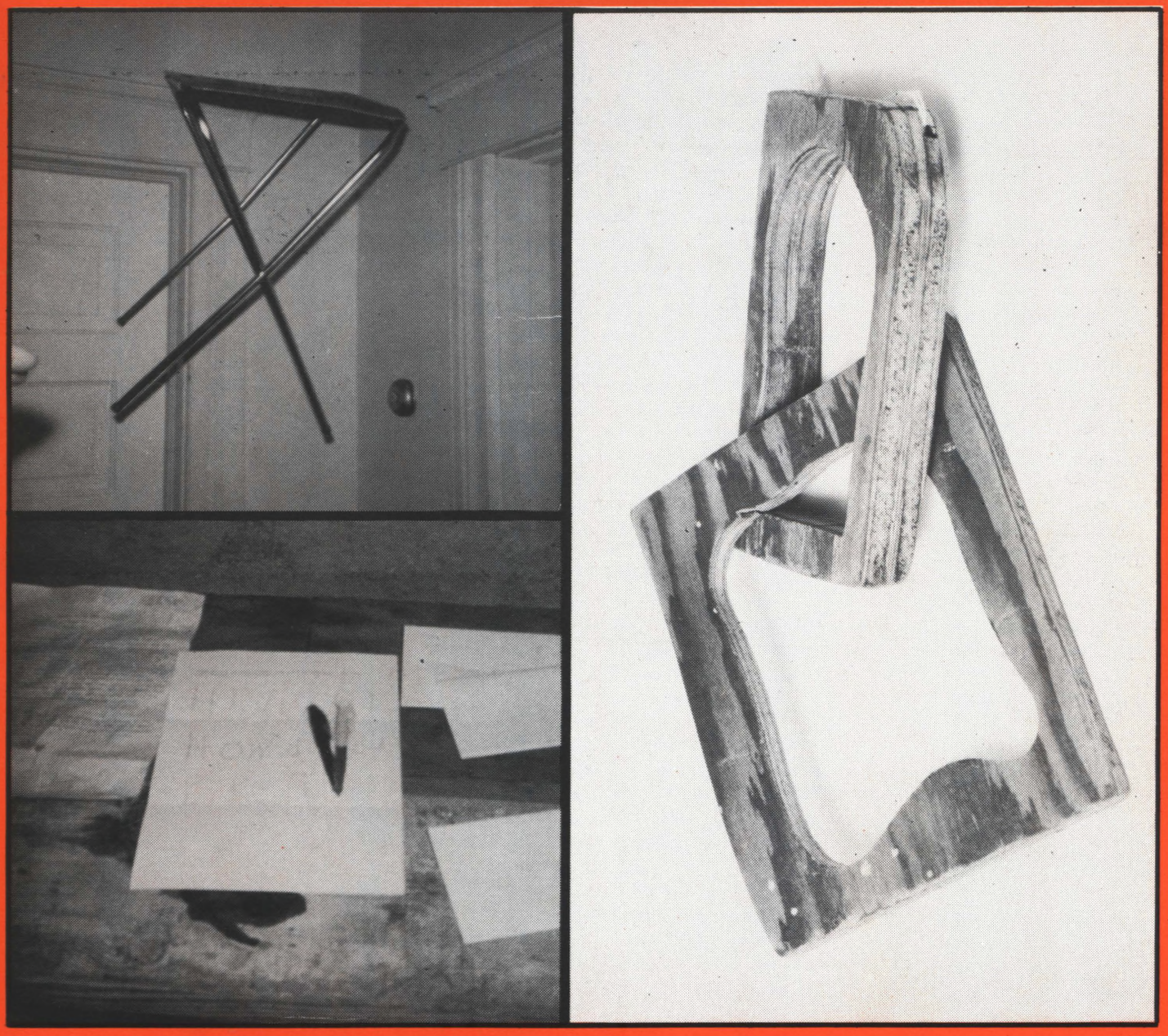
Pursuit

'Science is the Pursuit of the Unexplained'



Journal of SITU
The
Society for the
Investigation of
The Unexplained

"Some Recent Developments in the SORRAT Experiments" using telekinesis, **see page 160.**

Volume 18
Number 4
Whole No. 72
Fourth Quarter
1985

The Society For The Investigation Of The Unexplained

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THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE

Pursuit®

SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

'SCIENCE IS THE PURSUIT OF THE UNEXPLAINED'

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On Ice Falls

The three reports listed below on "ice falls" suggests to this writer that some attention should be directed to this phenomenon.

There have been numerous reports of falls of ice since the early 1950s. What is particularly interesting is that single chunks of ice weighing about 50 pounds on the average have been falling for centuries - long before commercial aircraft or mechanical ice-producing machines were widely used or even invented.

In recent years our younger Fortean researchers have tended to dismiss the whole matter because the media has explained the problem away, all too simply, that the ice chunks (particularly those with bluish-disinfectant or human-waste scented) were "simply the discharge of commercial aircraft toilets," because that is exactly how many of those frozen blobs have been analyzed. The airline industry wants no discussion on this sloppy means of disposal and the news media tends to attribute each such dropping as no longer being newsworthy unless, of course, property damage or personal injury is involved.

But, let's take a closer look.

In reviewing SITU's files on ice falls almost invariably individuals or homes

(continued on page 155)

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Ancient Mines In America

By Evan Hansen

Everyone, literally *everyone*, has dreamed at one time or another of finding a lost gold mine. If my dreams are different from the dreams of others, it is because I have always hoped that my find would also have historical value.

There is one other difference: I made my dream come true. If I had foreseen the problems involved, I might never have dared to begin. But now that the research has advanced thus far, I intend to follow further, to wherever it may lead, whether for profit or loss.

From my earliest childhood I have been fascinated by antiquity. The prehistory of America has been especially fascinating because we have virtually no information about how people lived in America before the arrival of the Spanish and the English, following the voyages of Columbus. During the last century, particularly in the last thirty years, archeology has made thousands of important finds that tell us a great deal about the material culture of early people; and, in a superficial way, anthropologists have studied living Indians enough to gain some understanding of their ancestral political, religious and social values.

But this is not history. History can be found only in written records, left behind by the people involved. Ask any archeologist, anthropologist or historian and the answer is always the same: the American Indian races were illiterate! Yet contrary evidence abounds. Some very ancient people, the Maya for example, had a system of writing (although the Maya system except for their calendar is still mostly unreadable). Nonetheless, it would seem a rare act of bravery for a member of the academic community to admit the literacy of any North American people.

