18

Table 8

Weather			
Cloudy, no rain	19	Fog	3
Partly cloudy	31	Snow	2
Clear	8	Rain	2

Table 9

Severity of the EM Effect versus Distance to UFO

A. Only Radio and Lights affected	B. All Electrical Components and Engines
100 feet	800 feet
2 miles	over 2 miles
20 feet	100 feet
1,500 feet	300 feet
75 feet	1/4 of a mile
300 feet	400 feet

between distance and severity of EM effect. This, of course, does not imply that the EM effect is an "all or nothing" effect. Vehicles are not all interfered with at the same level of intensity.

DATA ANALYSIS

For selected data sets, calculations were made where relevant comparison variables or limits could be set with the aid of independent source material.

1. **Time of Day:** Figure 3 displays the number of sightings per hour interval (local time) for all sightings. Using known information on the numbers of passenger vehicles traveling on both urban and rural roads by time of day,[22] and assuming that as more vehicles are on the highway the chance of a UFO event increases proportionally, one may adjust the given data and arrive at the true frequency or chance of experiencing an EM effect as a function of time of day. This has been done and figure 4 displays the results, for U.S. cases only. As is quite obvious, this frequency is not at all constant, but exhibits a sharp increase at precisely those times when few vehicles are about. The results argue strongly that some unknown factor is operating which preferentially enhances the chance of having a UFO experience at certain times.

2. **Sex and Age of Witness:** Using statistics from the National Safety Council for the sex of drivers by age group,[23] it can be determined that the percentages of male and female drivers are 74% and 26% respectively, in terms of miles driven. In referring to Table 3 above, we see that these are the exact same figures derived from the case reports. Though caution should be exercised as the Safety Council figures refer only to drivers, and this study includes passengers, this exact agreement would lead one to suggest that there is no preferential selection for sex upon potential UFO event witnesses. Moreover, since in the vast majority of reports there are only one or two witnesses, this discrepancy should cause little change in the final figures. The result is in a way we expected, as *a priori,* one should have no reason to expect selection factors to be at work.

The analysis of the ages of witnesses leads to a different type of conclusion. Using the same reference source, one can calculate the expected percentages of witnesses by

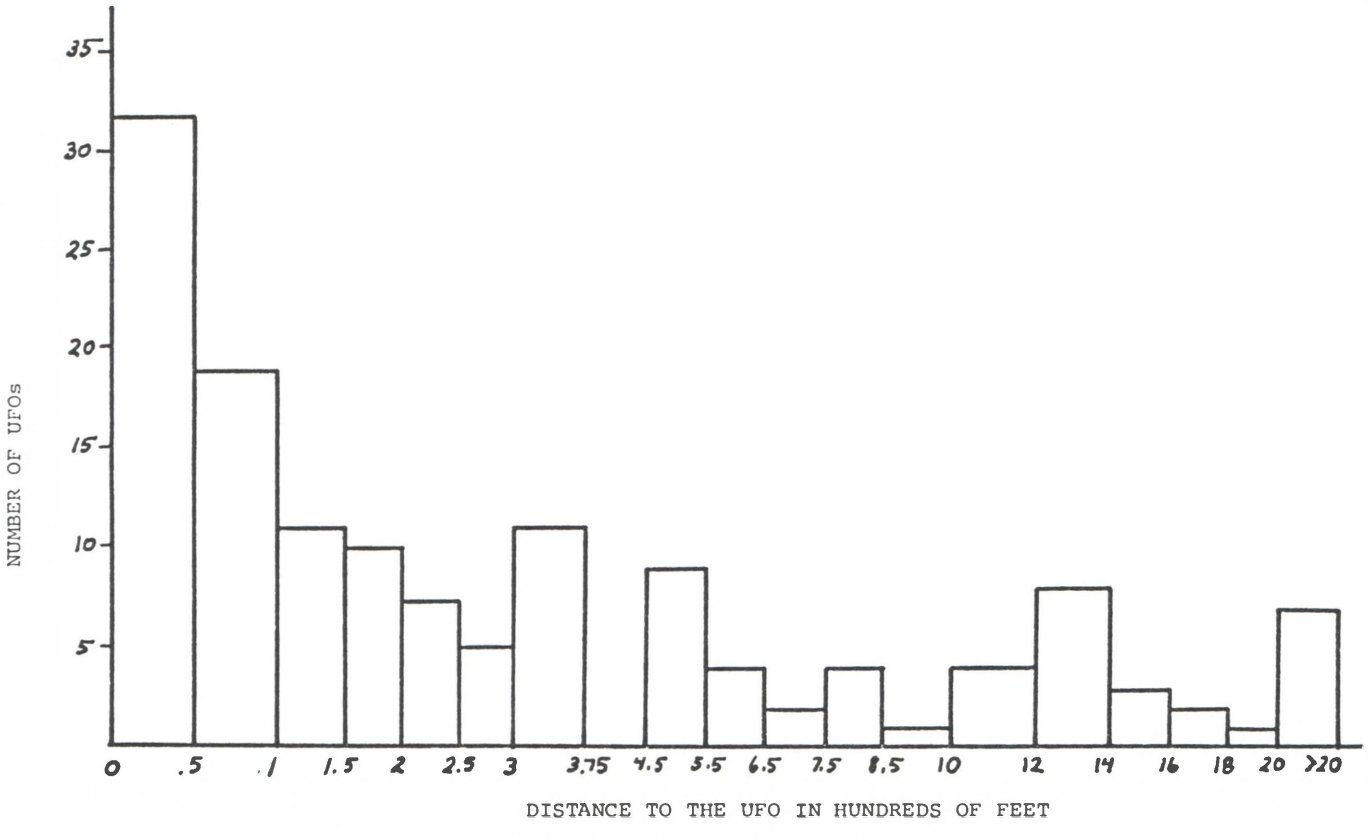


FIG 2. NUMBER OF UFOs VS. DISTANCE OF UFO

age group. If a chi-square analysis is then done on the expected versus "measured" results, the differences from the norm are found to be significant at the 1% confidence level. This is shown in Table 10.

Table 10

Result		*Expected Number (247 cases)*
Child	7	11.5
Teen	59	32
Young Adult	37	36
Adult	144	167
	$x^2 = 27.738$	$x^2 = 11.34$

The large group of teens and the correspondingly fewer adults are the cause for this result.

An analysis of the age versus sex distribution in a contingency table, previously presented in Table 3, confirms the null hypothesis that these characteristics act independently of each other ($p = .95$). We may then state that while *sex* of the witness has no bearing on the likelihood of experiencing a UFO event the *age* has a definite non-randomizing effect on this chance.

One possible but tentative hypothesis for this result is that older persons are less likely to report events due to subsequent status losses in their communities. While plausible, data proving this to be the case is not extant now; more importantly, one may also plausibly argue that teenagers' reports would not be as likely to be believed and thus recorded. In fact such treatment may discourage them from even attempting to report their experiences to the local authorities.

Additionally, older persons are probably not on the highway as often as other drivers in the middle of the night, thus reducing the number of their reports. This effect would be difficult to separate, though, from the other factors influencing reporting.

At present time, then, an explanation for this effect on the chance of experiencing a UFO event remains obscure. Presumably when either more is known about the phenomena or about the characteristics of reporters, this result will then become less problematical.

PATTERN ANALYSIS

Contingency tables were then constructed for the characteristics of reports described in detail previously: sound, light beam, physiological effect, size, type of UFO, colors, and type of EM effect. These tables were done by hand on a large graph paper made possible due to the limited number of reports. x^2 tests were then run on each separate table set to test the null hypothesis that the two particular charactersitics were independent. Due to small numbers

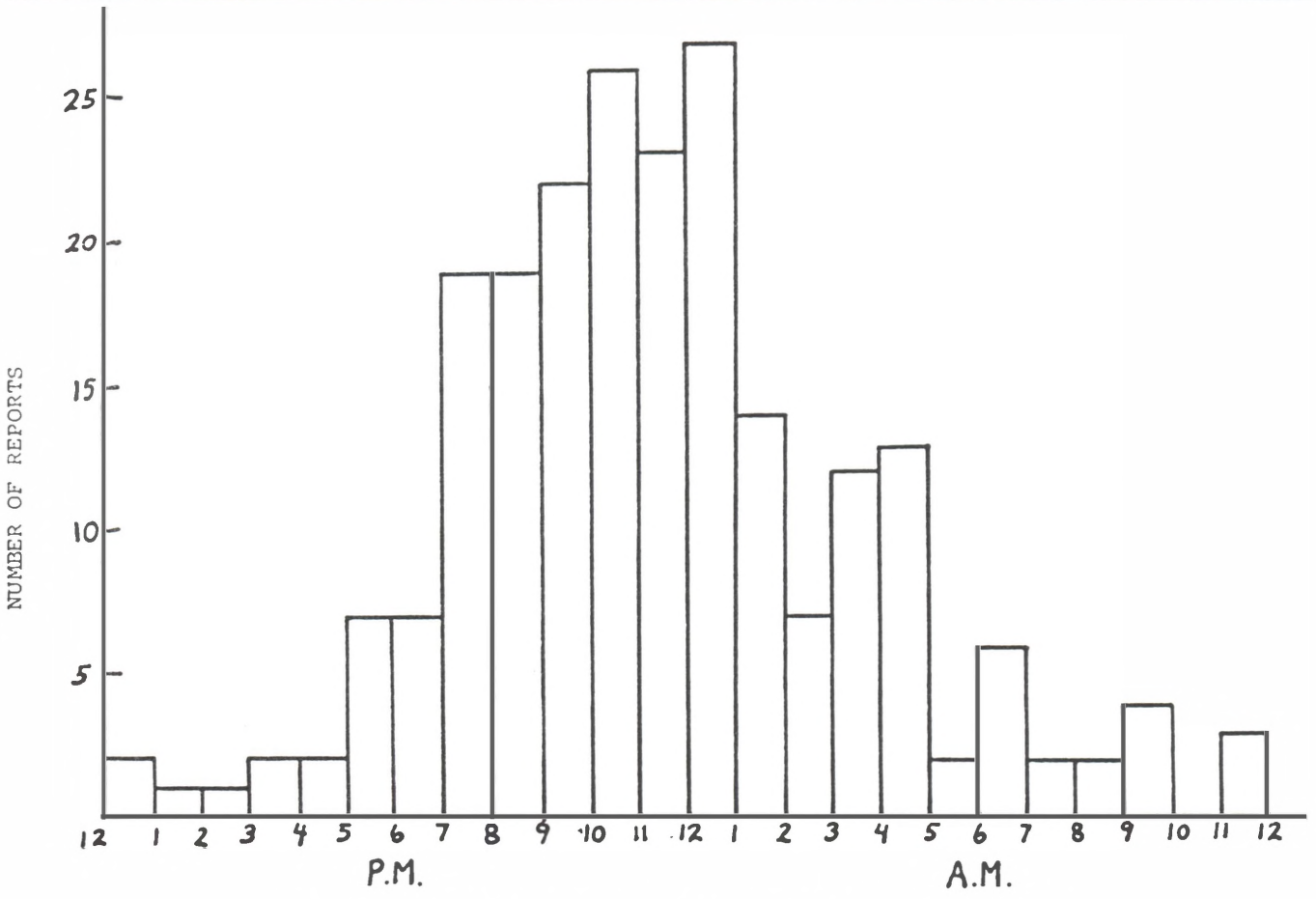


FIG. 3. NUMBER OF REPORTS VS. TIME OF DAY (LOCAL TIME)

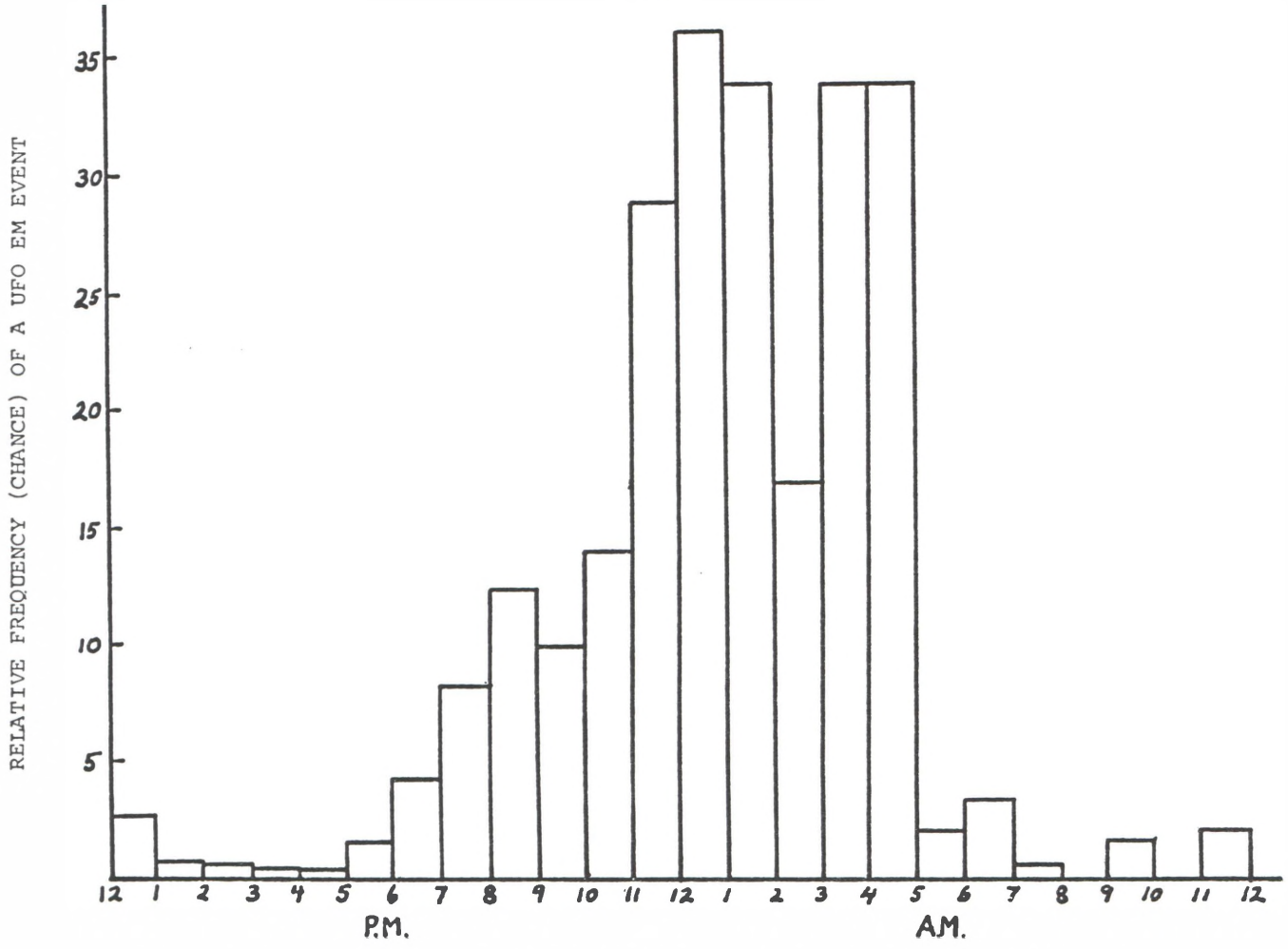


FIG. 4. RELATIVE FREQUENCY OF EXPERIENCING A UFO EVENT VS. TIME OF DAY (LOCAL TIME)

(below 5), it was impossible to conduct tests for most of the colors against the other variables. One should also be aware that as in the tables of data presented before, the number of reports will not add to 363 since all reports did not contain complete information.

Listed below then are the tables for which results show the null hypothesis to be rejected at the 5% level of significance.

Table 11

	Physiological Effect	
Light Beam	*Present*	*Absent*
Present	14	15
Absent	71	250

$x^2 = 9.90$ $x^2(.05) = 3.84$

Table 12

	Type of UFO			
Sound	*Disk*	*Oval*	*Light*	*Other*
Present	24	10	4	18
Absent	40	28	47	47

$x^2 = 13.330$ $x^2(.05) = 7.815$

In Table 13 is the one test that was significant at the 10% significance level.

Table 13

	EM Effect	
Light Beam	*Regular*	*Extra-Regular*
Present	23	9
Absent	237	41

$x^2 = 3.80$ $x^2(.10) = 2.71$ $x^2(.05) = 3.84$

DISCUSSION

Recapitulating what is displayed in these tests, the severity of the EM effect and the presence of a physiological effect are related to the presence of a light beam. When the beam is present, these effects increase in magnitude. And the type of UFO is related to sound; one may readily observe this dependency is due to the paucity of lights with simultaneous reports of sound — only about 8%. It should be noted that this is *not* due to the distance of the UFO when seen as a light, because UFOs reported as lights have come well within the median distance for

sightings. At this distance not only should sound have been detected, but any other features of the UFO would have been apparent. Such is not the case, and we are left with the fact that UFOs appearing only as lights tend not to be associated with sound perception.

Thus we have found only 2 or 3 correlations (depending on the preferred significance level) among 21 possible candidates. This is a very low number and argues for the plausibility of the results, as either too many or no correlations would be a situation rarely found to be true in nature. By 'plausibly' we mean that our data is not too garbled or imprecise, or the corollary, that no factors that would tend to order the data and thus non-randomize it are involved. As was stated in the beginning of this paper, results such as these lend credence to the reports of the witnesses and support at face value the characteristics of the reports. It would be best in trying to come to some conclusion on the problem to treat their experiences as representing physically real events that have occurred to them.

In this light, it is again important to point out that the witnesses do not appear to be biasing the data. A graph of reported size of the UFO against distance to the UFO showed no correlations or trends at all. If some selection factor was at work, we might expect the average size of the UFO to vary proportionately to its distance. This does not occur — again supporting our statement above.

"The variety of hypotheses advanced to explain the UFO phenomenon, while not infinite, are surely support to the belief that the range of the creative powers of the mind are inexhaustible."

The variety of hypotheses advanced to explain the UFO phenomenon, while not infinite, are surely support the belief that the range of the creative powers of the mind are inexhaustible. Though most of the hypotheses are and have been poorly developed, particularly in terms of causal mechanisms, consideration of our results may shed light on them, and in particular, the "UFOs are natural phenomena" hypothesis.

Listed below are the important facts or analyses central to the line of reasoning we will discuss:

1. UFO EM vehicular interference phenomenon did not begin until 1949.
2. There is a well-defined time of day when the chance of experiencing an event is proportionally very large.
3. There are preferred sizes of the UFO, as well as a tendency to occur quite near the observer.
4. The UFO event tends to occur in non-populated areas with a frequency of about 70%.
5. The UFO event tends to occur (94% of the time) in non-precipitating weather.
6. There is no correlation between severity of EM effect and distance to the UFO.
7. There is a correlation between type of UFO and sound, and the presence of a light beam and the magnitude of the EM and physiological effects.

A poll was conducted (by the author) of leading researchers and members of the CUFOS Scientific Board[24] as to whether *a priori* one would expect a correlation among the characteristics analyzed above in contingency tables, given that one of three hypotheses is the "true" explanation of the phenomena: that UFOs are extraterrestrial craft; that UFOs are hallucinations or misperceptions; or that UFOs are natural phenomena of a yet undiscovered origin. While the results will not be discussed here in depth, we may note that wide disagreement was evident on the first two hypotheses. But on the third, the consensus was that more correlations were to be expected than with either of the other two. This is quite reasonable, since for example, the noise, distance, type and EM effect of a lightning stroke are not independent variables, and analysis of data from observers near groundstrokes would result in many correlations. While the other two hypotheses might have their own areas of correlations, it is not at all evident that they would have as many as when UFOs are natural phenomena.

We examine the above list point by point, under the third hypothesis, in an attempt to see if a coherent picture is a result and if the data fit our supposition.

1. It is unlikely that a natural phenomenon would begin in 1949, when vehicles had been on the road many years before. It is also doubtful that this gap is due to lack of reporting, as the modern wave of UFOs began in 1947, and the great bulk of EM cases did not start until 1954. This 7 year lapse is highly significant and has never been adequately explained. Our knowledge of the way physical laws operate does not countenance sudden appearance and manifestation of natural phenomena.

2. *A priori* one cannot understand why the chance of UFO events increases in a period between 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. It is true that many natural phenomena have such a skewed distribution; for example, the number of lightning strokes against time of day is highly peaked towards the afternoon hours, but reasonable explanations are usually forthcoming. Why vehicles should tend to be affected at night is very unclear.

3. A natural phenomenon may well have preferred sizes, though preferred distances is not typical at all, unless it is truly a short-range "force."

4. There is no good explanation for the occurrence in unpopulated areas. It is difficult to do any reasonable calculations on the relative number of vehicles in urban versus non-urban highways and reach a conclusion on the number of available witnesses. But obviously there are many more cars out at all hours in urban areas and this preponderance of rural sightings makes no sense if UFOs are randomly distributed. One should see here Persinger's work[25] on space-time transients; these events, while highly non-random, appear more often in populated areas. Persinger explains this as being due to the simple availability of more potential witnesses. Saunders too has shown that the level of reporting is positively related to the population.[26] Thus the result in this paper becomes

even more difficult to explain, unless the hypothesis of Ballester-Olmos holds: that close encounter UFO events are more numerous in sparsely populated areas.[27]

5. The preference for certain types of weather is quite normal under the given hypothesis, though a causal mechanism is lacking.

6. This is totally an atypical effect if due to a natural phenomenon. The 'r' dependence of all areas of our physical reality is well established, whether it be gravitational forces, or their related effects. At least on the macroscopic scale, this always holds true. But here it does not, and we are left with the conclusion that our hypothesis does not fit the data.

7. As voiced in the poll and through our discussion, the few correlations found in the data are not the number expected to occur, so that once again our hypothesis is found lacking.

Proving a negative is always a difficult undertaking. Yet taken together, the above points argue most coherently that the cause of the UFO EM phenomena being due to a natural phenomenon must be questioned. Though some of the data is ambiguous on the conclusion, numbers 1 and 6 alone are enough to place in doubt the correctness of the hypothesis.

It is true that because of the statistical nature of the analysis done in this paper, a small percentage of cases may indeed be caused by a natural phenomenon. To be present but cause no masking of our results so that the conclusions above follow from the data, their number would be under 10% of the total, probably much less than that.

While the analysis has made very implausible the operation on a large scale of natural phenomena, this is only true if the phenomena obey present-day laws, such as inverse square. One may well postulate the existence of processes unknown which do not obey these laws — this study does not rule them out. But the author wishes to note that until a causal mechanism may be deduced or discovered, it is prudent to remain firm in the conclusion that present-day physics *does not* explain the data and reported characteristics of the EM UFO event.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank the Center for UFO Studies for providing access to their numerous files, and to David Saunders for listings from UFOCAT. Thanks are also due to Fred Meritt, Jim Betinis, and Mark Chesney for their constant encouragement and discussion, and to Tim Rodeghier who drew the graphs.

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AN INCREDIBLE ADMISSION: WHAT DID THE AIR FORCE MEAN?

By Robert Barrow

THE paragraph was very short and concise. In fact, it contained only two sentences consisting of 22 words.