Because of my fascination with antiquity, I jumped at the chance to gain first-hand experience with Indians and their rich traditions. In 1966 I was offered work in the VISTA program at Arizona State University. (VISTA is the domestic version of the Peace Corps, whose members go into impoverished areas abroad to help local people solve various community problems.) The job offer of helping to train VISTA volunteers for work in Indian reservations sounded like the answer to a prayer. The job was described as a constructive way to help Indians make better lives for themselves; it would provide close contact with living Indians; and it would be a great opportunity to study ancient ruins. It didn't take me long to sign up.

Sixty percent of the VISTA staff was Indian, and the director wisely let the Indians run the program. We non-Indians took the support positions. Our training was conducted on the Gila River Reservation southwest of Phoenix. We also visited most of the other Indian reservations in the Southwest. Whenever time allowed I made side-trips to nearby ruins. Few people have been in as fortunate position as I was to learn so much about another culture. Early on, I discovered that the Indian members of the staff were among the most admirable individuals I had ever met. I became very close to them. We worked well together and greatly enjoyed socializing during our free time.

It didn't take me long to realize that the ancient American Indians achieved a higher degree of material culture than the "experts" have been willing to admit. For example, next to most every ruin I found a typical museum with a typical painting that showed a bunch of dirty, naked savages going about their daily tasks; then, the very next display was a beautifully woven piece of cloth taken from the ruins. I have never understood why museum directors seem unable to associate cloth with clothing, when the truth is that the ancients were neither naked nor savage, and their culture was at least as advanced as that of our own ancestors of the same period.

It has been said that the Indians cut timbers with stone axes. Yet, in all the ruins I visited, I never found a timber that had been cut by a stone axe. Wherever the original timbers were intact and the ends left exposed, the wood obviously had been *sawed*; some of the heavier timbers in protected places showed scratches of the saw teeth. This could only mean that the people of a thousand years ago were using metal tools. Still, academic archeologists deny any ancient use of metal north of Mexico — other than the jewelry which had to be recognized when nuggets of pure copper and gold hammered into jewelry shapes were discovered.

Both the Anasazi and the Hohokam had the use of iron. When I found my first bits of primitive iron, I knew at once why archeologists could have a problem identifying it. Primitive iron is hand forged at below-melting temperatures. It contains impurities. When exposed to weathering it rusts into a shapeless lump. Only an outdoorsman with experience in prospecting can judge specific gravity by "hefting," and know whether such a lump is natural or the product of human hands and tools. If any doubt remains it can be dispelled by using a magnet. The only iron ore that is magnetic is magnetite, which doesn't rust. So any rusted lump that a magnet picks up must be of human manufacture.

Before my VISTA assignment ended I found a place where iron ore had been mined, and a Maricopa man told me of another that I didn't find. I also learned the location of two smelters, though I couldn't tell what kind of ore was refined because neither site had been excavated. I don't want to make these locations public for fear of vandalism, but any licensed archeologist willing to do an honest study will be given map directions upon request.

The religious and social values of the Indian people seemed even more worthy of admiration than the ancient ruins. One of the VISTA staff was a Navaho named Pete Zah, and I count him among the wisest of men. He was elected chairman in 1982. The first day of each training session was given over to Pete. He used the time to contrast Indian values and white men's motivation. I never tired of hearing his explanation of Indian social customs which seemed so closely akin to the precepts of Moses and likewise were in near-perfect harmony with the Constitution of the United States. After listening to Pete, I felt assured that if the great men of our culture — Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and even a "modern" like Thomas Jefferson — could be placed among traditional Navahos minus the constraint of languge barriers, The Similarities of Philosophy, moral behavior and attitudes toward life would immediately become clear to all.

Another staff member who contributed to this line of thought was Phil Cook, a Mohawk from New York State. Phil taught me that the U.S. Constitution was modeled after the Six Nation Iroquois Confederation. My own research later confirmed the truth of his teaching. Ben Franklin counseled his colleagues to take heed of the Iroquois Confederation as an example of a republican form of government working in America long before

the constitutional discussions began. Our system is strongly rooted in European Common Law, yet eighty percent of it has recognizable Iroquois counterparts. Instead of forcing constituents to conform to some Utopian ideal, both systems allow latitude for each group to pursue those interests which in its judgement seem the most important. We should be thankful for the many principles of European Common Law that still survive in the U.S. Constitution — and no less thankful to the Iroquois for showing how diverse groups of states and nations may reach a higher degree of civilization together than they could possibly achieve separately.

By the time my VISTA job ended I was totally convinced that the American races were as civilized as any in the Europe of those times. The similarity of governmental systems was so great that it seemed certain both had grown from an older, common root, probably seeded by transatlantic contacts. Certainly anyone who has lived among Indians would describe their primary racial stock as Asian. But it's apparent that many European features also have survived. I have met Indians who look totally European, yet insist they have only American ancestry. It is not unusual to see both types in the same family. If there is no European ancestry within memory, the European features were probably an inheritance from mixed marriages in ancient times.

If these are reasonable assumptions, why should transatlantic contacts before Columbus be thought impossible? Naval historians know that Bronze Age ships were superior to Medieval ships. If Columbus could make it, those Bronze Age ships could make it, too! The Bible tells us (II Chronicles, 9:21) that Solomon entered into an alliance with Hiram, the Phoenician king of Sidon and Tyre, to launch a joint expedition around Africa; the venture took three years to complete. About 600 B.C. the Egyptian Pharaoh Necho sent a similar three-year expedition around Africa. In 450 B.C. another Phoenician expedition, led by Himilco, visited northern Europe, while Hanno used 60 ships and 30,000 people to plant colonies in western Africa.

Not only the Phoenicians but also the Greeks, Libyans, Egyptians and other Mediterranean nationalities had navies of impressive size and long reach. When we think of their ships exploring the seas we realize how inevitably America would be "discovered" not once but many times, either by intent or by accident. Storms break masts and rudders. Unskilled navigators push beyond their ability to find the way back home. Bad weather blocks out sun and stars while deceptive currents carry ships off course. There is no improbability of America being discovered repeatedly; what is impossible to believe is that America would not have been discovered as far back as men built ships to sail the oceans.

Starting about thirty years ago, historians began to support the theory of the Viking discovery of America by Leif Ericson. Although a few still voice skepticism, the majority of historians seem convinced that repeated Viking contact with America started around A.D. 1000. No wonder, then, that so many Iroquois have European features ... and that the authors of an American history textbook published in 1979 were able to fill three pages with a list of Norse words found in the Iroquois languages. If we agree that many of Leif's followers must have married Asians who were already here, the source from which the Iroquois obtained the European Common Law becomes evident.

Because Leif's expedition reached America long before the Norse adopted Christianity, the political system they brought here was the ancient European Common Law rather than Roman imperialism, which was transmitted along with Christianity. Rome was originally ruled by Common Law, but after sanctioning an empire, the Roman senate relinquished most of its powers to the emperor and the Roman Conquest spread imperial government throughout most of Europe. Only the Norse and the Celtic tribes of England retained the ancient republican form — though eventually even these two holdouts adopted imperial law. If the republican form of government hadn't been preserved in America by the Iroquois, there would have been no example for Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson to copy.

But what of the Navaho? How could they get the same system? Historians agree that the Navaho are recent arrivals from Siberia; even Hopi traditons say so. I am not aware of any historian who places the Navaho arrival in America more than a thousand years ago. The best evidence suggests they were refugees from Genghis Khan. Now Genghis was noted for many things, but humanitarian government was never one of them. So how did the Navaho get their knowledge? Did their ancient traditions date back to some time *before* Genghis? Or was it the by-product of marriages of newcomers and people who were already here — people who had republican government? If so, who were these people?

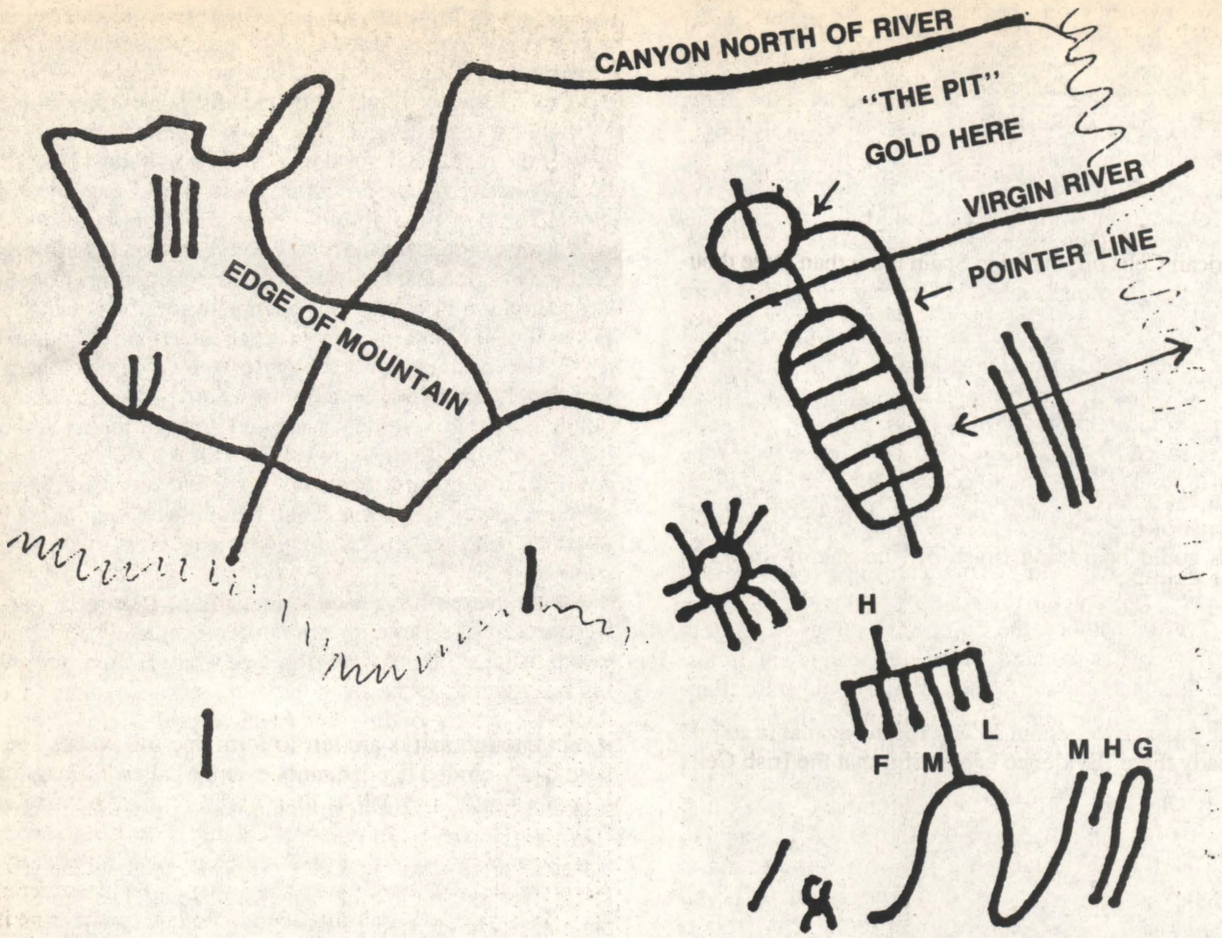
As my search for answers intensified, I learned that others were asking the same questions. Unfortunately, none seemed aware of what others were doing or what, if anything, was being discovered. Honest scholarship consists of many independent researchers finding facts and *sharing* them. When many finds are combined, a comprehensible picture emerges. To Barry Fell belongs much of the credit for bringing together many individual finds and for developing some of our best knowledge about early American people.

Barry Fell formed The Epigraphic Society about ten years ago. In England during World War II he had studied the old Celtic language. He learned to recognize Ogam writing — a script widely used in Europe before the Roman Conquest. After returning to America he found some inscribed rocks written in Ogam script. Soon after his first translations were published he was deluged with photographs and tracings of similar writings from all over the country, sent to him by people who wanted to know what the writings meant. Some of the specimens he could read; others seemed to defy translation. He called in other experts in ancient writing and together they reviewed the specimens, having agreed that most were authentic. There were enough clear examples to justify a planned study, so the ad hoc group formally organized and applied for a charter which was promptly granted to The Epigraphic Society.

Originally the society worked out of Harvard University, but the headquarters was moved to California in order to gain closer contact with areas of the West which had produced the clearest writings and other locations which seemed likely to yield additional examples of good quality.[1]

When I first learned that such a society existed, that its interest in antiquity was similar to mine, I joined immediately. The first society publication sent to me included a word list in the Takhelne language. The Takhelne are a tribe in western Canada whose language contains so many Celtic words that it might fairly be called a Celtic dialect. As I scanned the list I immediately recognized many *Navaho* words. I wasn't in the VISTA program long enough to learn to speak even one full sentence in Navaho, but I did pick up a lot of the vocabulary. If someone of my limited knowledge could so easily find many words common to Celtic and Navaho, just think how many more a skilled linguist could find!