And, although we on the "outside" of the Pentagon would hardly be able to find out, the brief letter from the Air Force's Office of Information in Washington, D.C. must have caused considerable embarrassment for the U.S.A.F. The Air Force letter was probably all the more troublesome because it concerned one of the most famous UFO incidents of all time, the dramatic Socorro, New Mexico case of 1964.*

Looking back fourteen years, here's how the whole story began. . . .

At about 4:45 p.m. on April 24, 1964, with plenty of daylight in his favor, Patrolman Lonnie Zamora of the Socorro, New Mexico police department was chasing a speeder outside town.

Zamora's attention was suddenly distracted as he looked off in the distance and saw a blue flash in the sky, accompanied by a loud noise. Knowing there was dynamite stored in a shack in that direction, he thought it best to forget the speeder and check on the activity by the shack. This was no easy task, as Zamora had to drive through rugged desert terrain and drive up an inclined area.

Rising to the top of one incline, he looked ahead and saw what he thought was an automobile standing on end, *with two small, apparently human forms* standing beside it. Zamora was now several hundred feet away from the "car" and his view was not altogether unobstructed due to airborne dust, apparently disturbed by and surrounding the object. Before continuing to climb up the desert mesa, Zamora radioed headquarters and requested assistance.

Nearing the scene at last, he heard two noises like metal striking metal. Zamora pulled his cruiser up to the spot where he thought he had seen the object, departed and walked a few steps further.

To his utterly unexpected amazement, Zamora no longer saw any little figures, but he discovered that the object was not a car; it *was* a large, white egg-shaped thing. And almost as soon as Zamora spotted the object, he heard a deafening roar and the thing ascended into the air. The officer took hasty cover as he watched it emit a long blue flame and move directly over the nearby dynamite shack, barely missing the structure by a few feet. The roar soon changed to a high-pitched whine, the flame disappeared, and the object—now a UFO in every sense of the term—accelerated to a high speed, maintaining a low altitude. It was gone in a matter of a few seconds.

Just as the UFO was out of view, fellow Patrolman Sam Chavez arrived to aid the officer. What he found was a thoroughly frightened and dirty Patrolman Zamora.

Afterwards, when some sense could be made of the incident, Zamora recalled that the object rested on four legs which retracted into the thing as it arose. Investigations revealed a spot in the gully where four depressions, apparently made where the UFO rested, were found. Vegetation in the area clearly showed signs of having been burned with *high intensity* heat and, in fact, some of the grass and shrubbery was still smoldering the next day.

Because of the nature of desert soil, investigators quickly determined that, had a hoax been involved, tracks would have been left all over — but there were none. Nobody had visited the area prior to Zamora and Chavez, on foot or by machine. Further, Chavez himself noted that Zamora could not have implemented a hoax because he had available no tools with which to make the impressions, etc.

Within just one week after the Socorro incident, Zamora and Chavez were questioned, not only by James and Coral Lorenzen of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, but also by U.S.A.F. UFO consultant Dr. J. Allen Hynek (who, formerly very skeptical about UFOs, discovered many unsettling facts about the Zamora report that helped change his mind), Army Intelligence officer Capt. Holder, F.B.I. agent Arthur Byrnes, Sgt. David Moody of Project Blue Book, and a Maj. Connors of Kirtland AFB. *Without exception*, the interrogators were impressed with Zamora's integrity and vivid desire for an explanation of the incredible event he had witnessed.

Few sightings have received the attention the Socorro incident gained, and it is still listed as unidentified in Air Force files.

When the Socorro case took place, I was fairly new to UFO research and, by coincidence, had joined the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP)—my first UFO organization membership—a little more than a month before the New Mexico furor began. Therefore, this was the first *big* UFO case I had seen splattered across the nation's newspapers, and I began searching for whatever information I could find on it.

As months passed, the Socorro mystery grew more impressive and continued to defy a lot of ridiculous explanations. (In *recent* literature, we find, for instance, UFO skeptic Philip J. Klass going to lengths to come up with a solution: that Zamora and others had participated in a hoax to cause publicity for their town! My personal opinion on that "theory" is that anybody who accepts it is gullible, ignorant of the facts, and, just maybe, a little bit stupid.)

By late 1964 I could stand the enigma of Socorro no longer. I wrote to the Department of the Air Force in Washington, D.C., seeking information. While, at this

* For accuracy, details on the Socorro case itself have been paraphrased from the investigation results of James and Coral Lorenzen of APRO, 3910 E. Kleindale Rd., Tucson, Az. 85712, who arrived at the landing scene less than 40 hours after the incident. Further information on Socorro may be found in the Lorenzens' excellent book, *Encounters with UFO Occupants*, a 1976 Berkley paperback (Berkley Publishing Corp., 200 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016).

Strange Objects Sighted Over N. M.

ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. (AP)—More strange sightings in New Mexico skies are keeping authorities busy investigating flying objects.

A man who refused to identify himself because he said he would be laughed at, said he saw a big ball of red flames land Monday night near Las Vegas, N. M. He made no estimate of the size of the ball.

The reports came on the heels of others from points stretching in a more or less straight line from near Caballo Lake south of Truth or Consequences in South-Central New Mexico to an area near Espanola in Northern New Mexico. The first of a series of reports of sightings came Friday.

A 20-year-old youth, Don Adams, from Edgewood, on U. S. 66 east of Albuquerque, told state police he fired a dozen shots at an unidentified flying object shortly after midnight Tuesday.

Newspaper offices and broadcast stations were receiving a few telephone calls about sightings but most callers would not identify themselves, saying they did not want to be ridiculed.

State Police Capt. Martin Virgil investigated a sighting near Espanola. He found the ground still smouldering 20 hours after the sighting. He said rocks in the center of the area were split, a bottle was melted and green brush had been set on fire, evidently by intense heat.

All the reports are similar in that they describe oval or egg-shaped objects with size estimates ranging from the size of a car to about 30 feet or longer. State police and military officials have confirmed finding scorched earth at the sites, and wedge-shaped depressions that officers say appear to have been left by some type of landing gear.

Spokesmen at all New Mexico military bases say they have no such aircraft fitting the descriptions.

Says UFO Really VTO Project of AF

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A University of New Mexico meteoritics expert says the strange craft a Socorro policeman saw April 23 probably was a vertical short-takeoff and landing aircraft operated by the Air Force.

Officer Lonnie Zamora touched off a flurry of unidentified flying object reports after describing a silvery, egg-shaped object he said he saw on the desert southwest of Socorro.

Dr. Lincoln Lapaz said the Air Force experimented with the vertical takeoff planes several years ago and what Zamora saw probable was a new secret model.

At White Sands Missile Range, meanwhile, Gene Kanoff, chief of administration for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at White Sands, said the lunar excursion module designed for the Apollo moon flight might fit Zamora's description but won't be built until later this year. He said it was unlikely that the module would be tested at White Sands. The northern tip of the missile range is only a few miles from the point of Zamora's sighting.

Kirtland Air Force Base authorities, in reply to Lapaz's theory, said they knew of no such planes in the state.

Left: *Post-Standard*, Syracuse, N. Y., April 29, 1964.
Above: *Post-Standard*, Syracuse, N. Y., May 3, 1964.

point in time, I don't recall exactly how I phrased my question, I remember that I asked whether the Socorro UFO might have been extraterrestrial, as I was very curious about the outer space UFO theories at the time.

But, of course, the *last* thing an Air Force letter would have stated was that a UFO might have an extraterrestrial origin but, being rather young and new to all this at the time, I didn't know what to expect in reply.

The letter reproduced here, dated 8 January 1965, is the response I received. It seems pretty routine at first glance, explaining that the Air Force has found no solution, and that there was no reason to believe the thing was from outer space.

However, one word does make a difference: *vehicle*. For a sighting which had *absolutely* no explanation, and for anyone familiar with the usual bureaucratic ho-hum tone of official government letters, designating the Socorro UFO a *vehicle* of whatever sort was a first class surprise.

I immediately notified NICAP officials, who, instinctively realizing the letter's significance, asked for a photocopy. If AF Public Information Officer Maj. Maston M. Jacks had entertained any misgivings about inserting the unfortunate word in his reply, the entire AF Office of Information he worked in was about to find itself the object of, I'm sure, unwelcome publicity from NICAP. The Air Force had always held NICAP in contempt due to the organization's relentless criticism of its absurd UFO investigation.

In its popular and influential newsletter, the *U.F.O. Investigator* (Vol. 3, No. 2, 1965), NICAP took the opportunity to comment, first, that AF spokesman Maj. Jacks had recently given Patrolman Lonnie Zamora a "top believability rating."

Then, the NICAP editorial staff (consisting then of Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC, ret., Richard Hall and Donald Berliner) added to the mystery by referring to the unusual letter:

> Even more surprising, . . . Jack's letter to NICAP member Robert Barrow, Syracuse, described the UFO as a "vehicle" — though he still claimed no evidence that it was from outer space.
>
> However, this official admission that the UFO was some kind of unknown machine, is a long — and puzzling — jump from the usual "explain away" answers of mirages, delusions, etc.
>
> . . . The original Socorro report had wide publicity, but to date the AF has never issued a press release admitting the UFO was a strange vehicle, nature unknown. If it had, this probably would have been a front-page story, focusing serious attention on UFOs.

The only portion of this story that hasn't been revealed now is the one hidden somewhere behind the doors of the Air Force Dept. in Washington. Only there might we be able to answer the lingering questions posed by the strange letter: What did Air Force officials *really* think

about the Socorro case? Did the government know considerably more than it told the public, or was it, too, mystified beyond embarrassment?

In direct contradiction to official policy, what prompted the Air Force Public Information Division to refer to the UFO as a *vehicle?*

And if it *was* a vehicle that touched down at Socorro on April 24, 1964, a vehicle that could cause a veteran police officer to become filled with *terror*, *what kind of vehicle was it?*

And *whose?*



Shadow or Substance at Socoro?

By EDWIN J. SAFFORD
The Post-Standard Bureau

WASHINGTON — A mysterious flying object described recently by a police officer in New Mexico has drawn an Air Force civilian investigating team to the scene.

The officer reported seeing a strange egg - shaped vehicle, about the size of a compact car, which he said was boarded by two figures in white coveralls and took off into the air with great speed when he tried to approach it.

Although the Air Force is treating the incident, which occurred April 25, as a routine report of an unidentified flying object (UFO), it is interesting to note there are some material clues with which the investigators can work. These are samples of scorched soil and charred brush.

It is also interesting to note that the sighting was made at Socoro, N.M., at the edge of the vast White Sands Proving Grounds, a top secret test area for missiles and other weapons. In this area, the first atom bomb was exploded in 1945.

Familiar Task

Investigating UFO reports is a familiar task for Dr. J. Allen Hyneck, director of Northwestern University's Dearborne Observatory and leader of the UFO investigation team. He has been on the job since the mid 1950s.

Pentagon officials don't think there is any connection between White Sands and what Lonnie Zamora of the Socoro sheriff's office reported seeing. But they count Zamora as a reliable witness and say he was not drinking.

Zamora reported that he was driving alone in a deserted area when he saw the strange egg-shaped object several hundred yards off the road. He discerned some red markings that seemed to be an upside down "V" and three lines across the top of the "V." He also claims he saw two figures in white coveralls.

He said when he approached, the figures jumped in the vehicle, and it took off with a roar, quickly disappearing.

Twenty hours later, a state police captain found indentations in the ground and the ground was still smouldering where Zamora said he saw the strange vehicle. Since then, there have been other strange sightings in the Socoro area.

Await Report

Air Force spokesmen prefer to wait for Hyneck's initial report before commenting.

Above: *Post-Standard*, Syracuse, N. Y., May 12, 1964. Below: The letter which Robert Barrow received.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

8 January 1965

Dear Mr. Barrow:

The Socorro, New Mexico, sighting is still unsolved. However, no evidence was found which indicated that the vehicle was from outer space.

Sincerely,

Maston M. Jacks

MASTON M. JACKS
Major, USAF
Public Information Division
Office of Information

THE QUEST FOR NORUMBEGA: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS IN NEW ENGLAND?

By Jon Douglas Singer

PART I

Old maps of sixteenth and seventeenth century New England show a curious picture of a many-towered city with the odd name of *Norumbega*. Sometimes the city is not shown but the name persisted, covering the entire region of what is now New England. Researchers have wrangled over whether this name is of Norse or Indian origin. The controversy over this mystery continues, for the city of Norumbega (if it ever existed) was never found by the early explorers such as Champlain.[1]

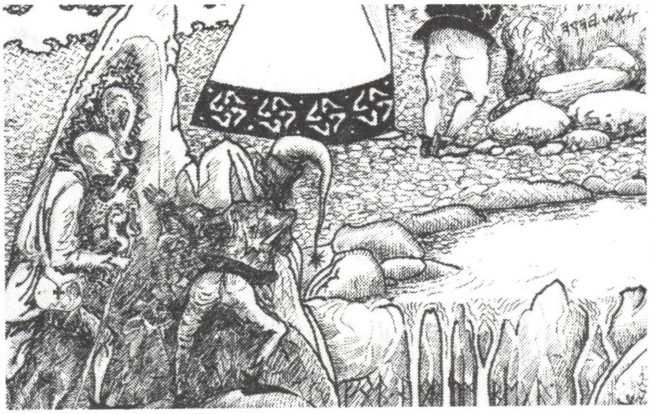
What was the source of the legend of Norumbega? Was it purely a fantasy of the gold-hungry explorers who wanted to emulate the luck of the Spanish conquistadores in Mexico and Peru? Or was it based on the discovery of weird stone walls and enigmatic earthworks that have been found since Colonial days all across the northeast? As pioneers drove their Connestoga wagons across the Appalachians or sailed their flatboats down the Ohio River, they encountered more and more of the strange stone ruins, as well as fantastic earthen pyramidal structures, all of which defied imagination. Were these the works of the vast, dimly remembered empire of Norumbega?

Accounts left by westward-moving settlers have brought to light strange stories of crumbling stone walls which capped the mountain peaks from Maine to Georgia and which even extended to Ohio and Illinois. Also, uncanny earthworks were found elsewhere in the Southeast, in Tennessee, in the Midwest, and in Michigan, for example. These works of the Mound Builders were the source of a whole wellspring of scholarship and of pseudoscience, and even of literary works. These puzzles have only been partially unraveled in modern times. We know now that the Mound Builders were not Vikings, Phoenicians, lost Israelites, or Atlantean refugees fleeing from the great holocaust of fire and flood. They were a series of nameless tribes known only by the modern archaeological designations given them by scholars.

The mystery of the Indian tribes and of the Mound Builders led to the beginning of American archaeology, and thereby gave rise to theories of cultural diffusion (the idea that ancient Old World civilizations influenced native American cultures). Gradually, after centuries of work, scholars felt they had unraveled the problem. As early as 1648 several writers such as Thomas Gage of England suggested that they had come from Siberia *via* the Bering Strait.[2] By the nineteenth century, the problem of Indian origins was almost solved; but the Mound Builder problem gave vent to new theories of diffusionism. By the 1970s, however, the Mound Builders were known to be a group of Indian cultures. The earliest were the Poverty Point People of Louisiana (c. 1000 B.C.), the Adena culture of Ohio (c. 1000 B.C.-400 B.C.), and the Hopewell of Ohio (c. 400 B.C.-500 A.D.), which reached their zenith with the Middle Mississippians of the Mississippi Valley and their contemporaries the Temple Mound Builders of the Southeast (c. 700 A.D.-1700 A.D.).[3]

But even as the Mound Builder mystery subsided, thanks to work by men like Cyrus Thomas in the 1880s and modern researchers like Don Dragoo and Raymond Baby,[4] a new enigma arose to haunt scholars. This problem, which caused the pre-Columbian trans-Atlantic diffusionist theory to rage like an inexorcisable demon stalking the halls of academe, was the discovery, since the early 1800s, of perplexing stonework of pre-Colonial origin in the Appalachians and in surrounding areas. Writers like Hakluyt or Richard Deacon thought that these were the work of Welshmen who came under the leadership of Prince Madoc in 1170 A.D.[5] Most archaeologists, however, are of the same opinion as A. R. Kelly of the University of Georgia, who feels that those stoneworks are of Indian origin.[6] The problem of the stone walls has persisted as writers and historians like Andrew E. Rothovius pointed out the resemblance between these stone walls and similar ones found in New England in the 1930s.

By the 1930s, just as some of the solutions (such as the theory of Viking voyages to America) that were put forward to explain the cultural diffusionism were gradually gaining respectability, the scholastic world received a shock. William B. Goodwin, an historian and retired insurance salesman from Hartford, Connecticut, during the course of his research on Vikings, was led to a peculiar stone chamber near Boston, Massachusetts. Goodwin, who had become interested in early American history during a visit to Jamaica in the Caribbean, had previously



studied old English and Spanish forts; and he had already gained some notoriety by arguing with the late Samuel E. Morison, the great dean of early Spanish colonial history. Goodwin then wrote a book about Norse expeditions to Vinland and studied, briefly, the odd legends about *Irland hit Mikla,* Great Ireland, a colony of Irish near Vinland. In that book he referred to some strange stone huts in New England, and in subsequent work he abandoned his studies of the Norsemen and devoted his time to the study of the peculiar stone ruins in New England.

While visiting Prof. Olaf Strandwold, former Superintendent of Schools in the state of Washington, who was also an expert in runes and Viking voyages, Goodwin was told of the Pearson stone chamber, which the professor had heard about from his friend Mr. Alfred A. Cheney of Hopkinton, Massachusetts. Cheney had heard of it from his friend Mr. Malcolm Pearson, a photographer and also then the owner of the site.

Goodwin was startled by the chamber. He had never seen anything like it. It consisted of a 4 foot high entranceway leading to a 14 foot long passageway, which in turn culminated in a circular domed chamber about 10 feet high and 11 feet wide. (I myself have seen this chamber through the courtesy of Prof. Barry Fell, Malcolm Pearson and the current owner, Mr. Robert Ramsay. In my opinion, the chamber does indeed resemble the megalithic European beehive structures, which is exactly what Goodwin thought; he concluded that it was probably Dark Age Irish, of c. 500 A.D.-900 A.D., and it was, he felt, similar in construction to the Christian monastic buildings at Skellig Michael in Ireland.[7]

Before Goodwin finished a survey of the site, he was told of another, more fantastic site at North Salem, New Hampshire: an entire cluster of ruined beehive chambers! This site, Pattee's Caves, so-called after a local farmer and previous owner, was bought in 1933 by Goodwin who enclosed it with a fence, hired a crew, and commenced excavations. Since the stones composing the imposing walls frequently weighed upwards of 1000-1500 pounds, Goodwin used his insurance man's sense and promptly took out an insurance policy for his men and for any visitors to the site, for there were soon hundreds of tourists who came after the newspapers began to pick up on Goodwin's work and theories.[8]

Briefly, Goodwin uncovered or surveyed chambers that were still standing, finding in the process dozens of features which didn't seem to fit in with accepted Colonial American architectural history. He found a huge stone table that had a groove cut around it. This was called a Sacrificial Table, although Goodwin later concluded that it was a Christian altar. He also found a speaking tube carved in stone which went from the altar to a nearby stone chamber. In one of the buildings Goodwin found a stone bench like those used in Irish monasteries. In the same building, Malcolm Pearson found a carving of a deer. In addition, several artifacts, which later proved to be mostly of Colonial or Indian origin, were found in the same structure.

Aside from Pattee's Caves, Goodwin discovered (either on his own or through assistance from his correspondents) about 70 stone structures elsewhere in New England, including a miniature beehive at Hopkinton, Massachusetts, a series of beehives at another location in New Hampshire (including a small group of miniature beehives in the southwestern part of the state), still others in western Massachusetts and in Maine. Another group of beehives was discovered in Vermont, while in northern Massachusetts Goodwin noted the existence of a huge stone effigy mound containing several chambers of stone. This structure had been used as a tourist attraction in the nineteenth century, and Goodwin was unable to locate hundreds of artifacts which had been previously housed in a long-demolished nearby museum. Another huge altar-like stone table was found in Foxboro State Forest, Massachusetts, and some curious stone throne-like monuments were found in Ontario, Canada.

In 1939, Prof. Hugh Hencken briefly surveyed the site and concluded that it was probably Colonial.[9] Prof. Junius Bird of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City reached the same conclusion after a brief visit in 1945. Bird also concluded that the site was most likely Colonial or Early American.[10] Goodwin, meanwhile, persisted in his theory that the site was a ninth century A.D. Christian Irish monastic settlement. He emphasized that the Y Cavern, a Y-shaped chamber of stone, resembled Irish monastic architecture, and insisted that the beehive buildings were similar to Irish examples, noting the existence of a similar site of beehive-shaped buildings (in very ruinous condition) at Sculpin Island, in Canada. These ruins are depicted in a photograph on page 418 of Goodwin's book, *The Ruins of Great Ireland in New England,* which also details his work at Pattee's Caves. Even after the publication of his book in 1946 Goodwin persisted in attempting to prove his theory. When he died in 1950, Goodwin had failed to convince the academic community of his theory's factual basis.

Goodwin left the site to Malcolm Pearson, his photographer, and the one who had led him to many of the sites in the beginning. Pearson and several scholars who had become interested in the site formed the Early Sites Foundation. The Foundation hired Yale University graduate student Gary Vescelius to study the question of pre-Columbian remains at Mystery Hill. Vescelius excavated for a short time and found 8,000 artifacts, most either from Pattee's time or of native Indian origin from the Point Peninsula culture of 1000 B.C. He concluded that the site was, at the earliest, Colonial.

Some researchers were not satisfied with Vescelius' rather cursory survey, which dealt with only one small section of the site — a rock-shelter. Vescelius gave almost all his attention to this structure, leaving some 28-33 acres virtually unexcavated in the process.[11]

In 1956, a new character came onto the scene. This was Robert Stone, an engineer of the Western Electric Company and a resident of Derry, New Hampshire. Stone was also a history and archaeology buff, and was certain (whatever may have been the merits of Goodwin's theory), that Pattee's Caves were most likely pre-Columbian and non-Indian. Pearson agreed to lease the site to Stone, and in 1957 opened it to the public as a tourist attraction for the purpose of raising funds for research and the maintenance of the site. In 1958 the name was changed to Mystery Hill Caves and in 1960 the site was renamed Mystery Hill, its present name.[12]

Meanwhile, in 1955 a well-known Connecticut archaeologist, Frank Glynn, a former president of the Connecticut Archaeological Society, had become interested in the site. Having studied the megalithic ruins of Malta (a Mediterranean island whose ruined temples such as Hal Tarxien still consitute an enigma); he became convinced that certain aspects of Mystery Hill's architecture resembled ancient Mediterranean examples more than either Christian Irish or Colonial American ones. This was a revolutionary notion, an hypothesis almost as wild as those Phoenician or Atlantean hypotheses about the Mound Builders. The difference was that Glynn was a trained archaeologist, although his main handicap was that he wasn't affiliated with any university or museum; hence his academic colleagues tended to regard him as somewhat of an amateur. Nevertheless, he was far more skilled in excavation techniques than Goodwin.