If the Navaho originated in Siberia, how did they pick up Celtic words? Obviously, the only way would be from marriage with Celts who were already here when they arrived. But the



basic Navaho language traces to the western region of the Himalaya mountains, so scratch the possibility of contact with Celts before the Navahos reached America. Suddenly, it all started to fit: Traditional Navaho customs are similar to our own values because the American Celts brought European Common Law with them, and when they and the Navahos intermarried, the Navaho adopted these values as their own.

Barry Fell has many critics in the established historical and archeological community. Yes, he does make mistakes, but because of my personal experience with Indians in my VISTA job, I know him to be mostly right. Discovering the close fit of his translations to Navaho words removed any doubt I may have felt earlier about the reliability of his work.

A few months after joining The Epigraphic Society I found a petroglyph (rock writing) in Snow Canyon State Park, just north of St. George, Utah. I sent photos to Fell, and he confirmed my suspicion that the writing was Ogam. He identified a couple of easy words but declined to risk a full reading because he feared the inscription might be a mere copy made by some illiterate tribesman who happened to find the rock long after the original inscription had been cut. Some of the Ogam spelling was wrong and the surface was scored with many marks that obviously were not writing. At Fell's suggestion, I searched the vicinity for the "original" but found nothing like it within several miles. The few inscriptions I did find were not Ogam writing.

I have good reasons for believing that my petroglyph *is* the original. Its antiquity is clear. A great amount of erosion has occurred from the action of wind and rain, even though the petroglyph is in a reasonably well-protected place. About two-thirds of the lettering has been worn away; only remnants of isolated lines show that the whole cliff was once inscribed. Some sections of the remaining part also have eroded beyond hope of recovery. A mineral stain called patina has leaked out of the rock, darkening it. Although this is another indication of great age, the stain inside some of the grooves has almost merged the lettering with the discolored background of rock. Good photos can be made only when the sun is at enough of an angle to put shadows in the grooves.

I had nothing to lose by making mistakes, so I memorized the Ogam alphabet, gave English sounds to the marks, and by comparing them to published lists of words found at other sites I attempted my own translation. There were just enough words to confirm that the language was Celtic, but not enough to identify a dialect.

Ogam script was preserved into historic times in Irish monasteries, a deceptive path which led some language experts to identify Ogam as nothing more than a game devised by bored monks as a pastime. Other experts called the script found inscribed on rocks in Ireland a real system of writing that ancient peoples used for a considerable period. The Encyclopaedia Brittanica lists an "Ogham," but this refers to the Medieval verson of Ogam as it was preserved in the monasteries; it differs slightly from the older Ogam from which it developed.

Fell claims that Ogam script originated as "finger talk" among priests who wanted to communicate with each other without the congregations knowing it. They would hold up from one to all five fingers of the right hand, or left hand, or both hands, each finger symbolizing a sound. This provided a system of fifteen sounds; vowels were not used, and similar sounds, such as F-V, shared one symbol. Eventually the people discovered what their priests were up to, so the system was converted into writing by using a stemline for the body and short diagonal lines for fingers.

Many linguists still reject Ogam as "real writing," and of those who accept it as real, almost all insist it was used only in Ireland and only during Medieval times. A very few are open-minded enough to acknowledge its use in the Bronze Age and worldwide. Actually, Ogam writing has been found all over Europe and North America, and in such unlikely places as South Africa and Japan.

From his reading of American inscriptions, Fell determined that the American Celts originated in Spain more than three thousand years ago; their writings embedded Iberian words that were used only at that time and place. It still is too early to make a history from such fragmentary information, but a rough outline is starting to take shape. Phoenicians, Greeks, Libyans and many others followed the Celts to America. The frequent crossings continued until Julius Caesar destroyed the Celtic navy in 55 B.C. In his *Gallic Wars,* Caesar reported that Celtic ships were far superior to his own. But the Romans won by cutting the rigging to the sails of the Celtic ships, disabling them so that infantry squads could board and finish off the enemy crews in hand-to-hand fighting.

The Celtic ships certainly had capability for crossing oceans. As for what followed the destruction of their navy, the Celtic seafarers who avoided capture or death returned to their home ports just long enough to gather up families and a few possessions and take passage to Ireland by any means available,to join relatives already there. Evidence is plentiful that the Irish Celts emigrated from Spain, arriving in considerable numbers during the first century B.C. Only Ireland and the Baltic regions escaped the bloodied hands of the Roman conquerors who subjugated all the rest of Europe in the days of the Caesars.

With these bits of historical information as background, I tried reading the petroglyph I had found. Irish vocabulary was used as the basis of translation, but another dialect, such as Welsh, might have been adequate. My petroglyph doesn't have enough words to identify which dialect was involved, and ancient words are never quite the same as "modern equivalents." All that's safe to say about my find is that the language is Celtic and ancestral to Irish.

Once I had memorized the Ogam alphabet I was able to pick out a few simple words. One vertical line read MBMS; since Mabimos was a proper name meaning "heroic," I assumed it to be the name of the writer. Although a few other matters of interest were noted, no real progress was made until the spring of 1983 when it became clear that the petroglyph was a *map*! The "unreadable marks" were actually mapping symbols and the "incorrect" Ogam spelling no mistake but rather a secret code. The probable reason for using a code was to conceal information about mines.

Another curious thing about this writing is that most words are readable as Celtic, yet there is one rebus of a goat or sheep which is Norse Ogam. Lines along the back are correct Ogam, but read as GD-DLG or *ged dilk*. Fell said this was Norse and meant "ewe with lamb." A figure under the belly reads BG, which is apparently the buck. Clearly, this is a fertility figure, a kind of prayer in stone for a big lamb-crop, although we cannot determine whether the intended reference was to domestic animals or to animals hunted.

The petroglyph is written in four panels separated by natural cracks in the rock. Each part maps a different area — nearby each other but not directly connected. The two center panels seem to be repeats of the same area. The right center panel is in Celtic Ogam and is mostly intact. The left center panel seems to be a repeat, but it is probably written in Tifinag, the script used by the Norse before they adopted runes. As for reading

Norse Ogam sheep rebus.

it, not enough marks are left to form one full word. The script is so badly eroded that it cannot even be called Tifinag for sure. I suspected Tifinag rather than another script of similar configuration because of the Norse Ogam sheep rebus, but the only mark on this panel that can be identified with certainty is the Virgin River. We may never confirm a Norse presence among the Celts, yet the possibility should be mentioned here if only to alert others to seek evidence of an alliance.

I am not publishing the information given on the center panels because it reveals the location of most of the mines. The last thing we need at this time is a zillion gold-mad prospectors going in there to tear things up. The location data should not be disclosed until investigations are completed and legal protection of all the sites is assured.

The left end panel. The five lines inside the circle are the Celtic word for gold.

The right end panel of the petroglyph. The circle inside a half circle represents two volcanoes. The zigzag line is a 900' fault scarp.

The right end panel includes the southwest corner of Utah between the Santa Clara River and the Virgin River. More than two dozen marks correlate with the actual topography. A modern map has been marked with the corresponding petroglyph marks. Publishing such a map in a magazine requires severe reduction, and much detail is lost, but it is nevertheless convincing that the correlations do exist.

The left end panel covers the Virgin River Gorge in northwestern Arizona. Instead of a map, an aerial photo corresponding to the petroglyph is referenced, making it easier to find correlations than on a map. One gold mine is located here, and exact details of how to find it are given since it is inside a "Wilderness Area" and thus fully protected by law.

There is no need to bore the reader with details of how the mapping code was cracked. The key was knowing that a rebus of a hand could be read as an Ogam word. The right end panel has a drawing of the left hand with all fingers extended. Using this as the original "finger talk," the five fingers read as N. A vertical line crossing the palm reads as M. (I had been reading this as MANO, the Spanish word for "hand," with thanks to Barry Fell for his assertion that the American Celts originated in Spain. But a new word-list was published which showed two dialects of Spanish-Celtic language; in both dialects the word for hand was given as LAM, as in Irish, so my translation was wrong. Evidently MANO entered the Spanish vocabulary from a non-Celtic source.)

On checking the MN words I discovered that MINE is a Celtic word that entered English intact. This wasn't surprising, for Celtic is one of the parent languages of English. One dialect spelled it as MINA, the other as MEIN, but because Ogam had no vowels, the symbolic spelling MN was common to both.

Utah is full of lost-mine stories. A century ago many a fortune was started when someone dug out a collapsed mine shaft and found rich ore inside. These mines were always regarded as "Spanish," and indeed, Spanish pack trains were still carrying out gold ore when the Mormons arrived in Utah. But what if the mines were older? For that matter, how did the Spanish *conquistadores* manage to locate so many rich mines? Did they perhaps inherit treasure-maps from their forefathers? Is it possible those ancient Celts had mines in America during the Bronze Age, and upon returning to Europe, left maps so future generations could follow in their footsteps?

The word list provided another clue: MEINA was the Celtic word for "worm." Evidently the term originated as a slur, meaning that people who go into the earth are worms. If this holds true, MN could also refer to any opening into the earth, even a natural cave. It may have been just a lucky guess, but this thought aroused my expectations of finding a natural cave, for that is what the hand-rebus was marking!

After weeks of studying the map symbols, I felt ready to risk a search for the MN. I talked my brother into going with me; and, amazingly, we walked right to it on the first try, as easily as if we had been guided by a modern map. Exactly where we expected the site to be was a natural cave formed by water erupting under a lava flow. The geology was wrong for gold or other metals, but it seemed ideal for gemstones. The sand in the stream bed contained plenty of pinhead-size crystals, perfectly clear and quite hard. If flowing water was covered by a lava flow, the steam produced would form a cave, and this would be sealed by the lava, holding in the heat and pressure. The water would dissolve out silica and other minerals, and the steam bubbles would form vug holes. Very slow cooling would cause the dissolved minerals to precipitate out as gems, not as silicate rocks. The cave entrance was mostly blocked by flood-debris, but a narrow opening remained and cold wind was coming out — evidence of a huge cavern in back of the blockage, big enough to respond to changes in air pressure. Conditions would be ideal for gems to form.

The natural cave I believed to have been a gem mine.

Our search around the cave was successful. We found a stone 5/8" long and clear as glass. It proved equal hardness to topaz. Apparently it was a fragment broken from a much larger crystal, so it couldn't be identified by crystalline structure. I thought it might be beryl, but the ancient Celts would have prized it if it had been nothing more than hard quartz. Any clear stones, from quartz to diamonds, had a religious use; perhaps that is why they were called "sunstones." Although such stones have

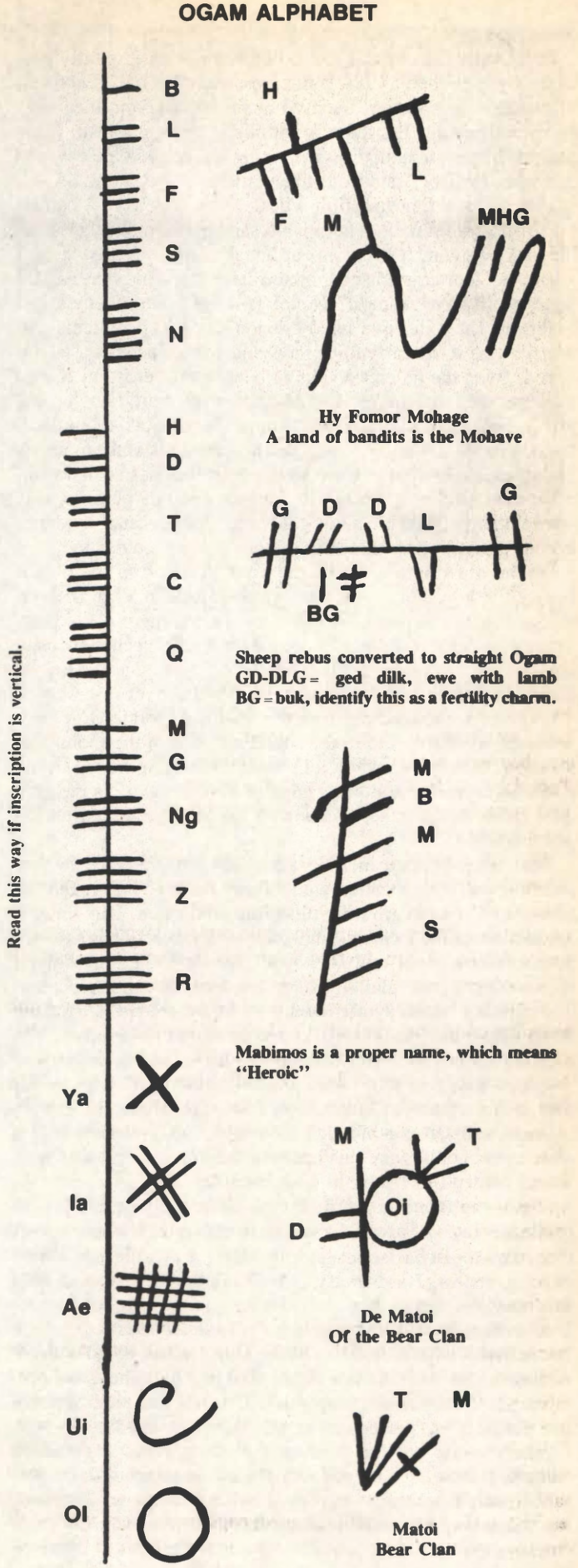
no similar value in today's world, I was glad the ancients found mining them worthwhile, and was most pleased that they left such good clues to one of their mining sites. It may be just coincidence but the location is called Diamond Valley. The source for the name is unknown; perhaps someone found crystals in the cave as we did, and mistakenly assumed them to be diamonds.