Goodwin had been criticized not merely for his revolutionary theory, but also because he had used bulldozers to move around stones, and had attempted to restore fallen walls by piling up rocks which were adjacent to each other and which "appeared" to be similar to each other. Glynn tried to avoid such pitfalls, and therefore used more painstaking archaeological methods.

Glynn began work in 1955, with a field survey that had as its purpose the gathering of information about the various features of the buildings which most resembled ancient Mediterranean examples from c. 2000 B.C. In the so-called Oracle Chamber he noted that a room with corbelled architecture appeared similar to Maltese examples, as did the niches in the walls of the room. A stone seat also found in the room was like ancient types, as was a stone-capped drain running out under the wall. Another chamber in the Oracle Chamber contained an animal carving (found also by Goodwin) on one of the wall blocks, and Glynn noted similarities between this and Maltese carvings. The nearby "Sacrificial Slab" was similar to Maltese ones, as was the Speaking Tube, both of which Goodwin had uncovered previously.

The Court at Mystery Hill was found to be like the one at Malta's Hal Tarxien site, as was the ramp and West Wall. An enclosure west of the Court as well as one southwest of the end of the ramp were also found by Glynn to resemble Maltese examples.[13]

In 1957, Glynn excavated in the cellar area, and found not only nineteenth century remains such as a lime burning pit, but also a couple of stone chopper-like tools that were removed from just above the bedrock. The bedrock itself had been quarried. Two new drains that had been carved in bedrock were found, as well as a fallen 9½ foot high baetyl-like stone, which resembles similar standing stones at megalithic Old World sites. Lastly, Glynn rediscovered a dead pine stump originally found, adjacent to one of the walls, by Hencken. (Vescelius, oddly enough, hadn't been able to find it.) Glynn wasn't able to use C-14 dating at this time, but he estimated that the stump dated to 1652.[14]

In 1958-9, Glynn excavated at 11 different areas of the site and found even more evidence that an hitherto unidentified culture had existed in North America. The artifacts found were mostly Colonial or Indian (of the Point Peninsula II Culture mentioned previously); this hypothesis he based on architectural resemblances. Glynn found that the site extended beyond the 20-30 acres studied by Goodwin, noting in one area the remains of a megalithic gateway (only the base blocks of which remained). He also found evidence of possibly pre-Colonial ancient slash-and-burn land clearing, and a mysterious pottery type known as North Salem Plain (which may be pre-Columbian). In addition, he also studied crevices on the nearby cliffs in which locals had claimed skulls were once found. Glynn also uncovered possible traces of a buried well, and managed to excavate part of Pattee's house, finding some animal (and possibly three human) bones, along with a 50 foot long drain, in the process.[15]

In 1966-7 a new series of excavations was conducted at the drain east of the cellar of Pattee's barn,[16] the purpose being not so much to recover artifacts as to uncover material which could be dated by C-14. Goodwin couldn't prove the site was pre-Columbian because he didn't have a good method of dating the site: there existed no coins nor inscriptions which could be used in determining the age of Pattee's Caves.

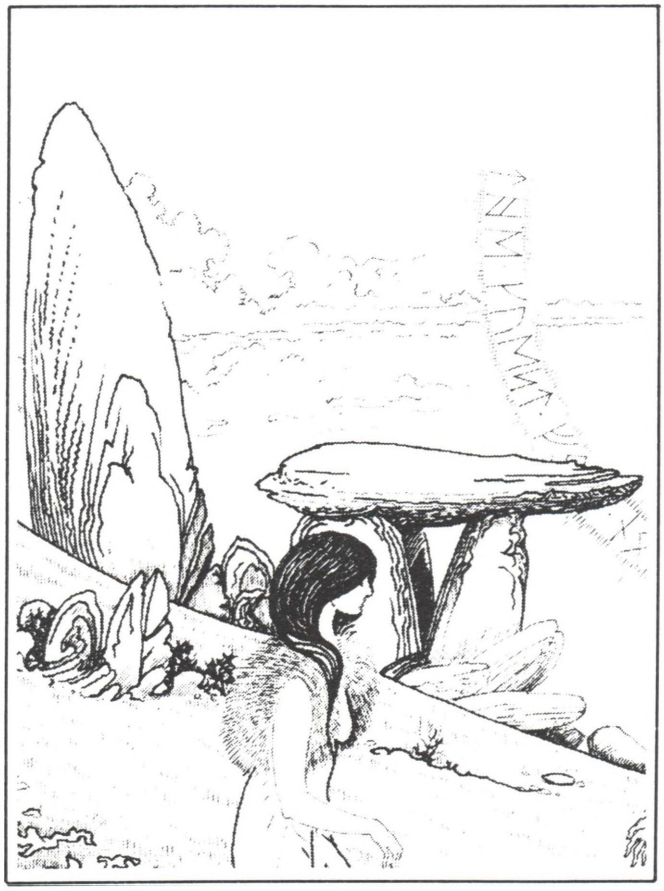
In 1946, just as Goodwin's book was going to press, Dr. Willard Libby of the University of Chicago had developed the C-14 method of dating objects composed of organic matter. (This method involved the radioactive isotopes carbon-12 and carbon-14. All living matter contains equal amounts of these isotopes; when an organism dies, the C-14 disintegrates at a fixed amount, called a half-



life. The date of the object's death is calculated by figuring the proportion of C-14 to C-12. This system is good for dates as early as 50,000 years before the present (B.P.) and dates are estimates expressed in years plus or minus a few decades or centuries.[17]) Glynn was thus able to make use of a new archaeological tool that might very well provide proof for Mystery Hill's pre-Columbian origins. One charcoal sample analyzed by Geochron Laboratories, Inc., was designated No. GX0024; it yielded the pre-Pattee date (the first such) of 1810 A.D. A second sample was dated by Geochron. This one, GX0025, was dated to 1550 A.D., a pre-Colonial (although not pre-Columbian) date and the first obtained at Mystery Hill!

There were pre-Pattee Colonials at Mystery Hill. Feldman wrote that in 1641 the site was owned by the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which granted it in that year to the Rev. Nathaniel Ward. In 1662 Major-General John Leverett bought the site and built a house on it in 1676. (His house isn't shown on the map in Feldman's book, however.) The 1550 date certainly was older than the earliest permanent English settlements and was an important breakthrough in Mystery Hill archaeology.[18]

Other excavations during those years, 1967-8, were conducted by Glynn, James Whittall, Marjorie Chandler, and Barbara Edfors. They excavated a sump-pit and found sherds of the enigmatic North Salem Plain Ware. The group then re-excavated the dead pine stump area and found the roots noted by Hencken; the roots penetrated the walls of a stone building called XIB. A C-14 date, No. GX118, from Geochron, gave the date of c. 1690 A.D. plus or minus 90 years. It was thus at least as early as the oldest Colonial era. Primitive stone tool fragments were found as well.



Serious objections have been raised against these C-14 dates. For example, Norse expert Birgitta Wallace wrote in *The Quest for America* that the C-14 dates were derived from disturbed areas or else that mistakes had been made in the excavation process, so that the dates were out of context.[19] Other objections about the C-14 dates have been raised by such scholars as Prof. Dena Dincauze of the University of Massachusetts as well as Prof. Stephen Williams of the Peabody Museum at Harvard, who felt the C-14 samples had been taken from beneath (and therefore did not apply to) the structures they were trying to date.[20]

Meanwhile, Robert Stone and his associates persisted in their belief that Mystery Hill was pre-Columbian. In the course of several years, strange things began to turn up—clues which Goodwin hadn't found. While most of the artifacts had turned out to be either Colonial or post-Colonial or Indian, some of the artifacts remained mysterious. For instance, Goodwin had found an iron dagger blade that appeared to bear a great resemblance to Norse examples, in both style and content.[21] Also, the strange North Salem Plain Ware hasn't been identified as far as I know.

In 1968 Glynn died, but his work went on, being conducted by the then newly organized New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA), which was founded in 1964, a year after Stone had completed the purchase of Mystery Hill from Malcolm Pearson. Although Stone was the head of NEARA, his Mystery Hill Corporation is legally a separate association. Stone was assisted in the founding of NEARA by his relative, Osborn Stone, of Derry, New Hampshire; Andrew Rothovius of Milford, New Hampshire; Lionel Girard of Montagui Center, Massachusetts; Charles Winslow of Greenfield, Massachusetts; and Robert Neikirk of Andover, Massachusetts. These men began a project that involved the cataloguing not only of Goodwin's 70 sites, but also of a few hundred others found by their contacts and fellow members of the growing society.

While the NEARA people were busy combing the New England countryside for evidence of pre-Columbian Old World cultures in this land, exciting discoveries were being made almost by chance (not by strict excavation techniques) at Mystery Hill. These discoveries, made by Robert Stone, consisted of peculiar stones with odd markings on them that could have been ancient inscriptions. Neither Goodwin nor Glynn had found their like, and they were the fuel which sparked an even greater controversy. The inscriptions were indecipherable to the NEARA people, who did not at first have any trained linguists among their ranks. However, in 1975, they contacted Prof. Barry Fell of Harvard University. In his book *America B.C.*,[22] Fell writes that though he was a marine biologist by training, he had become interested in cultural diffusion by studying the dispersal of plants, animals and man across the Pacific. Through contacts in Harvard, he learned of the work of Harvard alumnus James Whittall II, an architect and amateur archaeologist who had been interested in Mystery Hill for several years.

Fell was invited to the site at North Salem, saw the inscriptions, and was immediately excited by the fantastic possibilities that they presented. He was certain that they were in an ancient script called *Ogam* which had, up to that time, been found only in Ireland and Britain and which had been dated only to the fourth century A.D., at the earliest. Fell was certain that these inscriptions were far older — on the order of a thousand or more years! Also, not all were in Celtic; some were in Iberian, the pre-Roman language of Spain! An inscription Robert Stone found in 1975 was deciphered to read: "To Bel."[23] Bel was the sun god of the Phoenicians, but the ancient Gauls also had a sun god, named *Belenus!*[24]

Fell and his associates were astonished by these inscriptions, which implied a colonization of America long before the putative settlement of Culdee monks. Fell tentatively dated these inscriptions to c. 800 B.C.-40 B.C., or a little later, which he deduced from the style of writing and from the style of the language.[25] Fell was not, it seems, dreaming these translations up out of his imagination. Although he was a zoologist by training, he had for years been interested in both modern and ancient languages, including Egyptian, Babylonian, Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Gaelic, Arabic, Phoenician, and many others (including Maori, the native Polynesian language of his New Zealand homeland).

Thus, a war of the words was unleashed as scholars rushed to support or attack Fell's radical position. Writer DeWitt S. Copp noted, for example, that while Prof. Warren G. Cowgill of Yale University, an expert in Ogam and Celtic culture, had expressed interest in the Mystery Hill inscriptions, he had declined an invitation to view them at the site. This seems to be at first glance a most unscientific interest on the part of a scholar who should be so excited by a potentially important discovery that he would want to rush to study the evidence with a fine-tooth comb before either accepting it as valid or debunking it. To be sure, Copp didn't give Cowgill's reason for not going to Mystery Hill; however, we shall learn in a later part of this report that this attitude among scholars appears to be a somewhat representative one. It is only in the last two years or so that more academics have become interested and supportive of the theories concerning Mystery Hill. One of these is Dr. Linus Brunner of St. Gallen, Switzerland, one of the world's leading experts on ancient Indo-European languages.[26] Indeed, Prof. Fell told me that European scholars are generally more liberal than Americans when it comes to trans-Atlantic cultural diffusion.[27]

Thus, as new evidence began to appear, the controversy became more heated. It was suggested by opposing sides that the strange buildings were either abandoned Colonial farm buildings or ancient temples. Those who supported the theory that Mystery Hill was a pre-Columbian site began to follow the trail of the Sun Gods as they wound their way across the valleys and through the forests of old New England. Here and there, as in Vermont or the outskirts of Poughkeepsie in New York, standing stones would rise up like the crude ancestors of Egyptian obelisks, often reaching heights of 6 or even 8 feet.[28] Some of these were arranged in patterns which seemed to convey astronomical symbolism. Indeed, the next great breakthrough



at Mystery Hill and at the sites in Vermont came when researchers working at the same time as those finding inscriptions made discoveries of their own, and found even stranger suggestions of ancient sciences.

So, imagine you are walking along a trail in western Massachusetts. It's hot, and you stop to rest for a moment. You stoop beside a gurgling brook to get a drink of clear natural stream water. Your eyes widen in amazement as you see the incredible reflection of a circle of standing stones. Looking up from the water, you wonder if you have suddenly been teleported to Salisbury Plain in England....Is that Stonehenge? No, you are still in northeastern

America, and you are looking at one of the weirdest discoveries yet made in this area — the Berkshires Standing Stones Site, one of the keys which will unlock the gates of the past and will help us to solve the enigma of Mystery Hill and the crumbling ruins of New England.

(To Be Continued)

(Editor's note: The names of nearby towns and other identifying factors are in the files of NEARA; but, because many of the sites mentioned in this article have been vandalized by treasure-seekers, we have withheld the information at the request of that organization. The sites, except for Mystery Hill and one or two others, are on private property which is not open to the public. In Vermont, the ruins are protected by state law.)



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THE TOWN THAT WASN'T ZAPPED BY UFOs

By Barbara Jordison

A UFO magazine had chosen the town of Chester, Illinois to play the leading role in a featured story — UFOs were to attack, destroy and rebuild the town in the January issue.

There was no way to know it would turn into a media flap, but it takes merely a little imagination to know that any magazine publisher is delighted with free publicity. After the advance press release, in November, the wire service picked up the UFO-Chester story and by mid-December it spread across the country's newspapers for an extended silly-season story.

Two days before Christmas, a friend from college years let me know early in the morning that Chester was in the news. It was barely sunrise in the Midwest, but Robert was wide awake in Richmond, Virginia and ready for swift repartee.

He got right to the point. "I see on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal* that Chester was attacked by UFOs in August." He waited. "Hello, out there."

"I'm here," I yawned. "In fact, the whole town is here, or at least someplace outside. No, it was a couple of years ago, and a different month . . . the story is erroneous."

Robert came back swiftly, "I didn't know you knew such a big word," thereby winning half a point. What I'd actually meant was there *had* been an unexplained sighting, but I wasn't going to tell dear ol' Bob that and spoil the effect. Right?

Next I heard from my brother in Miami. The UFO-Chester destruction was in the Florida papers. At this point, no one took the story seriously — how could such an idiotic story carry any belief factors?

The nearby St. Louis newspapers divided into two camps and gave free publicity to "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters" by linking them in the headlines with the UFO-Chester event. A St. Louis TV news team visited the town, taped some interviews and everyone had a jolly laugh around the newsroom after the reporter delivered his light report. However, after a radio network interview, the publisher of the UFO magazine added a new note to the fun and games — a discordant theme began to reverberate throughout the editorial responses to the publisher's attitude.

He was deadly serious. He insisted the story had been sent to the magazine from someone in Chester. Why his UFO magazine? Because they didn't expect to be believed by anyone else. "Do you believe that cock and bull story?" he was asked during the telephone interview. "I believe something happened," was the response—said with the conviction of a method actor.

Thus, high theater turned into tragedy and bypassed comedy. Not only was the story and the publisher a target, some of the left-over Christmas ire was directed at the town of Chester.

The West hadn't been heard from yet. It was the clipping from *The Tulsa Tribune* that signaled the real change in the fun and games approach. The editorial writer did not like the length of time it took for denials to come out of Chester.

I wish someone would explain the editorial's last paragraph: "But Chester had better not laugh too hard. There could be a Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind, and nothing left but a hole in Illinois." Perhaps that's telling it like you see it, from out th'ar, pardner.

The *St. Louis Globe Democrat* took a more fatherly, protective tone toward Chester: ". . . writers should not hallucinate in print, and then try to convince the public that this fanciful tale is for real. There already is enough confusion in the country without trying to conjure up attacks by UFOs on places like Chester." Well, in an open society no one owns a subject like UFOs and the media is expected to police itself.

It is difficult to see the harm in such high-jinks. Perhaps it was the heavy makeup on the magazine's act that caused most of the problems, the fantasy was heavily disguised as factual. Allan Hendry, the editor of the scientif-oriented *International UFO Reporter* explained, from northern Illinois:

"I received a lot of calls inquiring about the 'attack'," said Mr. Hendry, "so, like an idiot I called the sheriff in Randolph County. You see, as the real sheriff pointed out, there's no such thing as a 'city sheriff' in Chester." (A clue in there fizzes. It seems unlikely that a local, Chester writer would call his main story character a 'city sheriff' and possibly it points to a Big Apple writer instead.)

The peak slid into a trough by February, but the magazine missed the cues and planned a bash in Chester. The press release didn't make the weekly newspaper's deadline, so there was a built-in excuse for the expected 30,000 spectators to be 29,880 people short, by actual count.

In a town of 5500 people, it had to be a spoof—a grand closing thumb-to-nose gesture, at worst, and Peck's bad boy come to collect his ego's reward for meritorious persistence.

The UFO magazine sent two representatives to Chester. When they stepped out of the rented helicopter, when it landed at the high school practice field, a boy asked, "Is this a publicity stunt?"

"I can't answer that question," was the reply. Masterful line delivered with masterful straight-face aplomb.

The crowd was silent and waiting. Many were youngsters and high school students who had to be at the high school for other purposes than to hear what the magazine's representatives had to say. And the word had gotten around town so that the group's tolerance level for further gaff was nearly at zero.

Since the town's mayor was elsewhere, the police chief accepted the framed plaque (congratulating the mayor and the citizens of Chester for their understanding and cooperation) and a sealed envelope for the mayor—when he could be found.

The whole atmosphere appeared to be one of controlled politeness toward the two visitors. A sudden fisticuffs between the two, along with an inference that it was

uncontrollable and probably motivated by beings beyond their control, was a dismal curtain act. So the sealed letter had to be the final bow.

Long after the men had climbed back into their rented whirlybird and 'coptered into the sunset, the mayor opened the envelope. The mayor was informed that the magazine had decided it would be five years before they could release the names of those Chesterites they claim saw the invasion on the night of August 2, 1977.

In a less sophisticated age it all would've been a foot-stomping comedy of success. "Sleep well. Chester," wrote Allan Hendry. "It's UFOlogy that's hurting."



THE PEVELY MYSTERY TOXIN

By William Zeiser

THERE is no room in a bureaucrat's file for anomalous events, no certificate to register the bafflement of the seemingly unexplained poisoning of a family; yet the bizarre and tragic chain of events that befell the Boyer family of Pevely, Missouri, is filled with incredulity, false leads, ambiguous evidence, and even temporary suspension of rational analysis in the face of the unknown. In desperation of closing the case, an improbable explanation for a double death was announced, only to be promptly disputed by other "experts." Group psychosomatic effects, proximity to former UFO activity, and an associated earthquake must also be considered in this case.

The tragic riddle began Sept. 19, 1978 when Eva Sims, unable to reach her daughter, Bonnie Boyer, age 36, by telephone after repeatedly getting a busy signal, drove to the Boyer home with her husband Alvin. They were to spend the night there to avoid the fumes from pest extermination at the Sims home. Ironically, Mrs. Sims was to encounter instead the grim results of fumes of a different and far more mysterious kind.

Mrs. Sims entered the Boyer home and spoke to Robert Boyer, age 36, a U.S. Army recruiter, Bonnie's husband, and the father of their two children Tonya, 16, and Barry, 14. Boyer "didn't let on like he knew me," Mrs. Sims recalled. She asked him where his wife was."He looked back at me and shook his head as if he didn't know."[1]

"Bonnie Boyer was found dead on the bedroom floor with a blanket over her robed figure."

Bonnie Boyer was found dead on the bedroom floor with a blanket over her robed figure. Mrs. Sims said that Boyer acted as if he didn't know who his wife was. He went to the bathroom and vomited and began to cry. Mrs. Sims notified the authorities.

Only a year ago Boyer had moved his family into his half-constructed home in the Blackberry Hills area of Pevely (near where he and Bonnie had grown up) after spending a nomadic 17 years in the Army. He had stopped construction on the home, a simple poured concrete basement with a roof upon it, after being notified that he was to be transferred to Kansas City, Kansas, in early October. Arrangements had been made with Boyer's nephew, Steve Reisner, age 23, to move into the house after the family departed.

Two dogs and a cat were found inside, also in a weakened state. There was evidence that the pets as well as members of the family had been sick. (The dogs soon recovered and the cat was sacrificed for tissue samples.) All the windows in the home were closed and an air conditioner was operating on a cooling recirculation setting, and therefore not venting fresh air from outside the house.

This was all the authorities had to go on as the body of Bonnie Boyer was wheeled out the door. Although natural gas or carbon monoxide was at first suspected, there were no gas appliances found in the home. And although the house is hooked up to a sewage line, there were no traces of methane gas found either.

"Two dogs and a cat were found inside, also in a weakened state."

A curious incident occurred, however, that was reported but once in the press before being dropped from sight: Pevely police Sgt. Harry White smelled "what appeared, to be a gaseous substance in the basement. He said it smelled sweet — almost fruity."[2] The identity of this odor has not yet been established.

Sgt. White said that he experienced a headache after being in the house for 45 minutes. Several other police and firemen also became ill after entering the Boyer home: the first officer to enter the house, Colleen Fitzpatrick, 23, became so nauseous she fell down. She recovered enough to drive herself to hospital where she was treated for a cough and a slight fever, then released. (One newspaper reported falsely in a front page story, later corrected, that she was *admitted* to hospital, without, however, mentioning the olfactory datum reported by Sgt. White.) There are indications of a group psychosomatic effect here, as our data will show.

The two children, semiconscious, were having seizures. Boyer was reported to be "in a spaced-out condition" by Patrolman Tom Lewis. "All he could tell me was who [the children] were, and how old they were. That was the last intelligent thing he could tell me."[3]

Families nearby were evacuated briefly the night of Sept. 20, but allowed to return home at 4:00 a.m., even though authorities could not be certain the mystery toxin or infectious agent was confined to the Boyer household. Overnight, a team of Army epidemiologists arrived to investigate. Their equipment checked for any possible nerve gas contamination, but found none.

Within hours, specialists called in to the case were assembled under team leader Dr. Howard Schwartz, a toxicologist and associate professor of medicine at the St. Louis University School of Medicine. Several likely causes were checked and abandoned over the next forty-eight hours: neither carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, methane, cyanide, strychnine, arsenic, drug overdoses, nor evidence of food poisoning were indicated by medical tests on the victims. Physical violence was ruled out by investigating police. The Army announced that Boyer could have had no access to nerve gas or other military

"Sgt. White said that he experienced a headache after being in the house for 45 minutes."

gases. Geiger counters showed no radiation from the family's microwave oven. (This finding represents a meaningless triviality, because nuclear, or ionizing radiation is an entirely different physical phenomenon from microwave or other non-ionizing forms of electromagnetic radiations.) Tests proved negative for a viral or bacterial agent, including Legionnaires disease. An autopsy of Mrs. Boyer revealed "no obvious cause of death." Dr. Schwartz commented, "I haven't seen anything quite like this. All the labs are going full blast on this, and we're not any closer to a poison than we were before."[4]

Sept. 21 — Barry Boyer, the 14-year-old son, died around noon, thus becoming the second fatality of the still-unknown toxin. Dr. Schwartz, coordinating federal, state, and university investigators, along with area medical examiners, several hospitals and even a veterinary school, could offer no explanation. "Frankly, we've chased down a lot of avenues and have come up with zilch."[5]

Not quite a cipher, however. An unusual substance had been detected in the bodies, a breakdown product of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), a solvent used in many household products, which, while not toxic itself, has the property of easily carrying other chemicals across the skin barrier. (DMSO, an ingredient of hand lotion and pesticides was once used to dangerously dose persons with LSD at rock festivals, etc., when mixed with water and sprayed on naked skin from a toy squirtgun.) The DMSO was not found in "any unusually high amount, and we are not saying it caused the problem," Dr. Schwartz said. It may have aided the entry of some still-hypothetical toxin.

Sept. 22 — Test animals spent the previous night in the Boyer home. A dog, a kitten, and a rat "appeared normal" to investigators who donned disposable oversuits and air tanks to feed the animals and observe any changes in behavior. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) experts had checked the air with negative results for exotic gases which could have seeped into the house from sinkholes which longtime residents say dot the area. There was also speculation that radon gas had escaped from subterranean rocks a few hours before, when a mild earthquake struck between Pevely and St. Louis, 30 miles north, at 7:30 the morning after Mrs. Boyer's death. The quake, of Richter magnitude 3.3, ran along a fault that runs just to the east of town.[6] No credence was given this theory, however.

The mayor of Pevely said residents were starting to get edgy. "They want to know what the hell happened. They keep bugging me about it."[7]

Sept. 23 — The test animals were still doing fine, and seemed playful to the space-suited investigators. Yet Tony Boyer remained in critical condition, while the elder Boyer could still not answer coherently.

Hundreds of toxins had by now been eliminated by the expert team racing to solve the Boyer case. The search for an answer was taking far longer than anyone expected, and the metropolitan area was astir with rumors. Pressure for an answer, any answer, seemed to be growing as time closed in.

Sept. 26 — The fulltime efforts of more than fifty experts had, after a week since Mrs. Boyer's death, at last indicated a suspect for the mystery toxin.

Traces of an odorless, potent toxin, methyl bromide (CH_3Br), were found by the E.P.A. in the family's tea kettle and coffee pot, as well as in the air of the sealed home. It was also reported that CH_3Br was found in urine samples taken from the late Mrs. Boyer.[8] This latter finding was negated a few days later when it was announced by St. Louis County Medical Examiner Dr. George E.

"The two children, semiconscious, were having seizures."

Gantner, Jr. that no significant traces of CH_3Br had been found in Mrs. Boyer's body. (Mrs. Boyer was the first to succumb and did not receive medical treatment such as inhalation therapy as the other had. Since she remained in the sealed house, tissue samples from her body would have provided the most promising clues to the identity of the mystery toxin. However, Dr. Gantner said, only "small traces" of CH_3Br were found therein.[9])

Investigation was centering on a cache of 30 (erroneously reported as 80) insulation panels stored in the Boyer home. As the details unfolded it was discovered that Steve Reisner, Boyer's nephew, was planning to insulate the house for winter. Employed at the nearby Dow Chemical Co. plant that manufactures Styrofoam* sheets, he had reportedly stolen several of the sheets for that purpose.

The insulation was "uncured," meaning it had not been kept in company storage for a required seven-day curing period during which 97% of all industrial fumes would have been degassed from the material. Dow's product was suspected of emitting the methyl bromide because a related molecule, methyl chloride (CH_3Cl), is used as an aerosol propellant to pressurize the plastic foam into becoming Styrofoam. Methyl bromide occurs as a *very* dilute impurity in methyl chloride, at .25 to .5 parts per million (ppm). Curiously, no proportionate levels of methyl chloride were detected in the home or in tissue samples.

Tonya Boyer continued a remarkable recovery, coming out of a coma and the same afternoon being well enough to visit with her father, who had the difficult task of telling Tonya that her mother and brother had died.

"Toxin Found in Pevely Deaths!" the headlines proclaimed. The mystery was solved. The Explainers cheered. Dr. Schwartz, however, hedged his bets.

* Styrofoam is a trademark used by the Dow Chemical Co.

While "we feel that [CH_3Br] was the most likely cause of the poisonings," Dr. Schwartz said, he could not prove the Styrofoam stored in the Boyer home had indeed poisoned the family. He suspected it, he said, for lack of another logical source. Yet he noted methyl chloride (CH_3Cl) was *not* found in the Boyer house in sufficient quantities to have caused any illness. The hazard level for methyl chloride is five times safer than that of methyl bromide.

Pevely Police Chief Robert Perkins announced that warrants for involuntary manslaughter will be sought against an unnamed suspect. "We feel there will be an arrest,"[10] Chief Perkins said. Later, he was to backpedal, saying, "at present, there are no plans to issue a warrant because there is nothing to justify a man being charged."[11]

Sept. 27 — The Explainers, flushed with victory, collide with Dow Chemical's experts, and the case ricochets into Intermediateness. Instead of Absolutes and Identifiable Causes, we have only evidence of probabilities, synchronicities, and inconsistencies. Two topics were especially befogged with contradicting evidence — the matter of concentrations of toxin in air and Styrofoam samples, and the matter of when and how much of the insulation was taken to the home.

Both sides agreed that CH_3Br was considered safe in the workplace at 20 ppm for 8 hours' exposure, while CH_3Cl (the substance actually used to make Styrofoam) was safe at 100 ppm air sample. The concentration of CH_3Br normally present in Dow's product from impurities is .25 to .5 ppm. Dow scientists claimed this level could *not* have caused the symptoms suffered by the Boyers.

Dow Chemical Co. has had no employee fume-related injuries from its Styrofoam plants in at least ten years. They said it is impossible that methyl bromide could be emitted, even in a closed environment such as the Boyers' basement home, in toxic or in lethal quantities from uncured Styrofoam.

Test results by the E.P.A. released six days later showed a concentration of CH_3Br of up to 300 ppm in Styrofoam samples taken from the Boyer home, and a concentration of CH_3Cl of 60 ppm in the air.

The Explainers would have to account for the fact that methyl chloride entered the home in a concentration four

"The mayor of Pevely said residents were starting to get edgy."

million times greater than methyl bromide, yet was detected a few days later at one-fifth the concentration of the methyl bromide. Also to be explained is how methyl chloride, which is much more soluble in water than methyl bromide,[12] was not found in tissue samples or the kettle at hazardously elevated levels, whereas the methyl bromide *was*. It was subsequently confirmed by Boyer that his family had not used any fumigants, fire extinguishers, or pesticides that might contain bromide. (Although investigators found that if Styrofoam is sprayed with such a fumigant and placed in a closed space it could give off a toxin, it was decided that such had not been the case with the Boyers.) A further complication of the concentration question involved the administration to Barry and Tonya of drugs containing bromine. This could have affected the lab results but also could be factored out.

The second field of ambiguity involved *when* and *how much* Styrofoam was actually placed in the Boyer domicile. Pevely police listed 15 sheets taken to the home on Sept. 14; this also was reported as 12 sheets on Aug. 14 by one paper.

Dow had different figures. They said 45 sheets were stolen from the plant Sept. 9 and 10 more on Sept. 16.

Boyer, upon partial recovery, recalled his nephew delivered Styrofoam on Sept. 16 and Sept. 17, when Boyer and his wife brought about 15 sheets in from a rainstorm at 9:30 p.m. If Mrs. Boyer had died, as determined, 12-17 hours before being discovered the afternoon

"Could a piece of ground become hostile?"

of Sept. 19, and the Styrofoam sheets (if indeed they were the source of the toxin) were brought indoors the evening of the 17th, she would have succumbed only about 24 hours after exposure. (CH_3Br is absorbed by inhalation, skin, and eye contact to the ratio of 5:4: 1. CH_3Cl's ratio is 3:1:1.[13])

Yet a friend of Barry's, Tim Weibking, visited once Sept. 16 and then watched television for 8 hours on Sept. 17 inside the house — during which time the Boyers' symptoms appeared. Weibking, however, suffered no ill effects, according to his mother, Mrs. Margaret Weibking. The case grew less consistent still when it was reported that Boyer's niece, Suzie, age 10, who also spent the day of the 17th in the house, that evening developed severe hiccoughs, felt exhausted and nauseated, and was subsequently taken to hospital by her father — the doctors could find nothing wrong.

A house. A family. A toxin. Twenty-four hours of exposure kills Mrs. Boyer and later Barry. Eight hours of exposure leaves Tim untouched. Eight hours of exposure hospitalizes Suzie. At the U.S. Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, test animals frolic amidst uncured Styrofoam in a "duplicate environment." "The rats are doing fine."[14]

Oct. 7 — After 18 days of trying to identify the Pevely toxin, investigators were still stumped, according to Dr. Gantner, who considered CH_3Br "unlikely" to have been the toxin, at least by itself. Work was focused on the possible synergistic reaction of CH_3Br with some unnamed other gas that leaves no trace in the body. Dr. Gantner concluded, "We just don't know the answer."[15]

The bureaucrat's file remained empty.

EPILOGUE

This case serves as a parsimonious example of several pitfalls and common features of a Fortean phenomenon and its interpretation. Firstly, we have the problem of "noise" in newspaper accounts, via false reports, unresolved conflicts in different stories, and typos. Then there is the almost comical sideshow of the local constabulary's investigation, including its puzzlement, reverses, and general interference.

There are the few untidy but intriguing facts: that the



Dunklin District Fire Chief Gaary McClain (left) and Pevely Fire Chief Bob Perkins, both in disposable clothes, adjust their breathing apparatus before entering the Robert Boyer house in Pevely, where an unknown illness killed two family members. Fireman Gene Rolfe (right) holds a board that had sealed the door.

(St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* photo by Ted Dargan)



Boyers were to move out of state soon; the unexplained 'fruity' odor perceived by Sgt. White; the immunity of Tim Weibking.

And we have a rush to judgment, perhaps, by the principal scientist in the case, Dr. Schwartz, who was under pressure from all sides to resolve the mystery. His contention involving Styrofoam still remains as a possibility, albeit that contention is still held in limbo by Dow's scientific rebuttal and the judiciousness of Dr. Schwartz's colleague, Dr. Gantner. The cleaving to a perhaps-untenable but sole explanation for this conundrum illustrates (so humanly) how our rational minds would rather stretch logic into a liferaft of straws than be immersed beneath the face of fathomless mystery.

We need mention yet another feature of the case, UFO activity near a reservoir outside of Pevely almost every night throughout the Summer of 1971 — a conjunction not of temporality but of locality. (No UFOs were reported, to my knowledge, *during* the Boyer affair.)

My own guess on the Pevely mystery toxin? I'll close with a question. Could a piece of ground become hostile? Can certain locales on this planet viciously turn on their occupants, sap their vital energy with malevolent emanations, debilitate them mentally, and utterly ruin their health? Could substances — either toxins or simple catalysts— somehow materialize diffusely through an enclosed space to wreak devastation, then just as mysteriously retire unto the chthonic realms?



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MUTILATIONS: THE ELSBERRY ENIGMA

By R. Martin Wolf and S. N. Mayne

IN the winter, 1977 issue of *Pursuit* (Vol. 10, No. 1), an article ("Chaos in Quiescence," by R. Martin Wolf) concerning SITU's investigations into the cattle mutilations reported from a number of western states begins with the information that on August 5, 1976, "we were now sitting in the Sheriff's Department's offices in Great Falls, Montana, asking our initial questions concerning the mutilations when the phone rang. A mutilation." The veterinarian and deputy sheriff who examined the carcass of the animal with us estimated the time of the animal's death to be sometime on the 4th of August.

Two years and two days later, we traveled to Elsberry, Missouri, where a number of mutilations had been reported, and were once again sitting in the office of a Sheriff's Department, once again asking our initial questions concerning the mutilations when, once again, the phone rang. A mutilation, believed to have occurred three nights before — once again, August 4 — was reported.

This coincidence, which represents a direct correlation between two events which occurred exactly two years apart some 1000 miles distant from each other, began our investigations into a series of unusual events which unfolded in the Elsberry area during the summer months of 1978.

By now most Forteans have probably heard of Elsberry, where mutilations have been reportedly occurring since April, 1978, reaching a peak in June of that year when the phenomena received national coverage. The extent of mutilations, however, as well as some of the controversial enigmas surrounding some of the cases have not yet been adequately dealt with by the media. Because of this, and since SITU became directly involved in the investigations, we hope this article will be able to clarify what actually occurred.

THE ELSBERRY SEVEN

Although national press and other media coverage of mutilations in the area might lead one to believe that the phenomenon commenced in June, 1978, *The Elsberry Democrat* (primarily through the efforts of Margaret Watts, who has covered most of the mutilation incidents in detail for that newspaper) has shown that the mutilations actually began much earlier.

On January 25, 1975 a mutilated cow was found by hunters in Sandy Creek, Missouri. The cow, reportedly cut around the left jaw, was missing the tongue and the left ear — which had been "cleanly cut off." There was also a large hole in the rear of the animal's carcass where the sex organs had been removed. In addition, "hair on the right side and right ear had been singed. The right ear was notched as if an identification tag had been removed," according to *The Elsberry Democrat.*[1]

April 26, 1978, 3 miles west of Elsberry: a 350 pound bull calf (a crossbreed — Hereford and Angus) was discovered, dead and mutilated, 650 yards from the house, on a farm belonging to John Mayes. It is worth noting

that the bull had been moved, along with the rest of Mayes' herd of cattle, to another pasture the week before: nevertheless, the animal was found mutilated and alone in the *old* pasture. Sex organs were missing, the right ear was severed even with the skull, and there was a reported lack of blood in the cavity. There were no other apparent marks, and rigor mortis had not set in even though it was estimated that the cow had been dead at least two days prior to the carcass being discovered. Predators, it was noted, had left the carcass untouched. A small burned area, about the size of a campfire, was found near the animal's body.[2]

June 8, 1978, 8 miles west of the Mayes' property: The carcass of a dead 200 pound Black Angus heifer was found near a creek in a pasture on Forrest Gladney's farm near Okete, Missouri. The animal's right ear, right eye, udder and sex organs were missing, and the flesh remaining appeared to have been severed by a very sharp instrument. There was an absence of blood noted, and rigor mortis had not set in. Besides the nauseating odor which permeated the surroundings, a mass of black insects which were not immediately identifiable was found in the rear section of the animal where sex organs had been removed. Eight feet to the north of the mutilated calf's carcass officers from the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department found an imprint matching the size of the calf's body, with an outline of the calf's hair ringing the edge of the impression mashed into the grass. Between this area and the carcass investigators could find no evidence of drag marks. Other animals, including the calf's mother, would *not* approach the carcass.

According to *The Elsberry Democrat*, "it was noticed that flies which had been on the carcass of the Gladney calf were dead and stuck, as if glued, on bare tree limbs above the site where the steer's body lay. Also a strip of leaves about 40 feet in length on a tree near the carcass has turned brown. Branches of the tree containing the flies have been taken to a laboratory for analysis."[3]

It was the Gladney mutilation, and primarily this particular aspect of the situation, which brought the Elsberry mutilations national press and media coverage; because of the enigmatic results of the analysis, however, we will discuss them in a later, and more appropriate, section of this article.

June 17, 1978: A 1000 pound Hereford cow, along with her two to three-day-old calf belonging to Gary Hagemeier were found dead at the edge of a wooded area along a creek about 4 miles west of Elsberry. The calf's right eye, lower teeth and tongue were missing, there appeared to be a lack of blood, and the animal was lodged between two trees. The calf's mother had her left ear, left eye, tongue, udder and reproductive area cut away; and there was no sign of blood in the carcass or on the ground surrounding both animals, according to the paper.[4] The hips of the cow were lying on the flanks of the calf. Grass where the animals were lying had been mashed down in the form of a half circle, as though from signs of a struggle. Two holes about 1¼ inches apart and ¼ inch in diameter were found on the inside of the back leg (in the femoral artery). Black, beetle-type insects, similar to those found at the Gladney mutilation, were found in the cow's mouth.

According to Dr. W. E. Newberry, a veterinarian who visited the scene, the cow died giving birth to the calf. His conclusion was that a hiplock birth (the calf was never expelled from the cow) had occurred, and that considerable thrashing about had caused the cow to roll onto her back. Once down, she was then unable, because of the impeded birth of her calf, to get back up. And as for the missing organs on the animals, the vet concluded it was the work of predators.

The same day (June 17, 1978), another mutilation was discovered on the Mayes farm (a mile southeast of Hagemeier's): The rectum area and reproductive organs had been removed from a dead steer. There was no blood in evidence and no sign that a struggle had taken place. Two days later, it was noted that a 4- to 5-foot circular area of grass had died and had turned brown at the spot where the steer was found mutilated.[5]

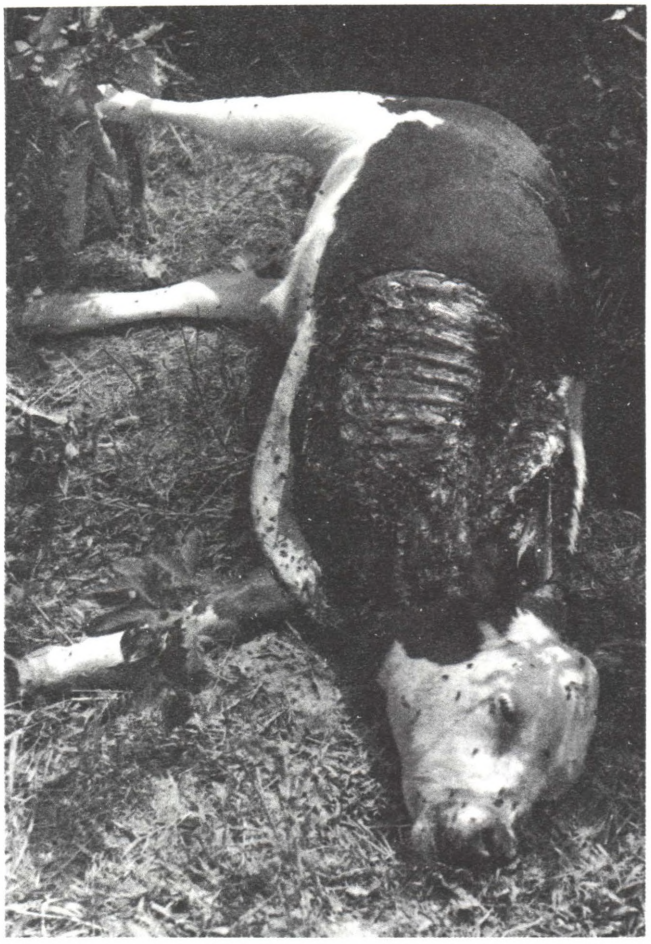
June 24, 1978: What was possibly a non-mutilation was recorded on this date,when Veterinarian Dr. Newberry examined a dead cow on the Robert Taylor farm southwest of Elsberry. The vet, witnessed by a KTVI-Channel 2 (St. Louis) news team camera, indicated a singed area on the cow's shoulder and stated that this, evidence of a typical lightning stroke, was the cause of death. The vet then cut the hide in order to clearly show where the lightning had discolored the flesh. (There had been a severe thunderstorm in the area the previous day.) There also was blood in evidence on the cow, the vet noted. The TV newscast aired later in the day, however, despite that station's avid interest in the mutilation situation, failed to show the vet's explanation.

During our investigations in the area, we were somewhat puzzled when, six weeks after the cow's death, we were informed that the carcass was still lying on the spot where it had been discovered without becoming significantly decomposed during the summer. Usually, cow carcasses disintegrate, through the actions of predators as well as the summer sun, more quickly than those of mutilated animals, which are often reported to deteriorate more slowly.

A point also worth mentioning here is that we were informed by the Sheriff's Department that in a 20 foot diameter area around the cow the grass appeared to have been trampled by the other animals in the herd. This and the fact that the dead animal's carcass appeared to have "slobber" on it would seem to indicate contact and concern on the part of the other cattle present — an aspect not present at most mutilation occurrences. (It may also represent a situation common to other cases of lightning strikes but so far unrecorded.)

SITU INVESTIGATES

Monday morning, August 7, 1978 we drove to an area southwest of Elsberry, with a deputy sheriff. As we stepped from the car at the Joe Vitro farm, we immediately noticed the family's dog, a German shepherd, chewing away at the severed leg of a calf — the leg of the calf we had come to investigate, we were to learn shortly. Proceeding to the field where the latest mutilation lay, we examined a 300-350-pound calf which had been missing for several days. It had been discovered by two of the Vitro children at the



STEVEN MAYNE

The Vitro calf, reported as dead and mutilated to the Lincoln County, Missouri Sheriff's Department, August 7, 1978.

edge of a thicket some distance from the nearest accessible road. Apparently the dog, according to the boys who had discovered the calf, had found the right front leg atop a small knoll approximately 100 yards away from the carcass. The calf, which was lying on its left side, had been stripped of hide on the upper right side causing the exposed rib cage and throat area to extend from the right front shoulder to the middle of the rib cage, and from the backbone to the belly area (see accompanying photos). The area from which the right front leg was missing showed no fresh tear marks and no visible blood. A small flap at the perimeter of the exposed area near the right ear showed indications of having been cut, and a small bruised area was apparent on the right rear hip.

Although we searched the surrounding area with the deputy sheriff, we were unable to find any human or other tracks that might indicate how the animal died, nor did we discover any evidence that the calf had been mutilated where it lay. The calf's tongue, eyes, ears and sex organs were intact. After taking a few photographs, we spoke with various members of the family, during which time we learned the mutilation had probably occurred Friday night, August 4th. Not only did this agree with our own and the deputy sheriff's estimations, but we were to learn from one of the family members that around midnight on Friday he was startled by the sound of screaming. According to the man who heard it, the scream "sounded like a calf in pain."

In order to keep our investigations schedule, which necessitated our presence in the West, we found it necessary to leave Elsberry the following day, Tuesday, August 8, with a return trip to the area planned later in the summer. That night, we were to learn later, while we were sitting in Lawrence, Kansas in deep discussion with Forteans Steve Hicks and George Eberhart, Mrs. Vitro heard what sounded like a metal object falling into a rainbarrel. The next day, it was discovered, something had returned to the Vitro farm, removed an eye and an ear from the dead calf, and apparently moved the body 20 yards away from its original position — leaving no discernible drag marks in the process....

UFOs AND OTHER UNUSUAL PHENOMENA

A number of people in the Elsberry area, some of them directly touched by the mutilation phenomenon, have experienced unusual lights in the sky. Because the field of Forteana should not exclude any correlation as totally insignificant, we feel the unusual sightings and other strange events which may or may not be related to the mutilation reports should nevertheless be recorded. The significance may evolve on its own eventually; it is our task at this time to simply document that which has been reported.

In 1975 (it was January 25 of that year, remember, that hunters found a mutilated cow in Sandy Creek), John Livengood, City Marshal of Elsberry, observed three objects together.Although a strong temporal and geographical correlation is not striking in this particular case, we mention it only to provide a background for the much more obvious correlations which follow.