It was time to get serious about the petroglyph. I started contacting archeologists but none would answer my letters. I bought some better film for my camera and shot several sets of petroglyph photos from various angles, trying to identify all the marks under the best-available lighting conditions. After several months of study I came up with the Celtic word for gold. The inscription was badly eroded, but rubbing green foliage into the grooves allowed the true forms to be photographed.

The Celtic word for gold is OR. The reference had been deliberately encoded by placing the R inside the OI diphthong, then adding map symbols to form a rebus roughly like a man. I had already cracked the mapping code, but it took me several more weeks to locate the area and find modern maps to prove the identification correct. Then our winter set in and the weather blocked all off-highway travel; it was March before we dared continue our search.

The pit marked on the left end panel.

Surprisingly, the second mine was easier to find than the first. The site is only a half-mile off the I-15 freeway, and a good dirt road runs just below it. Exactly at the site marked on the petroglyph there is a huge pit cut out of solid rock. It measures 40 feet long, 35 feet wide, 15 feet deep at the back, and 5 feet deep at the front. The prevailing wind blows from the southwest, and the north and east sides are wind-eroded to a depth of more than 5 feet. Erosion also caused a huge slab to fall from the northeast edge; it now fills half the pit. A similar slab appears to be buried under dirt washed from the hill above. The southwest corner is protected from wind by the lip of the pit, and here the floor of the mine shaft is still exposed. It dips down into the earth at about a 45-degree angle. The natural fissure is filled with gossan, and the miners apparently followed the gossan seam as their floor. Gossan is a natural iron compound; it looks like ordinary rust, has no value in itself, but comes associated with other metals and is a reliable indicator of their



presence nearby.

Because this site is inside a Wilderness Area, it is fully protected by the federal 1984 Wilderness Act. No one is allowed to excavate here except licensed archeologists, and then only by special permit. But there is nothing to prevent a visit; if the reader's interest in antiquity is anything like mine, a look around this place will be found most rewarding.[2]

The visitor's first question will be, Can this have a natural cause? It is solid rock. There is no salt, gypsum or other soluble rock below it. It is not an earthquake fault. Clearly, it isn't a volcano, nor could it be a meteorite crater. So what natural force could have made it? None! If it isn't natural, men had to dig it. The extensive wind-erosion dates it to millenia ago — my guess is to nearly three thousand years since it was abandoned. Even the fallen slab shows centuries of erosion. If men made it, they did the job before explosives were known, and just pounded out the rock with simple hand tools. Men don't do such brutal work unless they gain something of value to justify the effort. And what is there in the rock that has such worth, other than gold or silver? Add the fact that this pit is exactly where the petroglyph said gold was found, and evidence becomes convincing that this was an ancient gold mine.

On the drawing are marks too faint to show on the photo. Notice the long horizontal line representing the Virgin River. It jogs southward just before leaving the mountain. The body of the rebus gives the Celtic word for gold, OR, spelled by placing the Ogam R inside the OI. The "head" represents the Beaver Dam Mountain. A short canyon reaches the river just west of a long canyon extending from the south. A pointer line connects the word for gold to the southeast edge of the mountain. Reading the map as a whole, it shows that east of the jog, north of the river, on the southeast edge of the mountain, is the gold mine. This is the exact location of the pit, as marked on the aerial photo.

The mines I found in 1983 and 1984 are protected by law and to reveal their location would bring them no harm. But the sites found in 1985 are still vulnerable, and again, I am unwilling to disclose the locations until their legal protection is assured. Searches conducted in 1985 found five sites. The petroglyph shows eight mines, and all except one have now been located. The missing one is symbolized on a badly eroded part of the stone where the location marks are no longer discernible. The location cannot be closer than five miles — and in country as rough as this, five miles may as well be fifty. All I know for sure is that the site must be west of Mokaac Mountain. By using common-sense geology, I have eliminated places where a mine could not be, and this has helped to narrow the search — which I intend to renew in good weather.

Site 1 was found in April. It took all of the first day just to find roads into the area I wanted to investigate. It took another three days to get back out again, including a 14-mile hike I hope never to repeat. Hard as it was to reach the site, finding gold was easy. Within an hour of walking I found a yellow quartz breccia that obviously was gold ore; the site was exactly where I expected it would be. Most of the samples had no gold; those with gold yielded just a few flakes. But two rocks held real promise. The first was about egg-size. Crushed and panned down to a pinch, it was placed in a small glass jar with a bit of water. Gentle shaking put the gold on the glass where it could be studied. It took a 5X magnifying glass to see the big flakes and a 12X glass to see the small ones. I quit counting after 30 flakes, but there may be twice that number because even the most careful shaking cannot put all the gold on the glass at the same time.

The second rock was even richer. I could see gold in the rock before crushing, so 1/3 pound was weighed for panning. After panning five times, a few flakes could still be seen in the original sample. The concentrate had too many flakes to count, probably more than a thousand. But another corner of the same rock gave only 12 flakes. Such erratic results suggest that a lot more work must be done to find the source of this gold. But gold *was found* — at the exact location indicated on the petroglyph. However, no old diggings were discovered, so no photographs were taken. Either the ancients considered the site so well-hidden that it couldn't be found without further clues, or they found the gold and put it on the map but didn't mine it. The fact that there is no water within miles could have been the compelling reason for them to do only a little prospecting here before moving to another location where mining would be easier.

Site 2 - The entrance to the 18" tunnel. Author believes it cannot be natural.