Following the June 8 discovery of a dead cow on the Forrest Gladney farm, the Gladneys reported that bright lights, unidentifiable to them, were seen in the area June 9, 10 and 12. Mr. Gladney said of a large glowing light he and his family observed June 9: "I saw this big orange light. It was as big as a full moon and it wasn't too high above the ground." Two additional lights appeared, and the three of them together staged a spectacular display over his farm, pulsating colorfully for one and a half hours "like they were giving themselves signals."[8] During the week of June 4-June 10, lights similar to the Gladney ones were reported from the Shelbina (about 100 miles northeast of Elsberry) and Portageville (about 300 miles southwest of Elsberry) areas.[9]

It might be mentioned as a point of interest that following the mutilations which occurred during the month of June, a woman in the area reported her cows had developed pink eye — an unusual occurrence in old cows such as hers which should have developed an immunity

Two more views of the Vitro calf carcass. Above: Side view. Right front leg is missing. Below: Neck region, showing possible cut. ►



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to the disease. The woman's husband, who had never been ill in his adult life, suddenly and inexplicably became very ill for a few days, then recovered just as suddenly and mysteriously.

The night before the cow and calf deaths (possibly caused by hiplock, according to the vet) on the Hagemeier farm, Mrs. Hagemeier said that her son had mentioned to her that he had observed "a bright, red-orange light making a half circle around the farm. It made no noise and it was something he had never seen before."[10]

June 18, one day *after* the Hagemeier cows were found, as well as the second mutilation on the Mayes farm (which lies a mile southeast of Hagemeier's), Manford, Maurice and Aprile Hammond called another couple to witness

"A number of people in the Elsberry area, some of them directly touched by the mutilation phenomenon, have experienced unusual lights in the sky."

their observation. The Hammonds had heard on a police scanner that an unidentified woman in the Kings Lake vicinity had reported a bright light hovering over their home.[11] (At about the same time, it should be noted, an Elsberry man, Greg Smith, was traveling east on Highway B when he observed a bright light in the southeastern sky.) Manfred Hammond described the bright saucer-shaped light he observed at about 10:45 p.m.: "It looked like your traditional flying saucer... it looked like if you took two saucers and would turn one on top of the other. It was tremendously bright and hovering — as bright as the brightest of fluorescent lamps. It was so bright that when it would go down behind the trees, you could see it shine behind them!"[12]

Also on the same night, Mrs. Gail Gilchrist, a retired Army communications specialist, was watching (through binoculars) as a "flashing red, blue and green" UFO floated around the sky inside a "triangle of smaller lights."[13]

The next night, although no UFOs were reported in Elsberry, there was an unidentified light reported over Harvester, a community located about 30 miles to the southeast.[14]

June 25, the day following the discovery of a dead cow (probably from a lightning strike) on the Robert Taylor property, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Gladney discovered two circles on the closely cropped lawn near the deck of their clubhouse on the Mississippi River. The double circles, the larger of which was about 8 feet in diameter and the smaller of which was inside the larger one and measured about 5 feet, were discovered about 7 a.m. The grass which formed the circles was covered with a silverish blue-black sooty substance which would reappear after being rubbed off the grass blades. The substance also produced a peculiar odor, it was noted.

Although the Gladneys noticed no noises after retiring about 12:30 Sunday morning, one neighbor reported hearing beeping sounds, while another neighbor claimed he heard a loud roar which he attributed at the time to someone in a boat traveling the river at high speed.

Another resident who lives in the Elsberry area also noticed a peculiar odor. The smell lasted over a two-day period, during July 19 and 20. She first noticed the odor at about 8 p.m. the 19th, and she felt at that time the smell was that of "chemicals," although really unlike anything she had ever smelled before. The wind was in the south: the next night the south and southwest, and was even more unusual because of the miles of open farmland around her.[16]

A few days later, July 26, and some 80 miles away, the residents of St. Louis were concerned about an unusual chemical spill in the River des Peres, although whatever it was remained a mystery to city air pollution officials. The strange odor, described by some as "oniony," drove out several employees (who became dizzy and nauseated) of one firm and caused hundreds of complaints. Spokesmen for two users of the chemical (believed to be Mercaptan, although the source is still a mystery) reported no spills or leaks from either of their gas storage facilities.[17]

Police in Union, Missouri (about 80 miles southwest of Elsberry) received several reports of UFOs July 26 and 27. Early in the morning of July 27, Mrs. Clora Winscher told police that the back end of her car was briefly lifted off the ground by a bright ball of light as she drove down the highway. The police report reads: "A UFO with a brilliant light rode over the top of her vehicle. She heard a crash toward the rear of her car, and the rear lifted off the ground for a few seconds." Sgt. Robert A. Reichardt, of the Union city police, who along with a county sheriff's deputy examined the car, said the auto (a 1974 Mercury Comet) had two distinct dents in the trunk "like nothing I've ever seen."[18]

The same morning, Union city police received a report from Mrs. Velma Clines, who lives about 6 miles west of the first sighting. She had observed two objects, one following the other, both of them orange in color; they were at treetop level and reportedly made no sound. Another sighting, this one by the wife and two children of Union Mayor W. J. Stieffermann, was made the morning of the 26th, and occurred about a mile from the first one.

By the 28th of July, UFOs were seen about 100 miles away from Union, at Fort Leonard Wood. On that night, and for the third night in a row, Spec. 5 Garry Love, his wife and a neighbor watched a bright, star-shaped object that appeared to come out of the sky and then fade away. "It looks like a star and it seems to become bigger as it comes toward us and it vibrates," he said. He mentioned also that the light moved very slowly and would get "real white."

"When it got close, you could see a V-shape with a ball under it," he noted, adding that when the light was closest to him, he could see a little yellow spot with a blue haze around it in the center.[20]

The night of August 4 is an especially interesting night. It was late that night (around midnight), remember, that a Vitro family member heard what sounded like a calf screaming in pain. It was also that night that the suspected mutilation took place on the same farm.

A woman neighbor who lives nearby, with a direct line of sight to the Vitro property as well as the Taylor property — from her front door you can see the Taylor cow, suspected of dying from a lightning strike, lying in the field — observed a strange sight at 11:20 p.m. the night

CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF UNUSUAL EVENTS

1975	January 25	Mutilation discovered by hunters, Sandy Creek, Mo.
1978	April 26	Mutilation reported on Mayes farm, Elsberry, Mo., area.
	June 8	Mutilation reported on Forrest Gladney farm, Elsberry area.
	June 4-10	Unidentified lights seen during week in Shelbina, Mo., and Portageville, Mo., areas.
	June 9,10,12	Gladneys claim lights, unidentifiable to them, were seen in Elsberry area.
	June 16	Hagemeiers observe UFO on their farm.
	June 17	Hagemeier calf, reported mutilated, found.
	June 18	UFOs reported by two separate observers in Elsberry area around 10:45 p.m. Reports also from several people west of Elsberry.
	June 19	Harvester, Mo. UFO reported.
	June 24	"Non-mutilation" (lightning strike?) at Taylor farm.
	June 25	Twin circles of strange, odd-smelling substance found near Ralph Gladney clubhouse on Mississippi River. Noises reported also.
	July 19,20	"Chemical" smell reported from farm community near Elsberry.
	July 25	Powerful odor, possibly from dumping of chemical Mercaptan, pervades St. Louis area, causing dizziness, nausea, and evacuation of offices.
	July 28	UFOs reported in Union, Mo., area.
	July 29	UFOs reported, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
	August 4	Death of cow, reported mutilated, on Vitro farm, Elsberry area; strange scream heard around midnight by family member.
	August 8	Vitro calf carcass reported mutilated again, and moved 20 yards from original position.
	August 12,13	"Strong gassy" odor noted, less than a mile from Vitro property, coming from other direction than Vitro property.
	August 14	Strange sound, like metal object hitting house, Elsberry area.
	August 30	Light earthquake, felt in southeast Missouri and Tennessee.
	September 3	Strange "mushroom"-like odor reported, Elsberry area.
	September 19	Pevely "mystery toxin" victims discovered.
	September 20	Earthquake, of 3-3.5 magnitude on Richter scale, felt in St. Louis area; epicenter located in South St. Louis, on St. Louis Fault which extends to Pevely, Mo.

of August 4. Earlier in the afternoon the woman (who requested us not to print her name) had experienced TV interference on all stations. At 11:20 she was amazed to see a lighted object down next to the road in a field below the lane going to her home. She described the object to us as being cross-shaped, flying horizontally, with bands of two alternating tones of red (like reflectors on a car or bicycle); and she estimated the object's length at about 20 feet (with the cross-piece measuring about half that). She termed it "remarkable."

The truly remarkable aspect to the event is that *visually*, from her position of observation, the manifestation flew directly above the Taylor cow carcass where it lay in the field. Interestingly, the object, when first sighted by the woman, was also about 20° away from a direct line of sight to the Vitro farm, where a man watching television was about to hear what sounded like a screaming calf.

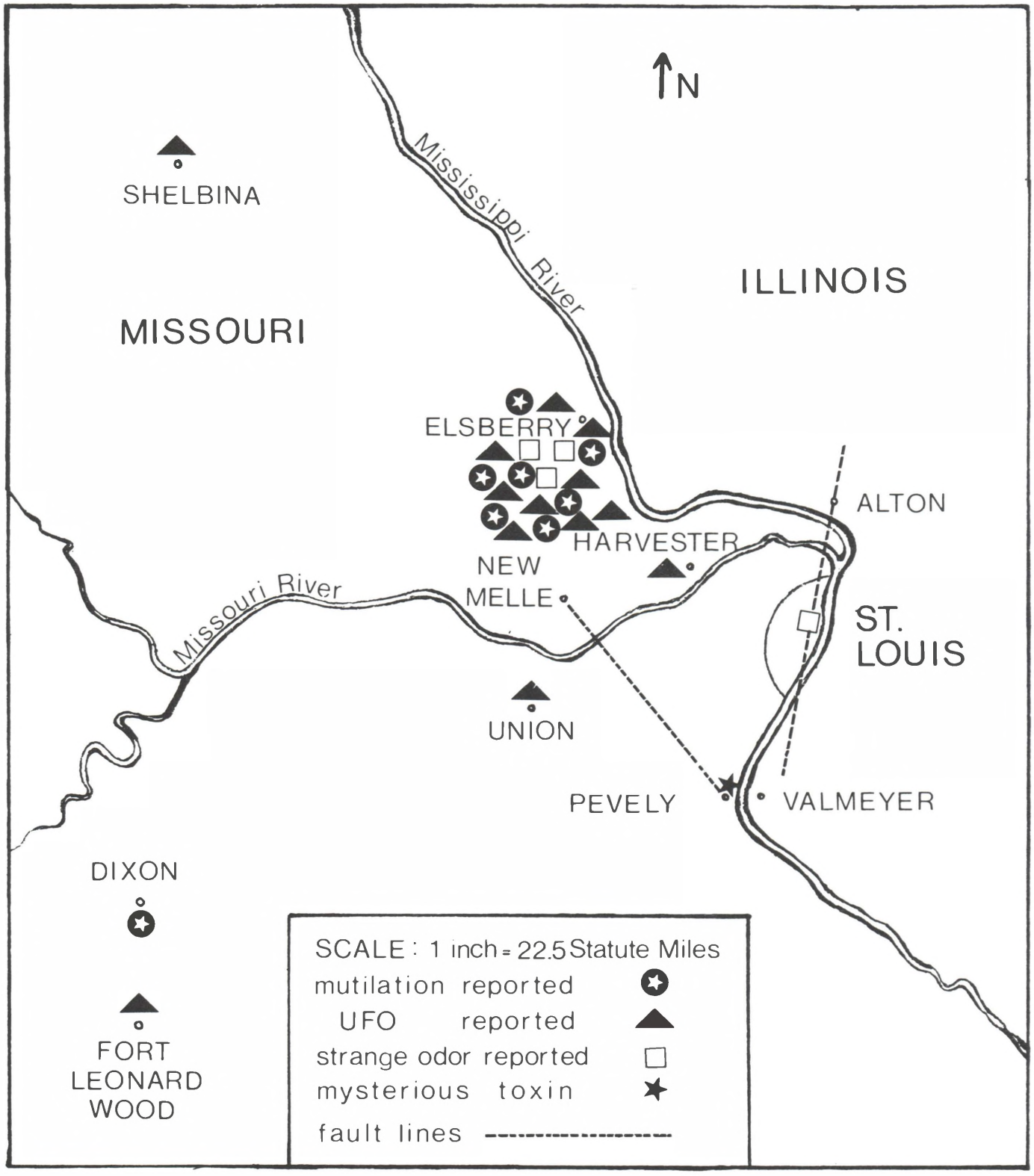
The following week, on both the 12th and 13th of August, the same woman noticed a very strange odor coming from the east. Describing the smell as noted on the 13th (after experiencing TV interference again all day), she mentioned that the odor "smells like a dead odor but not like a dead odor. Either it's in between or it's different. Maybe it's more like a gas odor. [It's] really strong...a gassy smell, like propane gas."

The next night, she heard what sounded like something metallic hitting her house....

On August 30 an earthquake shook the area. Light tremors shook homes in southeast Missouri and extreme western Tennessee, although no apparent damage was caused, according to a St. Louis newspaper which was quick to add that minor faults, it appears, are scattered throughout the state, including *the St. Louis Fault and one that extends for about 30 miles from near Pevely, Missouri, to New Melle, Missouri.*[21]

The geophysically conscious crescendo is quickly drawing to a close, ending not with a whimper, but a Fortean bang.

September 3, 8 a.m.: The woman who notices "phantom smells" and cross-shaped "UFOs" now detects "another odor this a.m., like musky mushrooms, or moldy mushrooms...a half hour later I went outside and the odor was gone...."



R. MARTIN WOLF

September 19, a.m.: Robert Boyer, in a dazed condition, tells his wife's aunt, who has come to pick up her niece to go to work, that his wife Bonnie would not be going to work because she was ill. Bonnie is discovered by her mother later in the day, not ill but dead, in the bedroom of her home in Pevely, Missouri.

"Yes, she's cold," an incoherent Boyer told his mother-in-law, as he drew a blanket up around Bonnie's chin.

The trail as to what killed Mrs. Boyer and hospitalized, in critical condition, her husband and two children is also getting cold...possibilities include poisoning, a virus, gas, or even homicide. Reporting to the worried media, Jefferson County Coroner Dr. James C. Rehm discussed an autopsy performed on the body of Mrs. Boyer: "It's so

ambiguous it doesn't make sense."[22] [Editor's note: For a full account of this very strange incident members are invited to read William Zeiser's article, "The Pevely Mystery Toxin," elsewhere in this issue.]

September 20, 7:25 a.m.: The Bang. An earthquake, ranging between 3 and 3.5 on the Richter scale, and apparently associated with movement along the St. Louis Fault, was felt for hundreds of miles (from Perryville, Missouri to the Chicago suburb of Skokie, Illinois). Near the epicenter in South St. Louis, residents reported a sound like thunder, (one person said their dog barked and ran in circles), or like dynamite blasting at the end of the street.

The St. Louis Fault extends 45 miles northeasterly from near Valmeyer, Illinois (across the Mississippi from Pevely, Missouri), through St. Louis to the East Alton, Illinois area.[23]

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Back in the Elsberry area, the Sheriff's Department is dismayed. They cannot discover any human involvement in the mutilation incidents, and because they are thorough and practical in their investigative endeavors they cannot allow UFOs (which the local populace often equates, for lack of a more detailed knowledge of the phenomenon, with spacecraft belonging to beings from other planets) to take unwarranted blame for the events in their area.

Logically, they are upset with the media reaction. Newspaper reporters and TV camera teams from all over the country have rushed in (where angels fear to tread), trampled the area, poked fingers at carcasses and fun at witnesses, and distorted and deleted statements and evidence offered by the sheriff and his deputies, all the while pointing their editorial fingers excitedly at the sky and screaming vague things about extraterrestrial visitations.

In the midst of all this, the sheriff and his few deputies must contend with truly serious matters, what for them amounts to the thankless task of having to deal with theft, vandalism, and all the other daily criminal infringements of the law.

The department is also upset by the sources of their investigations as well as the resulting media misrepresentation. A direct case in point concerns the analysis of the dead flies found clustered around twigs near the Forrest Gladney cow carcass discovered June 8. Apparently the insects (many of which were dead) were stuck together by a fungus which had been exuded from the bodies of the insects. The Sheriff's Department had the specimens looked at by a laboratory, which reported verbally that the fungus being exuded from the insects was unknown outside a laboratory. This was reported instantly by TV stations around the country who were following the Elsberry mutilations. When the written report arrived at the Sheriff's Department, however, the story had changed considerably. Now, it was stated, it appeared the fungus was a very common one, one that can be found all over the place, yet a sample of it simply had never been brought into a laboratory before. Although this roundabout reasoning and contradictory treatment of data may seem highly unusual to the casual reader, to Forteans it simply offers another altogether too familiar example of the state of the art....

Another case in point has already been mentioned. The vet, working with the Sheriff's Department, in attempting to demonstrate to the media (and for those watching from the other side of the camera) that at least one specific carcass could *very logically* be explained by having met its death from something as mundane and simple as a lightning strike, found that when the broadcast was made his report was deleted in favor of more exotic premises. Wasting his time and the taxpayer's money once was more than enough, he felt. And we tend to agree.

By the time we got to the Elsberry area to conduct our investigations, the Sheriff's Department was still kind enough to spend long hours with us, still hoping someone would listen.... We thank them, and hope we have adequately conveyed their feelings.

In any case, by now the mutilations have subsided. A couple have been reported from near Dixon, Missouri, safely over 150 miles to the southwest of Elsberry, but the Sheriff's Department there feels they can all be explained. The unusual lights in the sky over Fort Leonard Wood some 50 miles to the south may be more difficult to explain, but so far they are still distant. The last word we have heard from Elsberry has been slightly — but only slightly — more mundane: at the end of October, 1978, parents of trick-or-treaters were being warned to be careful where they allow their children to roam. A satanic cult rumored to be in the area might be looking for a child sacrifice....

"Amidst the long and winding trail of false clues, unknowns, unexplained lights and smells, circles in the grass and dead cows, misrepresented statements and hard investigation by law enforcement officers, mysterious illnesses . . . and even human deaths, there remain, nevertheless, some remarkable consistencies among the Elsberry events."

Amidst the long and winding trail of false clues, unknowns, unexplained lights and smells, circles in the grass and dead cows, misrepresented statements and hard investigation by law enforcement officers, mysterious illnesses and unmarked helicopters (yes, there were some of those reported, too...) and even human deaths, there remain, nevertheless, some remarkable consistencies among the Elsberry events.

Throughout the article, we have attempted to document the high proportion of strange Fortean events that have

occurred in a relatively small geographical microcosm. Correlations and relationships among the varied phenomena have been obvious, and at the same time more complex. We would suggest that what we may be dealing with is of vital interest to the Fortean world as a whole, and The Phenomenon in particular.

We would also, in closing, make the suggestion that persons such as the woman who perceived unusual lights and odors on a regular basis during the time the events in this article took place should not be treated as a threat to the security and sanity of the world, and therefore shunned and forced, in anonymity, to question their own perceptions, but perhaps instead to be respected as a barometer of sorts... a forecaster of things to come....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank the following persons and organizations for the help they have given in making this article possible: the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, and especially Sheriff Cliston Hilton, who along with his deputy, Don Penrod, spent a great deal of time and energy relating to us the pertinent facts regarding mutilations in the Elsberry area; John Livengood, Chief of Police in Elsberry, who has been keeping track of UFO reports in his area; Margaret Watts, who has written a number of articles for *The Elsberry Democrat* documenting the mutilation events as they occur; *The Elsberry Democrat* and the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* and *Globe-Democrat* and other newspapers which, despite the usual reluctance on the part of the press to cover mutilation events, nevertheless saw fit to publish the information they received; William Zeiser, for information related to the Pevely, Missouri, mystery toxin; and finally, the unnamed woman mentioned at the end of this article.

Sheriff's Department
LINCOLN COUNTY
P.O. Box 115
Troy, Missouri 63379

Area Code 314
Phone 528-8546

Cliston L. Hilton
Sheriff

Dear Mr. Wolf,

Thank you for sending us a copy of the article on the mutilations in Lincoln County. The Sheriff and I do have a few comments on this article that we would like for you to consider before you release your article. First of all, I don't believe that any news media has believed Dr. Newberry's statement as to why the hide on the carcasses looked as if it had been cut. I certainly think his explanation should be printed so the public can make up their minds on that matter. Possibly an experiment should be conducted on a carcass to see if predators do this. Also, I believe your paper should consult an insurance carrier for livestock to see if an animal would be insured if it died of a natural death or if it would have to be a violent nature before covered. One caller did state that the insurance company wouldn't pay off if we said it was a death other than violent. As to the mention of apparent lack of blood, I do believe Dr. Newberry showed exactly why that was. I have investigated many human deaths in our county, and the blood will also settle to the lowest point of the body as in the animals. As to the UFO sightings, we proved beyond a shadow of a doubt in one case that it was a light at the back of a house, still a lot of people wouldn't accept that explanation. Also, we in Lincoln County can see the airplanes taking off and landing at Lambert St. Louis Airport. An awful lot of these can be explained if the people want to hear. I can imagine the fright of some people before the "Northern Lights" were explained to them. I believe some reports are mislabeled UFOs when they could be, and some definitely are: cars, on high terrain, dusk to dawn lights, radio towers and fog-shrouded lights.

As to the flies on the trees, the Sheriff's department sent specimens to the Columbia Missouri Laboratories for analysis. The T.V. station, KTVI, channel 2, sent a specimen to the Ralston Purina Laboratory of St. Louis. They supposedly made the statement that these flies were unknown outside the laboratory. However, they retracted their report the next day. All in all, we think your report is the most impartial one we have read. There certainly are some facts that are unexplained in some of these incidents and we are not going to try and hide that fact. However, we feel we have been slighted by not having some very important facts explained to the public. Please feel free to use our name and also to print this letter along with your article.

Respectfully yours,
D/S Don Penrod #463
Don Penrod
Cliston Hilton
Sheriff Cliston Hilton

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THE CENTRAL NEW YORK UFO WAVE

By Mark Bundy

Drawings by the author

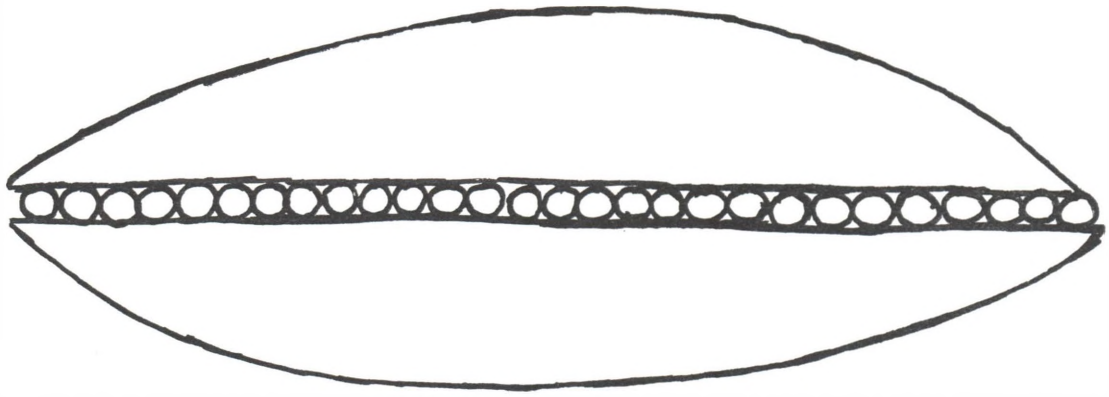
DOWN through the years, the city of Syracuse, N.Y., has had a sporadic series of encounters with UFOs. Jacques Vallee, in his excellent treatise, *Passport To Magonia* (Regnery, 1969) lists two UFO incidents that occurred in Syracuse during 1960 and 1968. Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, author of *Aliens From Space*, acknowledges also that on Nov. 9, 1965, the eve of the great Northeast blackout, the deputy aviation commissioner of Syracuse and several other pilots related seeing a large, rounded fireball rising upwards near their vantage point at Hancock Airport. At the same time, a flight instructor and his student were making their approach to the airport immediately following the blackout when they observed a "flame-colored globe" about 100 feet in diameter. It should be noted that the object was hovering near the Clay power substation, an automatic control system that was a vital power link for New York City. For the year of 1977, my own files contain a case that occurred in February of that year, involving dozens of witnesses that watched as a triangular object with flashing red, blue, and green lights maneuvered over Lyndon Golf Course, in Syracuse at roughly 8:30 in the evening.

Admittedly, there has been no great abundance of reports over the years. But that was before the spring of 1978, the spring when the unidentified flying objects visited Syracuse and many of the surrounding towns en force. Syracuse was treated to its first UFO flap.

Despite the heavy coverage that the UFO wave received from local newspapers and network affiliates, misinformation ran rampant, as it does still at the time of this writing. And although several highly credible UFO cases made the six o'clock news and the front page, it goes without saying that the media missed completely quite a few multiple-witness cases, a few of which this writer was able to investigate personally.

As far as the press first knew, the onset of the flap took place on the night of April 6, 1978. Officer Dennis Kiteveles and his family experienced the first UFO encounter near their home in the town of Baldwinsville, which lies to the immediate northwest of Syracuse. Their attention was drawn to an object that appeared over some woods adjacent to their residence, at about 10:05 in the evening. The craft, an oval-shaped object, moved back and forth, at certain points ascending slightly. The vehicle had a narrow band of red, blue, green, and yellow lights running around its middle, from which there were bright flashes of light being emitted.

But the UFO was not confined to a light display only. At roughly 10:15, the UFO was seen to shoot two extremely bright flashes that arced to the ground below. At that instant, the lights in the witnesses' home went out, along with those of some 3,000 more customers in the adjoining Jordan-Elbridge area. Corroboration of the incident came from several sources. A police helicopter, sent to investigate the sighting, observed the two flashes of light and the ensuing blackout. The witnesses said later that as the helicopter approached, the UFO accelerated rapidly and flew away. It was also confirmed by the Syracuse *Herald-Journal* on April 7th, that Hancock Airport radar operators had picked up an unidentified object on their screens at the time and the location of the sighting. The day following the sighting, the witnesses willingly gave their names to the newspapers and the TV stations, a decision they were soon to regret after they made the headlines. This writer knows well of the humiliation they have suffered.

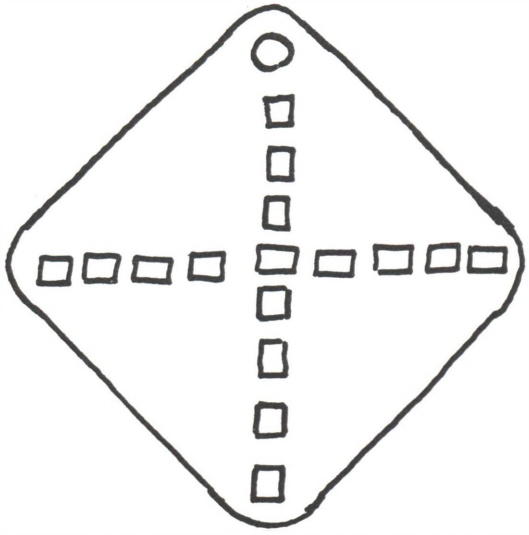


UFO seen by police dispatcher and family on the night of April 6, 1978. Running around middle of the object was a row of red, blue, green, and yellow flashing lights.

The Baldwinsville sighting was investigated by APRO field investigator Robert Barrow and journalist Robert Monell. They related to this writer that, in their opinion, the family was quite sincere and very intrigued by their experience. The two researchers also noted that the sighting took place right over a reservoir, a common element that appears again and again in the annals of the UFO.

So began the wave. From that night on, the situation just accelerated. The next day, local law-enforcement agencies received well over 30 phone calls from people wishing to report their own sightings. According to one spokesman, many of the callers were willing to take polygraph examinations to prove the authenticity of their stories.

Robert Waltz, age 21, and William Colton, age 27, both from the town of Van Buren, N.Y., were the next ones to observe unknown aerial phenomena. The two were driving along route 48 shortly after 7 p.m. April 7th when they perceived a large ball of bright white light flying over in the evening sky. The odd mass was moving west at a high rate of speed when it suddenly stopped and remained stationary. After a few minutes the light was extinguished, only to be replaced by a series of red, blue, and green flickering lights. But no sooner had this transformation occurred when these lights went out also, and the object was lost in the darkness.



Diamond-shaped UFO that appeared to residents of Syracuse and members of the Syracuse Police Department. The lights on it were blinking red, blue, green, and yellow, with one white one near the top. Incident took place on the evening of March 29, 1978.

Within the space of an hour, another sighting took place. Eight teenagers, bicycling near a water tower in the town of Southwood, reported seeing three seemingly connected lights maneuvering in the sky. The youths told Deputy D. J. Murphy that the UFO remained over the hill for a while, illuminating the area "like daytime." Dutifully, the police searched by helicopter and on foot, but no trace of the UFO was found.

A few days later, a monkey wrench was thrown into the sequence of events, chronologically. Rumors began to circulate that a UFO sighting, involving Syracuse police and local citizens had taken place a full week before the Baldwinsville sighting. As it turned out, the UFO encounter had indeed happened, but its true ramifications were not to be felt for days to come.

On the night of March 29th, at just about 9:15, police were dispatched to Kramer St. on the south side of the city in response to an urgent call. The officer to view the UFO first (along with several area residents) was Edgar Prue, a name to live in infamy with the Syracuse Police Department. Prue called for a helicopter to be sent immediately to the location where they were observing a diamond-shaped object with criss-cross series of red, blue, green, and yellow blinking lights on its surface. But the UFO quickly "shot up into the air and disappeared," according to Linda Lobello, before the operators of the helicopter were able to view it. At least, that is what a spokesman for the police officially stated.

Diane Mcguire of Kramer St. told the Syracuse *Herald-Journal* that she indirectly learned that the pilots of the helicopter, in reality, had seen the UFO. "Officer Boyle came back to see that I was alright," she related in an interview. "I asked him if Putnam (an occupant of the heli-

copter) saw anything, and Boyle said, 'Unofficially he did.' "

The sketch made by officers Prue, Pallotta, Boyle, and Miss Mcguire has not been released, and it apparently won't be. Up until a month ago, it was possible for the price of a few dollars to obtain photocopies of the police reports. But now researchers are being told that the reports are on inter-departmental memos, and therefore, unreleasable. In spite of angry grumblings made by investigators and the media, the flow of information has been neatly blocked.

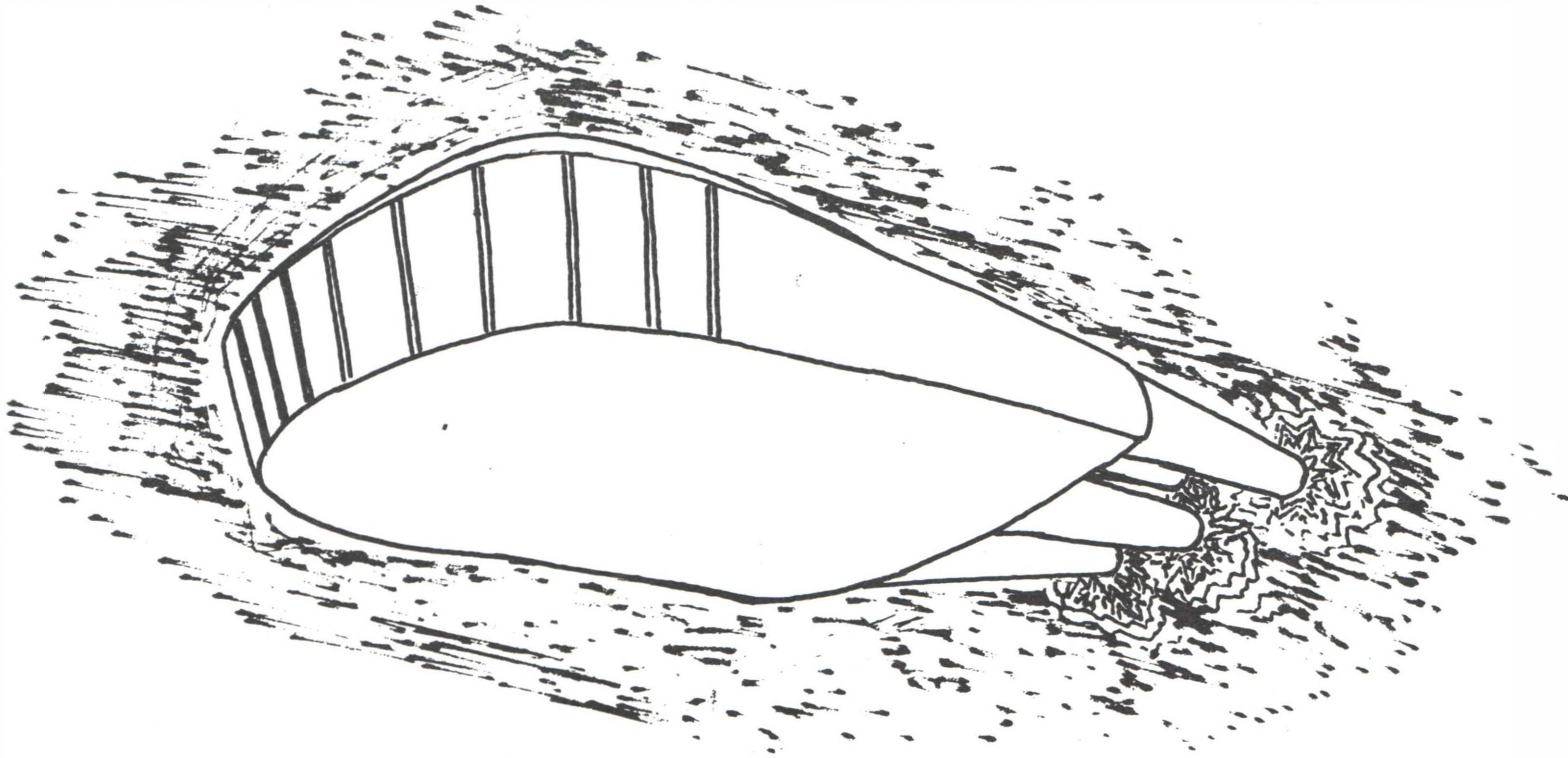
But the effects from the March 29 sighting were not played out fully yet. A short time later, 36-year-old Edgar Prue, a thirteen year veteran of the department, was coming off duty at his usual time when he was confronted by Chief Thomas Sardino. His superior was apparently after something, as he repeatedly demanded that Prue hand over an unidentified item that he was allegedly carrying. Prue described Sardino's behavior in this way to the *Herald-Journal:* "He came on very strong and belligerent in full view of a whole platoon of officers and a hallway full of civilians. I think that was a bad move on his part."

Sardino was after a drawing that Prue had shown his co-workers earlier in the day. The poster-sized cartoon, drawn by a friend of Prue's, depicted Chief Sardino flying a UFO, while being observed by a crowd of police officers from the ground. The picture, in a very real sense, symbolized something for the officers who had seen UFOs and were told not to talk about their experiences. Pallotta, one of the witnesses to the March 29 sighting, admitted that he'd "get chewed out" by his superiors if he talked about a UFO encounter he had a few weeks before the sighting on Kramer St.

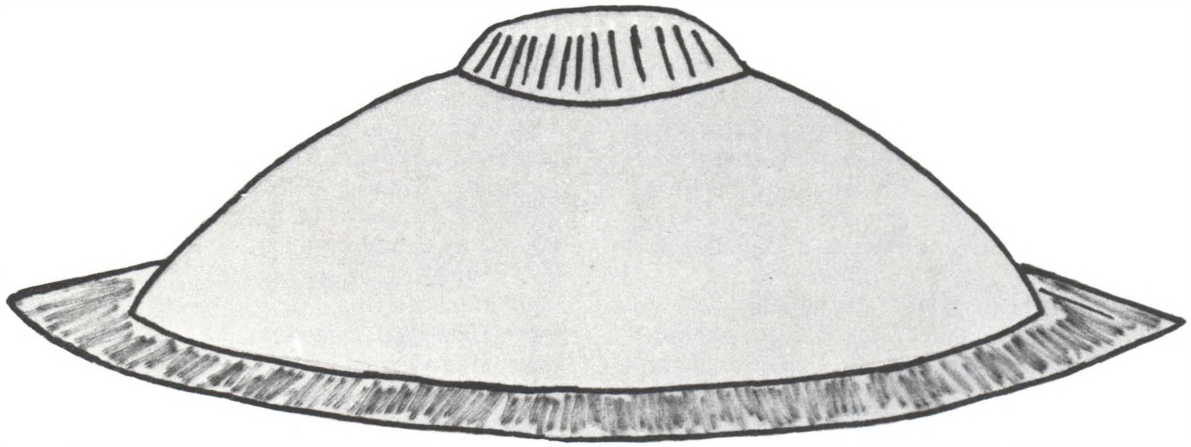
Prue refused to hand the drawing over, calling it "his own private property." As a result, Sardino suspended him from all duties.

The UFO wave didn't suffer from any other bureaucratic messes, apart from the case of one Sgt. M. J. Tuohey, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department officer who handled most of the calls and reports for the authorities. In short, Tuohey peeved quite a few individuals, some of whom this writer has talked to. He told a majority of people that the nocturnal lights they saw were observations of the planet Venus, which wasn't an evening star at the peak of the wave. In an interview with the *Post-Standard* on May 11, Tuohey blamed the entire UFO flap on balloons, a statement that angered several local balloonists who were interviewed later on WTVH's six o'clock news. The worst part of all was that Tuohey promised repeatedly that he would give total cooperation to the Center for UFO Studies. The extent of his cooperation was best summed up by Allen Hendry in the Center's *International UFO Reporter:*

> ". . .Sergeant Maurice Tuohey of the Onandaga County Sheriff's Department became the focus for UFO reporting in that area, thanks to local press



A "huge" UFO seen on April 7, 1978, between 8:30 and 9:00 p.m. An electrical "humming" sound could be heard as the UFO passed above the two witnesses in the South Onandaga Hill area of Syracuse. The dimensions of the craft were described in terms of "several football fields," and as being larger than those of a commercial airliner. Through binoculars, the UFO was seen to have a row of high windows radiating around its front, from which there was a myriad of bright lights shining. The extensions in the rear were estimated as being several hundred feet in length, with each one having a red light at its end.



Vehicle seen on the night of May 3, 1978, near Cazenovia, New York. The craft was described as making a "whooshing" sound and as having a "fluorescent" glow to it. The two witnesses agreed that upper part of dome was a mixture of colored lights.

coverage. He promised me directly, (and twice via the press) that the Center for UFO Studies would be recipient of a considerable package of witness descriptions, sketches, and photos. Then, according to local sources, the heads of the area's law enforcement agencies opted to 'stone wall' the entire situation inexplicably. Repeated appeals by myself, various reporters, and investigator Robert Barrow failed to shift the 'embarrassing' burden onto our shoulders. . ."

As a result, the IUR's profile map of the United States during the month of April shows no UFOs. Except for a short UFO report Robert Barrow had published in the *APRO Bulletin*, there has been no coverage on a wider scale of the 75 to 100 cases that occurred here. The authorities, very early on in the flap, admitted to having a little over 75 UFO reports. Other researchers are placing the number of sightings well over 100. The sad part is that we'll never know. The most that I can offer are three excellent UFO incidents that were purposely kept from the media and the police.

On the blustery evening of April 7th, two residents of the South Onondaga Hill area (who asked that their names be withheld) observed probably the largest UFO to ever appear during the flap.

A short while after 8:30, the two witnesses, armed with a pair of binoculars, saw what they described as a "huge" craft in the starry night sky. The altitude of the object was estimated at about 1,500 feet in the air, but due to its size, the UFO was quite easily visible. In fact, it was the description of the size that the witnesses had trouble getting across. They spoke of the craft's over-all length in terms of "several football fields." The general shape to the object was that of a flat saucer, elongated out. Curving around in front of it was a row of what looked like plate glass windows. Multi-colored glows issued forth from these portals, some blending into rainbow-like forms that had colorations the witnesses said they'd never seen before. At the rear of the slow moving vehicle were four cylindrical projections that each had a brilliant red light at their ends. The protrusions were related as being hundreds of feet in length.

The main portion of the UFO was glowing a bright white, while the entire vehicle seemed to be emanating an electrical humming sound. The craft came from the vicinity of the Jamesville area (which lies to the southwest of Syracuse), then executed a wide turn and slowly headed back that way.

Fifteen minutes later, 12-year-old Paul Cunningham snapped a Polaroid picture of an object that appeared to him and his friends in the very same area. The UFO was said to be as large as "an airliner." Investigator Barrow, intrigued by the photographs, deemed analysis necessary. APRO's Jim Lorenzen personally supervised the process, and his subsequent conclusions are quoted here. In reference to the Cunningham photos, he wrote:

". . .All this suggests an actual angular image much smaller than the Polaroid image shown. Conclusion: the image is probably due to a film/development flaw."

But for the results of another analysis done on a photo taken by a friend of Cunningham's, the conclusion was:

"The Hubbel photo also lacks background comparison information, but its size and appearance does seem consistent with what was reported. There is no way to establish without a doubt the authenticity of this photo, but if the witnesses agree that this looks like what they saw, then I'd be of the opinion this photo is genuine."

John and Pat Rudy were not expecting to be paid a visit from a low-level UFO as they drove home from a wedding reception on the morning of April 29 — but they got one anyway.

They were just at the Thompson Rd. Exit of Route 690 when they spotted an object which appeared to be following their car. They later estimated the UFO was approximately 150 feet away from them and roughly somewhere from 80

to 100 feet up in the air. Because the craft was on the driver's side, John was able to view it much better.

The UFO certainly had a unique shape to it. John said that the structure of the craft resembled "an erector set type of construction." He elaborated, saying that it looked like it was made of some kind of piping that internally connected at differing points. Both witnesses agreed that there were at least three lights on the object, two red ones and one very bright white one situated at the front of the strange vehicle. No noise of any kind emanated from the UFO.

At the New York State Fairgrounds exit of 690, the Rudys pulled their vehicle over and stepped out to watch the object. It was moving across the sky to the southwest of Syracuse, over the Solvay area. After a few moments more the UFO was lost to view on the horizon. Using a clock on the dashboard of their car, the Rudys placed the duration of the sighting between five to six minutes.

It was only a matter of time before a landing case would turn up, and while I was investigating a nocturnal sighting out in the town of Jordan, I did come across one.

The Moore family, owners of a rural residence nestled among a chain of picturesque drumlins, certainly weren't looking for UFOs on the night of May 9. It was early evening. The entire family had just returned home, and were pulling in their driveway when two circular lights, appearing to be about "as big as world globes," passed overhead. The strange object traversed the sky over the house, then hovered at the crest of a low hill that rises behind their home. By now, the family had clambered out of the car, and three of the five children were standing on the car watching the object, while the mother and another member of the family went inside and viewed the object through an upstairs window.

For somewhere between five to ten minutes, the object remained in the same position till it suddenly dropped down below the summit. The Moores clearly remembered that there had not been any kind of electrical disturbance during the time that the UFO was present. Mrs. Moore did tell us though that their two dogs, usually very calm, were barking and growling wildly as the UFO hovered at the top of the hill. But the important discovery of the whole incident was not to come till the next day when Joe Moore, a very articulate young person, was to visit the location where they saw the object with two of his sisters. In the uncut field, they found two round impressions of burned grass, approximately six feet in diameter and about three feet apart. The children would have looked at the area further, but their scrutiny was interrupted when they saw a plane in the sky directly above them. The vehicle was flying extremely low and was pulling a tight circle about the hill. The sight of this unnerved them so much that they left the area immediately.

By the time I visited the Moores', along with MUFON field investigators Tony Nugent and Steve Zalewski, we were frustrated to find that the field had been plowed. After shooting an entire roll of film, we admitted defeat and left.

* * *

As I was pulling together the material needed for this article, I decided to take a verbal check of what other investigators thought of this wave. Since I'd already heard Allen Hendry's views in the *International UFO Reporter,* I decided to speak with Robert Barrow, a key figure in the flap. In an early interview, Barrow emphasized that he was quite impressed with the number of multiple-witness cases, especially the ones involving the Syracuse police. A short while ago, he told me his full views on the amount of official cooperation the authorities offered:

> "I'm very upset, ashamed, and embarrassed by the response of their decision-makers, although I feel for the most part that the officers taking the orders tried their best to do what they could. But I think they were severely hampered by their superiors."

Tony Nugent, the researcher I worked with on the Jordan cases, couldn't agree more with Barrow. He simply called the situation "a disgrace."

By late June, the sightings were starting to drop off. After mediation, Edgar Prue was returned to his post. Two *National Enquirer* reporters left town, infuriated with the official run-around they received. CUFOS still lamely wondered where its reports were, while the local media dropped the subject as no longer being newsworthy. The Central New York UFO wave became a part of history, a history that is sadly incomplete and lacking in its overall coverage. It's a wonder that the UFOs put up with such shoddy treatment.



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SITUATIONS

This section of our journal is dedicated to the reporting of curious and unexplained events. Members are encouraged to send in newsclippings and responsible reports they feel should be included here. Remember, local newspapers often offer the best (or only) information concerning some events. Please be sure to include the source of reference (name of newspaper, periodical, etc.), the date the article appeared and your membership number (or name, if you prefer to be credited that way).

MYSTERIOUS FISHING LINE

Thousands of feet of fishing line floated down from the skies over Greensburg, Ohio, during the month of September. Residents have been faced with the problem of explaining the mysterious event ever since John Wright discovered a piece of the material snagged on a bush behind his house. When he began pulling it off the bush, he found there seemed to be no end to it. Neighbors came to his assistance with fishing reels and began winding in the line. After collecting about 1,000 feet, which filled eight reels, the line broke and floated away.