Site 2 has two vertical fissures on the rock, 18 inches apart, with fractured rock between them. Gold-bearing solutions have infiltrated the fissures and put gold *on* the rock rather than within it. Even gentle handling will knock gold off rock; thus the gold content may be richer here than tests indicate. My richest sample from Site 2 had one flake big enough to see without magnification, plus a half-dozen smaller flakes.

Someone dug out all the rock between the fissures, leaving a tunnel only 18 inches wide. Even a small man would be unable to turn around inside 18 inches without hunching his shoulders. Swinging tools would be torture. The only reason anyone would try might be that his tools were so crude that pounding out sterile rock seemed more difficult than tolerating narrow working space. If explosives were available, a first thought would be to put a few shots on one sidewall to gain space. The absence of on-site evidence that this was ever done is a clear indication that the pit was dug before explosives came into use.

After the tunnel was holed through, it was backfilled with earth hauled up from the bottom of the canyon. The entrance was then concealed with a cover of broken rock from the surrounding ledges. It was so perfectly hidden that no one discovered it during a century of prospecting throughout the area. I will not say how we found it, except to note that it was marked on the original "map."

The dust from the dirt we disturbed had settled enough to allow a beam from a flashlight to reach back over 20 feet — far enough indeed to dispel any doubt that human digging produced this tunnel; but the motive for backfilling was less apparent. Carrying the fill from the bottom of the canyon was too much work to be done on a whim. I can think of only two possible intentions: The diggers may have left gold inside and had plans to return for future mining; or, they may have used the tunnel to bury the dead. By day or by night, an 18-inch tunnel is dark inside. Miners would have had to carry torches for light. Charcoal would scatter on the floor, and charcoal would yield a radiocarbon date. The tunnel is worth opening just to get firm dates for the mining. Any artifacts recovered would be a bonus.

By the time my study had reached this stage I was able to get TV coverage. June 24 was the date of a short documentary broadcast by KSL-TV, Salt Lake City, as part of their "Prime Time Access" feature. My hope was that by showing what was found, I might get at least one archeologist motivated enough to answer my letters. But after four more months I am still waiting; no professional archeologist has expressed interest, offered to investigate my finds, or asked for additional information.

During the taping of this documentary I showed the 18-inch tunnel and the pit inside the Wilderness Area confine. The producer had me scrape gossan off the rock with my knife, just to have something to show. I put the scrapings in my pocket and the next day tested them for gold. I got 12 flakes! On my next trip I took samples of gossan along the full length of the fissure. Only one sample held gold, but there were at least a thousand flakes. On a later trip, the rock above the gossan was found to hold a few flakes, just barely enough to see. Unquestionably, gold does occur in that pit. But why many samples show no gold, and why those with gold are so rich, are questions still to be answered — perhaps only by a geologist with gold-hunting experience.

Site 3 - This square hole is 4' across and 6' deep, it may be natural.

Site 3 has a square-cut tunnel; it is only 4 feet wide and 6 feet deep. There are signs of geothermal activity. We must consider the possibility of a natural formation. I have seen plenty of holes formed in rock by steam explosions, but a square hole? I have never seen a square hole that was created by natural forces. This site has other evidence of ancient human presence, including the trail that leads to it. But such evidence is uncertain.

My samples from Site 3 had gold, but only a few flakes that may have been the result of contamination. When good gold ore is crushed, a few flakes hang up in the mortar no matter how carefully the vessel is washed after a test. But my best sample from this site was not crushed, so it couldn't be contaminated. Natural pockets in the rock held sand deposited by the geothermal water, and my best gold from Site 3 came from a pocket of this sand. On the basis of present observation, my guess is that Site 3 was operated just long enough to dig out the sand pockets left by the geothermal water; once the diggers reached solid rock, they quit because they knew no gold would be deeper than the sand pockets.

Site 4 - Mining was done by cutting away the face of the ore body instead of tunneling.

Sites 4 and 5 are marked by mine symbols overlapping each other, indicating mines on both sides of the same canyon. When I finally reached this location I found the most conclusive evidence of all: Instead of tunneling, the miners had cut off the entire face of the ore body. The ore layer is the mud of an ancient lake bed. It is exposed on both sides of the canyon. Wherever this layer of rock is visible it shows clear signs of being dug by primitive tools. The wind-erosion is extensive and offers evidence that more than a few centuries have elapsed since the site was abandoned. Many places are dug back so far that overhung rock has fallen. One place still has the overhang intact, yet it is dug back more than 20 feet. Modern miners were in here a bit more than 30 years ago; they put in several short tunnels and built several bulldozer roads. At first I feared they had destroyed all evidence of ancient mining, and much indeed was destroyed. To my delight, however, a more careful search beyond the ends of the bulldozed truck roads showed the old diggings still intact for enough distance to support a conclusion that ancient mining was done here.

Gold was the primary metal mined in this area, but at the site of modern mining, copper was the attraction. Because copper ore is green, the geology of copper deposition is easily seen. The ore layer is about 50 feet thick and is composed of very thin layers, none measuring more than 4 inches thick. A

rainstorm may bring in copper, yet the layers above remain totally sterile. Despite the thinness of the layers, the ore is rich. Typical chunks assayed at 6.25% copper, and a few were even richer. Certainly, ore of this quality was plenty rich enough for primitive smelters to use effectively.

Methodically the miners dug away the sterile rock above the copper-ore layer, then pried off the ore in hand-sized chunks which they piled nearby and later sorted out. The rich ore was taken away and the low-grade ore again placed in piles, some of which still remain nearby. After the ledge below the copper ore was broken off and thrown down the hill, the process started over again.

The copper is found only in one place, but gold is present wherever the ore layer is exposed. The copper can be seen in the rock because of its green color, but gold in the rock is invisible. However, it is reasonable to expect that in this ancient lake bed, the gold will be deposited in thin layers just as the copper is. Each rain adds mud to the lake bottom. Rain from one direction may bring in copper; from another direction it may bring gold or silver, yet from still other directions the mud may carry nothing. Most copper layers are about an inch thick, though quite rich. If the gold is in equally thin layers, and the ore body is 50 feet thick, selecting the right samples for testing can be difficult.

Site 5 is about 50' below Site 4. This is undeniably an ancient digging on a seam of copper ore. Note the rock hammer placed on the copper layer.