Wright's co-worker at an automotive plant, Ken Corasmun, followed the line visually for about 2,000 feet before losing sight of it in the sky.

Among those left staring into the clouds was a sporting goods store manager. Naturally, he theorized that children probably had been flying kites with the fishing line, and it broke....

SOURCE: St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*(AP) 9/24/78
CREDIT: William Zeiser

• • •

PLANE VANISHES AFTER PILOT REPORTS UFO

Frederick Valentich, 20, was on a 125-mile training flight when he radioed air traffic controllers in Melbourne that he was being buzzed by a UFO. Transport Department spokesman Kenneth Williams said Valentich radioed the Melbourne, Australia Flight Service Control at 5:06 a.m. EDT Sunday, October 22, 1978, and reported a UFO following him at 4500 feet. Ground control replied that there was no air traffic in the area below 5000 feet.

Valentich observed: "It has four bright lights—appear to be landing lights. Aircraft has just passed over me about 1000 feet above."

"Can you identify the aircraft?" control asked.

"It isn't an aircraft. It's ..." Then silence. Two minutes later Valentich rasped: "Melbourne, it's approaching from due east toward me. It seems to be playing some sort of game. Flying at a speed I cannot estimate. It is flying past. It is a long shape. Cannot identify more than that... coming for me right now. It seems to be stationary. I'm orbiting and the thing is orbiting on top of me also. It has a green light and sort of metallic light on the outside."

Suddenly Valentich reported his engine was choking. Then followed a strange metallic sound, then only silence. Nothing more was heard from the pilot flying his single engine Cessna 182.

A full-scale search by the Australian Air Force failed to turn up anything. Air Force planes did sight an oil slick about 18 miles north of King Island, but transport officials said it was *not* made by a light aircraft.

Valentich's father said his son studied UFOs as a hobby, but added: "he was not the kind of person who would make up stories. Everything had to be very correct and positive for him."

The Transport Department was skeptical that a UFO figured in Valentich's mysterious disappearance, despite several calls from other persons along the coast who claim to have seen a UFO the same night. "It is possible that he could have become disoriented," an Air Transport official said. "The aircraft could have inverted and he could have seen the reflections of the Cape Otway and King Island lighthouses on the clouds above him." Or, to put it in the words of another Transport official, he could have seen his own lights reflected in the water, or lights from a nearby island, while flying upside down. (This sounds to us like blatant floundering for an excuse on the part of the explainers; although to be fair about it, we should admit the possibility that a pilot may, under certain circumstances, become confused enough to flip his plane over and not know it — if he were being pursued by a UFO, for example.)

"It's funny all these people ringing up with UFO reports well after Valentich's disappearance," said Ken Williams, a spokesman for the Transit Department. "It seems people often decide after the event, they too, had seen strange lights. But although we can't take them too seriously, we can never discourage such reports when investigating a plane's disappearance."

After a week of fruitless searching, Valentich's father offered his views on the matter. He feels his son was "snatched by beings from outer space...that explanation is as good as any. Fred was a firm believer in UFOs and now I think he was right... what else can explain this mystery? I would rather think he was alive and well on another planet away out there somewhere than dead at the bottom of the sea."

SOURCES: *Asbury Park* (NJ) *Press*(AP) 10/24/78; *The Daily* (Elizabeth, NJ) *Journal* (UPI) 10/23/78; *The Ithaca Journal*, 11/1/78
CREDIT: Mrs. Herbert Toombs; Fred Wilson; Member #432; Joseph Patchen

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CHESSIE: CREATURE OF THE POTOMAC

Chessie, the nickname chosen for a creature sighted in the Potomac, along with other creatures which may constitute members of her family, was sighted frequently during the summer months of 1978 near where the Potomac flows into Chesapeake Bay.

During the summer, approximately 20 persons claimed to have sighted the serpent-like creature near the Northumberland County shore of the Potomac. Despite the skepticism that pervades the rural, somewhat isolated area, many residents willingly accept the plausibility of stories of such a creature.

When a Bay Quarter Shores summer resident, Ves Plaugher, asked a Smithsonian Institution naturalist about the possibility of the creature's existence, the naturalist said the bay, with its prodigious marshlands and easy entry from the open sea, "could contain almost anything."

Descriptions of the Potomac River creature bear similarity to those reported in other waters such as Loch Ness, Scotland; the deep-water lake of Kol Kol in the Karakysustan Valley of the Soviet Union; Lake Pohenegamook in Quebec, Canada; the St. Johns River in Ortega, Florida; Flathead Lake in Montana; and the Intercoastal Waterway near Florida.

Believers in the Potomac River creature's existence have become even more convinced due to the similarity of descriptions offered by some 20 persons who claim to have seen the creature.

One witness, Donald Kyker, a retired CIA employee, claims he wouldn't have mentioned his sightings to anybody if other persons had not seen it. What made it appear as a serpent of some kind, ac-

cording to Kyker, was the vertical undulation of the body that seemed to propel it. "But, the head remained stationary." Kyker was impressed by the creature's size and speed. He described it as between 25 and 30 feet long, approximately 7 or 8 inches in diameter and moving at a speed of 7 or 8 mph. "You would have had to jog down the beach to keep up with it," he commented.

Another family to witness the creatures was the Smoot family, neighbors of Kyker. Mrs. Smoot said the first large creature she saw swimming downstream was longer than her 36-foot back porch. Two smaller ones she saw swimming upstream measured about 5-10 feet in length, and a third was about 15 feet long, she said. "I don't relish letting my son ski out there in the river with whatever it was out there," she said. "Having children and grandchildren who swim and ski, we wanted to find out what it was." Mr. Smoot chose a strange way of finding out what the creature was; he took out a .22-caliber rifle and shot at one of the smaller creatures. "When I hit it with the .22 rifle, the forward three or four feet reared up and then they all sounded. We went out in the rowboat but there was no sign of it," he said.

Theories that the creatures were either a line of porpoises jumping and diving in unison, floating stumps, cow-nosed rays or broken fish net poles bobbing with the waves have been vehemently discounted by witnesses.

"There are things called ribbon fish that vaguely fit [the descriptions of the creatures]," said John A. Musick, an associate marine biologist with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Ribbon fish, however, are rare and almost exclusively deep-sea dwellers. There is little likelihood that one would swim 70 miles across the continental shelf into the Chesapeake Bay, then up the Potomac River, he concluded.

Another theory offered to explain the sightings is that giant South American reptiles accidentally transported to the Potomac in the hulls of commercial sailing vessels escaped into the marshes when the vessels were left in tributaries to rot. (It should be noted here that we can, in reading and printing this theory, understand why the person who made it chose to remain anonymous....)

Aside from the theories that have circulated, there are other creatures that have been reported in the Potomac in recent years — sea otters, sea turtles, and even a whale.

Until something more definite transpires, perhaps the statement made by Mrs. Mary L. Lewis, one of the first witnesses to observe the creatures, should serve as the proper Fortean attitude. "It wasn't poles. They were moving and it wasn't porpoises either," she told an eager reporter looking for a story. "It was just an animal in the river, and I felt like it belonged there."

SOURCES: *Richmond Times Dispatch* 8/17, 20/78; *The Washington Post* 8/78
CREDIT: J. W. Burke, Jr.; Fred Packard

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MYSTERIOUS BLACK CAT?

Last year, *Pursuit* brought our members the story ("Mysterious, Big Black Cat in Plainfield, Illinois," Vol. 11, No. 2, p. 76; continued as "Black Cat Was a Dog?!", Vol. 11, No. 3, p. 121) of an alleged black panther seen "stalking something" in Plainfield, Illinois. Witnesses claimed the animal produced shrieking sounds. Subsequently, the body of a large black dog was found in the vicinity. The question remained, after the excitement had ended, as to whether or not the dead dog (variously described as a black bull mastiff and *not* a black bull mastiff) was or was not the culprit.

More recently, during September of 1978, a large black, panther-like cat was reported by various witnesses living in the vicinity of Point Pleasant, West Virginia (known among Forteans as the part-time residence of Mothman).

Sam Tubaugh was watching the movie *King Kong* Sunday night, September 17; during a scene consisting of men and women running down a street, he got up and went to the door. As he opened the door, he observed a dark animal within ten feet of the house, illuminated by a dusk to dawn light. When Tubaugh yelled "bang" the animal appeared startled. "The next thing I saw was a black streak," he claims. Describing the animal as being two feet tall or more with a long tail, he said "it seems black in color, but of course I've only seen it at night." Although Tubaugh reportedly had spotted a similar animal the previous year, he felt "it's larger this year."

An unidentified woman who lives just off the same road as Tubaugh also reportedly observed the animal sometime the next day. And after Tubaugh's sighting, another resident of the area, Marcena Denny, became mystified by the disappearance of some of her chickens. "I had about 40 chickens," she said. "Now I've only got about a dozen left." The only clue to their disappearance is a "bunch of feathers on the ground," she observed. And about a week prior to Tubaugh's incident, Mrs. Denny reported she and her daughter both heard a sound "Like a woman screaming" outside her house. Two youths who also claimed they encountered the animal while walking down a road described a long tail that touched the ground as the animal walked.

Four days after Tubaugh came out with his story, the culprit (or scapegoat) was captured. Charles Beard, Mason County Dog Warden, went out to the area at the request of Mrs. Denny. She had called him on the telephone the night before, when another of her chickens had been snatched. This time she had seen that the culprit was a dog. Beard had to shoot the black and brown mongrel with a tranquilizer gun in order to subdue it and load it into his truck.

Is this Tubaugh's panther? The two youths still believe they saw a big cat with a long tail that touched the ground. A wildlife biologist who examined scratches on the ground and other marks which Tubaugh felt were left by the cat feels that it is very unlikely a cat left the scratches and marks. Although this case seems to have been even more neatly explained than the Plainfield, Illinois event, the local legend that a large cat prowls the woods in the vicinity of Point Pleasant remains.

SOURCE: Point Pleasant (West Virginia) *Register* 9/18, 20, 21/78
CREDIT: Loren Coleman

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BRIGHT LIGHTS OVER CHARLESTON

About a month after residents of Point Pleasant had been convinced that the phantom panther they had seen was nothing more than a starving stray canine, several bright objects zipped across the night sky elsewhere in West Virginia.

"I couldn't tell you what they were. I've never seen anything move like that, I'll tell you," said one of the witnesses, Cpl. Don Sharpe of the state police, who reported he watched seven of the objects for about 30 minutes the night of October 20, 1978. Sharpe was one of at least three troopers who, along with other law enforcement officers, observed the aerial lights. Although one trooper took photographs of the objects, results were unsatisfactory.

Authorities said they received more than 30 reports from Kanawha County alone. Observers described either hovering or slow-moving objects displaying green, blue, white and sometimes red or yellow lights. The majority of the reports indicated at least three objects traveling together.

"If an airplane went over, the lights would dim down till you couldn't see them," Sharpe said, describing how the objects would zip across the sky at the speed of a meteor, and then abruptly slow down.

A supervisor at the airport control tower at Kanawha Airport said there were unidentifiable objects on his radar set all weekend. He felt the ones seen Sunday could have been a weather-caused radar phenomenon.

"This is the type of weather, hot and clear that follows a cold snap, that produces these types of sightings," said Robert Brown, director of the Green Bank National Radio Observatory, who agreed the weather might be one explanation: "There are turbulent thermal cells in the air that can produce strange effects."

Strange indeed.

SOURCE: *Asbury Park* (NJ) *Press* 10/24/78
CREDIT: Member #432

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HARE METEOROLOGIST

Tass, the official Soviet news agency, said in a dispatch from Minsk that a friendly hare in the Byelorussian village of Novyazki warns the local peasants of impending rainfall by beating a roadside stump with its paws.

The rabbit first appeared in the village several years ago and quickly became accustomed to the villagers, according to Tass.

The hare moved from farm to farm, soliciting carrots from the friendly natives by drumming with his paws on their window panes.

"But the meaning of the hare's drumbeat remained obscure to the peasants for some time," Tass said. "Then they began to notice that every time after such a performance by the long-eared drummer it rains."

The "living barometer" has proven very dependable, according to Tass. "The hare never makes a mistake, and what is most valuable, he warns about rain several hours in advance, which is enough for the peasants to prepare for it."

Byelorussian zoologists consider this example of a hare communicating with humans to be very rare. Tass, however, claims "some old women in the village earnestly believe that the hare gives the peasants weather forecasts because he is grateful for the carrots they give him during the hard times in winter."

SOURCE: St. Louis *Post Dispatch*(UPI) 10/1/78
CREDIT: William Zeiser

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THE DESCENT OF THE GREEN SLIME

An unexplained green slime fell on Washington, D.C. September 5 and 6, 1978. The affected area is generally bounded by Rock Creek Parkway on the west, Pennsylvania Avenue on the north, G Street on the south and 23rd Street on the east. The slime was discovered injuring plants and animals, soiling automobile windshields, angering residents and baffling city health officials. About half the flowers in one resident's back yard garden simply wilted and died in the two-day period during which the substance fell.

Although the city's Bureau of Occupational and Institutional Hygiene was studying samples of the strange substance, Dr. Herbert T. Wood, chief of the agency, had little to report: "We're still drawing a blank — we're baffled." He did say, however, that the substance was a green liquid and that it seemed to have fallen from a considerable height. In fact, the roof of a 12-story building under construction near 25th and K Streets NW was coated with the substance, he noted.

"It's a green material — it's soluble in water and it's soluble in alcohol," he continued. "When this stuff hit, it was very fluid." Later, he added, the substance thickened and turned more black than green.

Mike Love, of 947 26th Street NW reported that his West Highland terrier "got sick — he got nauseous," and stopped eating for several days. Also, the dog's hair reportedly changed from its normal off-white color to blue or black.

Meanwhile, a cat and a dog belonging to Jerry Oaks of 953 26th Street NW "just flat out won't eat. They still won't eat," according to Oaks. "I'm worried about my cat keeling over. I don't know what's keeping her alive."

"When that cat dies, heads will roll," a neighbor suggests.

Another resident of the area found his car windshield so covered with black spots that he couldn't see through the glass.

Residents have speculated that the substance could possibly be either a pesticide or jet fuel, perhaps. Wood, however, who claims tests will continue, admits "as of now, I have no idea whatsoever."

SOURCE: *The Washington Post* 9/11/78
CREDIT: Fred Packard

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BEAMING MESSAGES THROUGH EARTH

Naval Research Laboratory physicists are researching the feasibility of sending coded messages *through*, rather than around, the earth.

The proposed technique would use coded beams of subatomic particles known as neutrinos. These particles have tremendous power to penetrate (without significantly weakening) through the center of the earth. They also travel at or close to the speed of light.

A Catholic University physicist, Dr. Herbert Uberall, who first proposed neutrino communication, feels such a system would offer the protection of almost assured message secrecy. Uberall said a neutrino beam would not be affected by sunspots, nuclear explosions or weather, and that it would defy jamming by an "outsider."

In other words, a neutrino telegraph would be a low-data form of secret communications for specialized military purposes.

It is hoped in upcoming years that enough will be known about neutrino communications to proceed with a demonstration project, Dr. Albert Saenz, head of the Naval Research Laboratory research team, told the American Physical Society.

"We are trying to show from the standpoint of physics from the present-day knowledge that it's possible," Saenz said in an interview. "All sorts of physics, and engineering, questions have to be answered."

A high-energy atomic accelerator (such as the one at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory at Batavia, Illinois) would be needed to generate a man-made neutrino beam.

SOURCE: *Evening Sentinel*(UPI) 4/26/78
CREDIT: Larry E. Arnold

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SUPERTREES

A supertree, developed from the sterile clones of male cottonwoods crossed with black poplars, has been developed at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison. The tree, which grows 12 to 18 feet annually, is being experimentally planted throughout the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin by the city's Bureau of Forestry.

Immune from most diseases that strike elms, ashes and maples, the supertree does not bear cotton-like seed plumes, which natural cottonwood trees bear seasonally, and which are infamous for clogging swimming pool filters and air conditioners.

SOURCE: St. Louis *Post Dispatch*(AP) 10/1/78
CREDIT: William Zeiser

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GRAVITATIONAL RECALL

Although astronomers in general believe the universe is in the process of flying apart, a team of X-ray astronomers from the Naval Research Laboratory and Northwestern University has now found evidence that this may not be the case. Observations that the galaxies will eventually stop receding from one another and will come back together were presented at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in San Diego, California.

"Astronomers agree that the universe emerged from the explosion of a primordial fireball about 16 billion years ago," says Herbert Friedman, a prominent X-ray astronomer with the Naval Research Laboratory. "This 'big bang' creation produced an expanding universe of hundreds of billions of galaxies."

In recent years astronomers have not been able to find enough total matter—stars, dust and gas in those galaxies — to allow the universe sufficient mass for the

gravitational attraction needed to pull the receding galaxies back together. The "missing mass" therefore required an "open" universe that would continue flying apart indefinitely.

Friedman's X-ray astronomy team, however, has discovered hitherto undetected matter in the form of gas between two clusters of galaxies. Although the gas is invisible to ground-based optical telescopes, it emits X-rays detectable by a NASA satellite orbiting above the earth's atmosphere.

"The very existence of such cosmic gas clouds is very likely typical of all regions of the universe in which clusters of galaxies have formed," Mr. Friedman commented. "From the X-ray brightness, the scientists conclude that the mass of the cloud enveloping the two observed clusters was equal to a million billion suns. Multiplying this example by all the clusters in the universe indicates the equivalent mass of a closed universe." If this interpretation is correct, 90% of the weight of the universe exists in the form of invisible clouds of gas not used up in the formation of galaxies.

Mr. Friedman would very roughly guess at placing the period of expansion of the universe at 40 billion years, meaning that another 24 billion or so years must pass before gravity halts the recession of galaxies and starts pulling them back together. The contraction phase would eventually produce a new fireball and another "bang," and so on, into eternity.

SOURCE: *Wall Street Journal*, 9/12/78
CREDIT: Fred Wilson

SYMPOSIUM

Comments and Opinions

PAYMENT FOR *PURSUIT* ARTICLES

Starting with Vol. 12, No. 3 (Summer, 1979), *Pursuit* will pay 1¢ per word for all articles published. Please feel free, *as of this notice*, to submit articles for consideration for publication in the Summer *Pursuit* (by the time you read this, any future articles submitted and accepted will receive payment). Payment will be forthcoming upon publication of the article. The deadline for the Summer issue is March 15, so have your articles in by then, if possible (articles received after March 15 will naturally be considered, at the same pay scale, for later publication in the journal). Articles printed prior to publication of the Summer (Vol. 12, No. 3) issue will *not* be considered for payment. Also, payment will not be offered for articles already published elsewhere and reprinted in *Pursuit*, or for items used in the journal's SITUations or Symposium columns. Writers of book reviews will receive $5 per review published. Copyright rights for original articles published will still be returned to the authors upon publication, as we have done in the past.

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UFO RESEARCH PROJECT

"I am involved in a project putting together an extensive catalogue of UFO literature and thought. To achieve the comprehensive goals of the project (among them a bibliography of between 15,000 to 25,000 listings), your assistance is needed. Specifically, I am looking for UFO literature (books, newsletters, journals, magazines, etc.), past and present, that ufologists and others would be willing to donate, lend, xerox, or sell for inclusion in this reference project, with special emphasis on foreign (English language) literature and small-circulated material which has long been neglected or forgotten. Any assistance would be appreciated. Information on the project is available upon request. Thank you."

—Tom Lind/Box 711/Hobe Sound, FL 33455 U.S.A.

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KRONOS

KRONOS, *A Journal Of Interdisciplinary Studies*, is available by writing c/o Prof. Warner Sizemore, Glassboro State College, Glassboro, NJ 08028, U.S.A. Annually (four issues): $12.00; overseas (airmail) $18.00. A sampling from 1978 includes: *Radiohalos and Earth History* (Vol. 11, No. 1), *On the Advance Claim of Jupiter's Radionoises* (Vol. 11, No. 1), *Velikovsky and Establishment Science: My Challenge to Views in Science* (Vol. 11, No. 2), *The Venus "Greenhouse Theory" Debunked* (Vol. 11, No. 2), *From the End of the Eighteenth Dynasty to the Time of Ramses II* (Vol. 11, No. 2), *Geogullibility and Geomagnetic Reversals* (Vol. 11, No. 4), *The Mystery of the Pleiades* (Vol. 11, No. 4).

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S.I.S. REVIEW

S.I.S. REVIEW is the Journal of the Society for Interdisciplinary Studies, and is available by writing the editor, Malcolm Lowery, 11 Adcott Road, Acklam, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 7ER, United Kingdom. Articles in the journal concern such topics as *"Proofs" of the Stability of the Solar System* and *A Philosophy for Interdisciplinary Studies*.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Dover Devil?

May I advance an hypothesis to account for the footprints discovered prancing across Larry Arnold's snowy rooftop (*Pursuit*, Vol. 11, No. 3, p. 121)?

Although I am not observing the evidence of the matter, but only a copy of photos of undetermined scale and vantage point, it appears the footprints are roughly square in shape and remarkably co-linear. The spacing is regular, with no extended breaks in the series, which terminates, by account, abruptly on the West side and perhaps links up with a series on the ground, trailing off to the East.

I propose that these supposed footprints were made by the impact of a broken-up icy jacket blown from a utility pole located, I must infer, several feet out of the picture to the Northwest.

This direction is that from which winter's stormy gales typically blow in Pennsylvania, frequently coating electric and telephone wires with fractable cylinders of rime, congealed sleet, and rotten ice. These cylinders, when blown

off the wire and plopped upon snow, make impressions square in cross-section.

If the icy sheath disintegrates just as the wire (swayed by the wind) begins an interval of acceleration or deceleration, releasing the ice bits at smoothly differing velocities, the scatter upon impact would account for that gracefully curved path.

As every hypothesis has a critical experiment, I suggest Mr. Arnold check whether a utility line runs near the house, roughly parallel to the footprints. And as the predictions derived from any hypothesis are its chief virtue, I shall predict that at closer examination some of the footprints are *circular* in cross-section, if they be formed by cylinders.

But, alas, our evidence has melted!

—William Zeiser

* * *

Or. . .

Monster footprints in snow? An anomalous problem solved! There is a very simple explanation for many of the 'Devil Tracks' found in snow, and it is simply this: Suppose, for example, a crow hops along a snow-covered rooftop, then glides down and hops along the ground for a while (leaving tracks in the process), then flies away.

Now the next day, the infrared rays of the sun come down. For the most part, the rays would reflect off the snow: but not the crow tracks! The infrared radiation would accumulate in the small indentations formed by the tracks and would melt the snow around them. In fact, the larger the indentation becomes, the faster the snow melts — until the tracks become large enough so that air circulation dissipates most of the heat.

Someone just might come along that afternoon, follow the tracks, and have a cardiac arrest (the Dover Devil strikes again)!

The possible sources of monster tracks are almost endless, for there are lots of little, and big, animals (including man) that romp through the snow.

My explanation, of course, does not work for tracks left in mud. I therefore think that, for all practical purposes, mysterious tracks should only be taken seriously when they are made on more solid ground(s), so to speak.

—Brian Black

* * *

I rarely read the "letters to the editor" section of any publication, and so nearly missed Mr. Diamond's letter concerning my article in last winter's *Pursuit*. As it is, I am sure my reply is untimely.

Much to my embarrassment, Mr. Diamond's point is correct; and though I am not at all happy about it, I extend my thanks to him for pointing out the error.

This is not to say however, that I am willing to concede the general argument. The case for "Whamond's Law" is greatly overstated. It is simply not true that *all* sources of stress on structures and organisms will vary with gravity and size in the same way. As I pointed out in my original article, hydrostatic pressure varies directly with gravity regardless of size or shape, and that alone is sufficient to disprove "Whamond's INVERSE SOLELY Law of Gravitation" (sic).

Furthermore, Mr. Whamond is, in a larger sense, guilty of the same sort of hidebound thinking for which he so bitterly berates establishment science. He presents his theory as being correct to the point of excluding all other possibilities; a position which is extremely precarious at best. There is generally more than one way to solve any given problem; a circumstance of which someone with "7 years' experience in the patents field" should be acutely aware.

—S. Marriott

* * *

SORRY!

Apologies to author Michael S. Weston and to our readers for the printer's omission of 16 words from the article "Toward Solving the Bermuda Triangle Mystery" published in the Fall 1978 issue of *Pursuit*. Beginning at the tenth line in the right-hand column on page 135 the text should read as follows with the bracketed words included: "A time dilation occurred as the plane neared a black hole yet somehow steered clear enough from the event horizon so as not [to have gotten "caught" and was possibly influenced by the "slingshot" effect. Strange waterspouts, sometimes reported] to be over 1 mile in width . . ."

WALTER J. McGRAW 2nd

1919 - 1978

Walter McGraw, who died November 18, was a founding member of SITU and served on the Board of Governors and Trustees when his other work permitted him to give the Society what he considered to be sufficient time to warrant his serving as a Board member. Even when not on the Board he was always available for consultation in his special fields and carried out any number of investigations for us, though few of these will be known to the membership. He was a newsman and never took anything for granted or repeated what others had written or said; at least not until he had gone to see for himself.

Although best known to the general public as a writer and director of programs for radio (he was a superb interviewer), he will be remembered by Forteans primarily for his book *The World of the Paranormal*, which exemplifies his objective and healthily sceptical approach to Fortean phenomena. In it he added some new material but also disposed of some oft-repeated tales which on investigation proved to be untrue. (Alas, they are still repeated by writers who are more interested in sensationalism and money than in truth.) Our members may also remember his report on the work of Cleve Backster on plant emotions.

His interests were many and varied (with his first wife he wrote *Prison Riots*, a standard work) and his influence on SITU a good one. He will be missed.

Our sympathy goes to his widow, the former Suzanne DePinna.

BOOK REVIEWS

***OUR UFO VISITORS* by John Magor, Hancock House Publishers Inc., 12008 1st Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98168, 264 pages, $8.95.**

John Magor, as many readers will know, is the editor/publisher of the excellent magazine, *Canadian UFO Report.* Those who have appreciated his work with the *Report,* as well as those unfamiliar with his writings, will want to read his first book.

In general, it is a recapitulation of the UFO events which have occurred in the Western Mountains/Rocky Mountain Trench area of Canada. Magor tells of the flap of 1967-68 when this region of Canada was "invaded" by UFOs. The Trench has been called the "Playground of the Gods," seemingly with good reason.

Although the focus of the book is on Canadian activity, portions deal with the mysteries of the Moon and Mars, signals from space, historical evidence of UFOs and other topics. Canadian cases of landings and occupant sightings are also detailed.

Commenting on the tendency of some UFO investigators to downgrade single-witness reports, Magor says: "...this is like saying the UFO phenomenon is so unbelievable anyway, we must set for it standards of testimony much higher than required in a court of law where a man's life can depend on the word of a single witness. It is not a view I support. If a researcher never passes the point where he believes the word of a single witness can be sufficient at times, I think he is wasting his time. He has come to a halt because he continues to put skepticism before inquiry. He is trying to reduce the problem to his own terms, which he will never do."

At one point in the book, Magor repeats some erroneous and misleading information about a prominent UFO contactee, but this is a minor criticism of what is, in all other respects, an excellent book. No matter if much of the material has been published in previous issues of the *Report,* it is good to see it all again between the book's two covers. An outstanding section of photos and illustrations is included, plus a bibliography and index.

Our UFO Visitors has my unqualified recommendation.

—Lucius Farish

***Handbook of Parapsychology,* Benjamin Wolman, Ed. Van Nostrand, New York, 1977.xxi, 967 pp., illus. $35.**

***Advances in Parapsychological Research*—Vol. 1: Psychokinesis, Stanley Krippner, Ed. Plenum Press, New York, 1977. x, 235 pp., illus. $18.95.**

Few scientific topics are so often in the public eye and so seldom in the general scientific literature as parapsychology, sometimes called psychical, or "psi" research.* Although the field has several nationally referred professional journals, from which over 1000 papers have appeared in *Psychological Abstracts,* this research has been generally ignored by the major journals serving psychology, medicine, biology, and physics, the broader journals such as *Science,* and the semi-popular magazines such as *Scientific American.* Some scientists treat it as a belief system rather than a field of inquiry, and Christopher Evans writes of "almost universal scientific hostility" to this research. Yet in analyzing his own poll of *New Scientist* readers, he found: "parapsychology is clearly counted as being exceedingly interesting and relevant by a very large number of today's working scientists. . . a massive 88% held the investigation of ESP to be 'a legitimate undertaking'. . . a paltry 3% [considered] ESP an impossibility."[1]

Most scientists have had little basis for judging the work for themselves. Although there are a number of excellent survey and state-of-the-art books,[2] these are not widely known. Now, Wolman's *Handbook* and Krippner's biennial *Advances* volume provide an authoritative and accessible overview. Wolman's *Handbook* organizes the various aspects of parapsychology in simple format: History; Research Methods; Perception and Communication; Physical Systems; Altered States of Consciousness; Healing; Survival of Bodily Death; Other Fields; Models and Theories; Soviet Research; Suggested Reading and Glossary. Each chapter proceeds as if the reader were scientifically literate, but unfamiliar with the field. The authors are at home with their subjects, and the bibliographies are extensive and solid. Krippner's book is equally straightforward, concentrating (in Volume 1) on psychokinesis. Volume 2 will come out "in about a year" and will discuss extrasensory perception. Exceptional editorial experience as well as thorough first-hand knowledge of the subject matter characterize both books.

The scientist newly exposed to this subject may discover in these books areas where his special knowledge could improve on techniques or instrumentation used for psi research. Conversely, he may learn of methods of experimental control, data analysis, or even fundamental concepts with important implications to his own work. But, most intriguing, he may find that his laboratory is equipped to replicate some of the strange effects reported, and he may be tempted to try. And that is what science is all about.

For example, Krippner's book discusses a number of common instruments used to detect the possible effects of mind on matter, such as a cloud chamber, a laser beam, a system of isolated thermisters, a magnetometer, a random number generator, and physiological data recorders attached to humans, animals, or plants. Not everyone has access to a "proven psychic" (although a successful faith healer is often a good candidate), but the literature abounds with reports of finding unexpected capabilities in one's self, friends, or colleagues. Like many attributes of the human personality — e.g., hypnotisability, sexual response, artistic creativity — psi abilities are elusive and not always subject to call, and not everyone finds statistical evidence of such events persuasive. But the direct personal

* Psi phenomena are defined as apparently direct interactions of the mind with the environment, including ESP (extrasensory perception, the receipt of information) and PK (psychokinesis, physical effects imposed on the material world).

experience of watching a physical parameter repeatedly respond to an act of will is hard to ignore.

To do original work in this field often requires skills from a number of fields, e.g. psychology, electronics, statistics, biology. But a crucial part of the process called science is peer criticism, and any scientist can contribute. Psi research has been severely handicapped by being denied the creative interplay with the broader scientific community that normally comes from publication to a wider audience than is reached by the specialty journals. When this fails to occur, all scientists are impoverished to a real but indeterminable degree. If these books help attract the attention of other scientists to this fascinating, puzzling, important field of research, perhaps we can begin to realize the prophecy of astronomer Fred Hoyle: "When science begins the study of non-physical phenomena, it will make more progress in one decade than in all the centuries of its experience."

—Theodore Rockwell

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1. The "hostility" reference is: *Humanist* 37, No 3, 22 (1977) The poll is reported in: *New Scientist* 57, 209 (1973).

2. See, for example:

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THE NOTES OF CHARLES FORT

Deciphered by Carl J. Pabst



INTRODUCTION

"If I pass along these notes"—

Thus began Charles Fort's "massive collection of inconvenient, frustrating, stubbornly resistant data," as Damon Knight was to call it.

Fort slyly alluded to this collection several times in his books.

"I shall not note them all in this book, but I have records of 31 extraordinary events in 1883" (BCF, p. 52).

"I have collected 294 records of showers of living things" (BCF, p. 544).

"Though I have hundreds of notes upon mysterious attacks upon human beings, I cannot develop an occult criminology now" (BCF, p. 648).

We hoped against hope for some of these notes.

We have them now. And much more.

When he began to publish Fort's notes in September, 1937, Tiffany Thayer remarked in the first issue of *The Fortean*:

"The notes present many difficult problems of translation. They were written in pencil — over a period of twenty-six years — in a code known only to the author — a sort of personal shorthand. The letters, numbers and symbols are wretchedly formed and many of the tiny scraps of paper are misfiled and disarranged. There are thirty-two boxes of memoranda."

Four years later, in his introduction to the omnibus edition of Fort's books, Thayer was still struggling:

"He used cryptic abbreviations and certain symbols which amount to a personal shorthand, making transcription an arduous undertaking."

Nevertheless, this edition of Fort's notes is as literal as possible. The temptation to spruce up these jottings has been resisted with a will. The spelling and punctuation used by Fort has been retained. The oblique mark (/), first used by Thayer, is retained as necessary to string together the individual elements of each note. All comments and corrections, including Kiesewetter's, are bracketed. Also included are cross references to Fort's books.

THE NOTES

Notes / A date and a place on green paper = q — Rept B.A., 1911 / I = small / II = greater / III = greatest.

1800 / Directions / If I pass along these notes / Anything with the third item a letter is from the London *Times*, such as Aug 21-10-e.

18-- / Case at Leeds / Fir bog bursts in Ireland. / See Irish Naturalist, June, 1897. / [See Sept 2, 1824.]

184- / Cuper / Sound like thunder and whirl / See Sept 9, 1923. / [See June 30, 1842.]

18-- / The Leeds case / Bursting bogs and streams of muddy water / Science, Ap. 1, 1892, p. 187 / [See Sept 2, 1824.]

1800 / At Seringapatum about 1800, ab size of an elephant — "No reason whatever for our doubting fact. Dr. Bu[ist] / Bt. As. 1855/34. [Reverse side] See May 28, 1802. / B Assoc 1855/34.

1800 / N / W. an early one of plants, etc., at sea / with March, 1905.

1800 / Col. the wildmen of the "mixed" languages.

Note / Watch for 2 or more polts or other "spirits."

N / Fulton letter / myst flames / See Oct 15, 1907.

Watch for note / boa Long Island, Sept 7, 1893 / Cobra there (L.I.) long before. / [See May 31, 1881.]

1800

Feb 4 / Columbia / Ecuador / Venezuela / great q / [BA] '11.

Feb. 26 / Lisbon / q and heavy rain / BA 54 / 9 p.m.

ABBREVIATIONS

ab	about
Ac to	According to
A. J. Sci	*American Journal of Science*
A 1	[? Almanac ?]
An de Chimie	*Annales de Chimie*
Ap.	April
Aug	August
B.A.	*Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*
B Assoc	*Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*
BCF	*The Books of Charles Fort*
bet	between
Bib Brit	*Bibliographie British* [?]
Bib. Univ.	*Bibliographie Universelle*
Bt. As.	*Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*
Bull Soc. Sismol. Ital.	*Bulletin de la Societe Sismologique de Italy* [?]
Col. the wildmen	Collect the wildmen
Conj Venus	Conjunction Venus
C.R.	*Comptes Rendus*
D-79	*The Book of the Damned*, p. 79
Dec	December
dept.	department
det met.	detonating meteor
E to W.	East to West
Ext	Extraordinary
(F)	*Fletcher's List*
Feb	February
Fr	France
Frgs	Frogs
Ghst	Ghost
Intro to Meteorology	*Introduction to Meteorology*
It	Italy
Jan	January
Kiesewetter	"An enterprising new member has undertaken the task of checking the references in Charles Fort's NOTES as printed in the Magazine, especially and primarily those gathered from the Reports of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. This welcome refinement of details is forwarded by H. A. Kiesewetter, of Buffalo, who is assisted in the work by Mrs. Kiesewetter" *(The Fortean*, #10, p. 146, c. 1).
L.I.	Long Island
London *Times*, 3-b	London *Times*, page 3, column b
Mag. Pop Sci	*Magazine of Popular Science*
Mar	March
Mass.	Massachusetts
Med. Repos.	[?]
met	meteor
Metite	Meteorite
M.W.R.	*Monthly Weather Review*
myst	mysterious
N. American	North American
N.H.	New Hampshire
N.M.	No More
N / W. an early	[?]
N.Y.	New York
Nor. Car.	North Carolina
Nov	November
Obs	*Observatory*
Oct	October
Op. Mars	Opposition Mars
p.	page
Phil Mag	*Philosophical Magazine*

Feb. 27 / Etna began recurring at intervals until middle of 1802. / BA '54.

Mar 8 / Mexico / great q. / [BA] '11.

Mar. 20 / Vulcan / Fritsch of Magdeburg / Obs 3/136.

Mar. 20-21 / China / I / [Small earthquake / BA '11].

April 1 / Essex / Steeple-Bumstead / det met. BA '60.

[Kiesewetter // April 1 — Essex: Steeple-Bumstead — Fireball — detonation *fell* with a hissing sound. / April 5 — North America — great meteor — detonation — stones fell.]

Aug Perseids / A. J. Sci 37-335.

Aug. 5 / N. American fireball. BA '60.

[Kiesewetter // August 8 — North America — Fireball. / August 15 — Halle France — Fireball.]

Oct. 17 Small earthquake, Valley of Ossau in the Pyrenees, France. BA 1911.

[Kiesewetter // October 17 — Small earthquake in Valley of Ossauin Pyrenees France.]

Nov. 8 / Op. Mars / (A 1).

Dec. 9 / Vallets (Latium) Italy — small earthquake. BA 1911.

[Kiesewetter // December 9 — (Should be "29", and "Vallets" should read *Valletri*).]

1801

/ At Rastadt, sulphur rain / rain so charged with sulphur that people made matches of the material / Phil Mag 44-254.

Jan 1 / Chili / great q / [BA] '11.

Mar. 10 / [London *Times*], 3-b / q's / New England.

May 26 / Inferior conjunction Venus-Sun.

June and before / Youghall Mirages / Thomson, Intro to Meteorology, p. 258 / [Reverse side] Thomson (D.P.), Intro to Meteorology, 8755. g. 23.

June 19 / Halle / Fireball / BA 60.

July / Eskilstuna / Sweden / violent q. / a mountain / the sea covered / dead fish / BA Rept '54/44.

July 14 / Montgaillard / Fireball / BA '60.

Aug 25 / [London *Times*], 3-c / Planets// [London *Times*], 7-2-c / disc of Ceres.

Aug 26 / France (Ain) / Fireball / BA '60.

Sept 12 / London *Times*], 2-c / 16-3-d / q's / Scotland.

Sept 14 / [London *Times*], 3-c / Sunspots.

Oct 5 / Great q / Mexico / Look up, see if right — B.A., 1911.

Oct 8 Bologna, Italy / I / [Small earthquake / BA 1911].

Oct 8 / [London *Times*], 3-c / Nov. 2-3-b / Meteor.

Oct 15 [London *Times*], 3-d / 14-3-c, d / Ext storms.

Oct. 23 Colchester and Burg St. Edwards, stones fell? BA '60.

[Kiesewetter // Oct 23 — Colchester: Bury St. Edwards. Fireball (aerolitic).]

ABBREVIATIONS *(Continued)*

polts	poltergeists
Prof.	Professor
q	earthquake
Rec. Bull Soc.	*Record de la Bulletin de la Societe Scientifique,*
Sci. Montpellier	*Montpellier* [?]
Rept B.A.	*Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*
Sci. Gos.	*Science Gossip*
Sc Op.	*Science Opinion* [?]
Sept	September
Symons'	*Symons' Meteorological Magazine*
th. storm	thunderstorm
Tran Merc	Transit Mercury
Va.	Virginia
Volc	Volcano
Vulc	Vulcan

Nov. 3 / (+) / [London *Times*], 3-d / House on fire by a meteor.

Nov 12-13 / Night / Philadelphia / shock / BA '54.

Early in Dec / Austria / I / [Small earthquake / BA 1911].

Dec 12 / [London *Times*], 2-d / Ext storm / Plymouth.

1802

/ Ulm / Thick viscous liquid / Phil Mag 44-254 / in abundance, covering eveything exposed to it.

Jan 4 / bet 7 and 8 a.m. / Carinthia and Turkey / great q preceded [Reverse side] at Trieste, by a "terrible" thunderstorm and "tidal wave" / BA 54.

Jan 17 / Spain / I [Light quake / BA 1911].

Feb 7 / Vulc / Fritsch of Magdeburg / Obs 3/136.

May 12 / (It) / Brescia / great q / [BA] '11.

May 28 / Near Puzlemischely, Hungary—block of ice,1200 pounds / Science (Michels) 2-276.

Aug 7 / Concussion in dept. Lot and great met seen at Cahors / C.R., 17-621 / det met at Cahors. [Reverse side] Concussion at Ceylus (Lot) / BA '54.

Aug 10 / Quedlinburg / Fireball / BA '60.

Aug 15 / Venezuela / II / [Medium quake / BA 1911].

Aug 23 / "Terrible shock," Richmond, Va., and rumbling sound / BA 54.

Sept 1 / Drought / q. / Naples and Capua / been no rain since March / BA 54.

Sept 15 / Loch Tay, Scotland / stonefall / questioned in BA '60.
[Reverse side] Refers to Monthly Magazine, Oct, 1802, p. 290.

Oct 1 / Beauvais (Oise) / bet 9 and 10 p.m. / det met / q and left a sulphurous odor of long duration / listed as a q / Bull Soc. Sismol. Ital. 14/326 / (BA '54).
[Reverse side] C.R. 17-621 / bet 10 and 11 p.m. / meteor / E to W.

Oct. 10 / Vulcan by Fritsch of Magdebourg / C.R. 83/587 /
[Reverse side] rapidly crossing the sun.

Oct 21 / Carmarthen / See Oct 30, 1868.

Oct 26 / Russia / Austria-Hungary / great q. / II or III / [BA 1911] / Turkey.

Nov. /Etna / "Etna" / Rodwell.

Nov. 6 / Suffolk / Fireball / BA '60.

Nov. 7 / Algiers / q. / II [medium] / BA '11.

Nov. 8 / Tran Merc / Sc Op. 1.

Nov. 9 / Vulcan by Keiser at Amsterdam / C.R. 83-719.

Nov. 9 / Transit Mercury / Obs. 29/416.

Nov. 26 / Turkey / I / [Light quake / BA 1911].

Dec 24 / op. Mars / (A 1).

(ab Dec. 26 / Conj Venus.

Dec 28 / Japan / q and sea waves / III / [Heavy / BA 1911].

Dec 31 / Sisteron (Basses-Alpes) / Sun rose a glowing red color. / q at 11 a.m. and at 2 p.m. / BA '54.
[Reverse side] Nov 31?

1803

Jan 8 / Poland / I / [Light quake / BA 1911].

/ Volc fish / Volc of Cotopaxi / witnessed by Humboldt / His story see Sci. Gos. 1870-25 / That this time and other times of eruptions in the northern Andes fishes have been cast by the volcanoes—always of the same species, Arges Cyclopum.
[Reverse side] Millions of them sometimes in such numbers that their decomposing remains have bred disease. But though it is said that some have fallen in a "half-noiled" condition, most of them were untouched by fire and some were alive.

/ Meteors / Am. J. Sci 40-349.

Jan. 21 / Silesia / Fireball / BA 60.

Feb. 2 / Marseilles, France / I / [Light quake / BA 1911].

Feb 4,5,6 / Red rain / R — May 16, '46.

March 8 / Italy / red dust / An de Chimie 2/31/267.

Ap. 3-5 / Volc / Goentoes, Java / C.R. 70-878 / N.M.

April 20 / Described in Richmond Gazette of 23rd / tremendous fall of meteors at R.
[Reverse side] A. J. Sci 26-135 / from 1 till 3 a.m. / also in Mass.

Ap. 20 / Mets / A. J. Sci 26-135, 358 / 40-363.

Ap. 20 Meteors / newspapers in Nor. Car., Va., and N.H. quoted / A. J. Sci. 36-359 / Heavens seemed to be on fire from 1 to 3 a.m. Alarming and astonishing in Richmond. / Also N.Y. - Mass.

Ap. 25 / Japan / q / BA '11 / I [Light].

Ap. 26 / Ac to Fletcher / L'Aigle.

May 2 / L'Aigle (Orne) / Bib Brit 37/283.

May 9 ★ Cambridge / detonation and shock, / meteor / BA '60.

June 4 / Metite struck a house at East Norton. / European Magazine 44-72.
[Reverse side] 1/2 of silceous clay / rest oxidated iron, magnesia, nickel and sulphur / BA-60; Phil Mag, July, 1803.

July 4 / East Norton / Leicester. / Metite? / BA '60 / Phil Mag, July, 1803.

July 24 / 11 p.m. / Christiana / q preceded by sound like thunder /
[Reverse side] At Laurnig, q followed by aerial sound and disturbance. / BA 54.

Sept 1 / III [Heavy] / q / Calcutta / BA '11.

Sept 22 / Geneva / Fireball / BA 60.

Oct 5 / Stones near Avignon / Bib Brit 24-295.

Oct 8 / Apt / (Fletcher).

Oct. 8 / Gordes (Vaucluse) / France / bet. 6 and 7 p.m. / "Some persons believed they felt an earth-
[Reverse side] quake." At Apt, an aerolite ha[d] fallen bet. 10 and 11 a.m. / Rept B Assoc 54/53 /
[Front side] Same as 5th?

Oct. 15 / Great floods / Madeira / Symons' 3-4.

Oct 28 / (Fr) / Nantes and Antwerp—q / Storm at Paris and Rouen and met seen. / BA '54.

Oct. 29 / Caucasia / I / [Light quake / BA 1911].

Nov. 13 / Met size moon / Edinburgh and London / BA 60 /
[Reverse side] L.T., Nov. 15-3-g / 16-3-d / 30-4-a.

Nov. 13 / 8:30 p.m. / "Very remarkable" fireball — England. / Mag. Pop Sci 3-61.

Nov 16 / Geneva / Fireball / BA '60.

Dec 12 / Mt. Blanc / 4:30 p.m. / Violently shaken and ice fell from it. / BA 54.

(To be continued)

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