In one section a certain layer at the very top of the ore-body where it contacts the overhead limestone is dug back as far as a man can reach. Samples taken from this cut are so rich that gold occurs in bits of rock as small as a peanut. But these are the smallest flakes of gold I have found anywhere. It takes a 16X glass to see them, and the weight of gold doesn't add up to much. An assay of this rock gave .05 ounces of gold per ton of rock. Silver in the sampling was zero. The copper sample assaying 6.25% was also tested for gold and silver; it had .002 in gold, which is about as little as can be measured, but silver gave .08 ounce. Gold, silver, copper and a few other metals usually come from the same source, but in this situation each metal deposited apparently has a source unrelated to other metals.

If the gold is in layers as thin as the copper, and these are found throughout a 50-foot layer, the reason why it is so hard to select the right test samples becomes obvious. Most rock will be found totally sterile, but inches away, it may have several ounces of gold. The sites on the west side of the canyon seem especially hard to evaluate. My first tests of west-side rock yielded no gold, and only three chunks out of a coffee can full of samples were found to have gold.

I am the first to admit that all this raises serious problems with my theory about these mines being truly ancient. Good gold ore was presumably plentiful three thousand years ago. Why would miners of those times bother with low-grade stuff? Was this just the first gold they found, and was the site abandoned when layers of better ore were discovered? Could this rock hold something they needed but wasn't gold? Assuming they knew of rich layers which I have yet to find, how did *they* find them? Only the evidence of extensive ancient digging gives reason to suspect that gold was sought. The deepest cuts are where I am finding gold. But I need a 16X glass to see it, even when looking for good samples to test. How was the gold detected in ancient times? Did the searchers have magnifying lenses?

Thinking back to 1983, when I discovered what I assumed was a gem mine, the stone I found was remarkably hard, clear, and free of internal flaws. Undeniably such material could be used to make a lens. The big question is whether there were primitive technicians who knew how to grind and polish a magnifying lens. Most emphatically, this is not to say that they made or used lenses; I only ask the question. But think what it would mean to history if lenses were found inside one of those ancient mines!

Such speculations may seem far-fetched, but in no way do they belie the facts: the petroglyph proved a reliable guide to seven of the eight locations it mapped; and all the sites inspected showed many signs of ancient digging with the use of only simple hand tools.

Although my first solid evidence dates back to 1983, I have delayed this report because the questions raised have generated still more questions but few answers. Now the 1985 discoveries offer impetus to public discussion and further investigation with review by qualified professionals. Take caution, however, that all the evidence is far from "in." The only certainty about this study is that new conclusions must continue to be reached as new evidence is found. I hesitate to publish this even now, because once something sees print, it takes on the aura of "holy writ;" future changes, although necessary, can be difficult and sometimes the backlash discredits an entire study.

Winter has come to Utah and no new finds can be made before spring. To move this investigation onto the next stage, a licensed archeologist must be found — one who is open-minded, willing, and able to excavate some of my finds, to see if artifacts lie buried under the collapsed roofs of the mines. I am restrained by law from doing my own digging. Even if I were to do it, the "Columbus-was-first" Old Guard would probably accuse me of planting artifacts to promote a fake. So I have written this preliminary report for two reasons:

First, I hope that some open-minded licensed archeologist will offer to judge all the evidence on its merits instead of rejecting it because the textbooks don't say anything about Bronze Age Celts in America.

My second reason for publishing this now is to invite participation by all people who walk the hills. If Celts actually had mines here in Utah, they presumably had mines elsewhere. They may have left dozens of stone maps around the country. Anyone who loves to hike has an equal chance of finding one.

If you know of a petroglyph that may be such a map, I will do everything I can to help you prove it. If it leads to an ancient mine, I would ask no finder's fee but would support to the best of my experience and ability such legal application as you may make to competent authority for permission to mine and remove from the site the ore therein remaining. (The Antiquities Act now requires miners to enter the vein from enough distance to bypass the ancient workings, and to do all else to make sure these are left intact.) Additionally, I reserve to myself full publication rights in order to add evidence, information and expert opinion to my ongoing reports; however, you would be free to write a personal story or otherwise disseminate news about your participation in the venture.

But before you take me up on this offer, consider the obstacles. It won't be any easier for you than it has been for me, and you may not think the reward worth the hassle. But who knows? Your find could be a real bonanza. As for me, I've gone in so deep that I'm now hooked and can't let go. Look for an update about a year from now. Meanwhile, please mail comments, questions and/or suggestions to:

—Evan Hansen
RFD Box 15
Beryl, Utah 84714

[1]Readers who may be interested in joining The Epigraphic Society or who wish to submit material for translation may contact Barry Fell, c/o The Epigraphic Society, 6625 Bamburgh Drive, San Diego, CA 92117; phone (619) 571-1344.

[2]How to get there: The I-15 freeway between Las Vegas, Nevada and St. George, Utah, which crosses the northwest corner of Arizona, is marked by mileposts starting at the Nevada-Arizona border. Between mileposts 18 and 19, about 10 miles from the Utah border, there is a camp-ground called Cedar Pockets. An overpass crosses the freeway, allowing access from both lanes. Turn off at this overpass, but instead of heading for the camp-ground, proceed north on the dirt road. About a half-mile from the freeway, where the canyon narrows, the pit will be seen east of the road. (Pull over far enough to allow trucks to pass on their way to and from the gypsum mine a mile north.) An easy climb will reach the pit.

Ice Falls *(continued from page 145)*

have been hit directly or nearly hit. And this is a common factor in the phenomenon. The witness is close to the nearby fall of a single chunk of ice.

We have virtually no report of a fall of multiple chunks or a series of falls of individual chunks of ice (i.e. in a straight line) in one area or even in various areas on the same day.

There have been unusual reports of "hailstones" as those which fell in 1936 near Langtsi in China allegedly weighing 100 to 500 pounds. And, a fall of smaller hailstones in the Gujrat district of West Pakistan where at least 32 people and hundreds of cattle were killed on April 30, 1957 by stones weighing up to half a pound which piled up a foot deep.

There are "hailstone alleys" where weather currents in storms form ice on particles of solid matter and air currents repeatedly sweep the enlarging ice formations up and down atmospherically until the ice can no longer be retained by wind updrafts.

Anyone who has watched newsreels of air bombing in World War II can understand that an object falls at the same moving speed as the craft that drops it and is directly underneath the craft on impact with the ground. In some cases of ice falls aircraft are reported somewhere above but let's look at the "Mercer Co. Ice Fall" (below).

The chunk of ice fell at an airport - an acres-wide area with many persons conscious of overhead air traffic and weather conditions. No other ice chunk was reported to have fallen anywhere nearby. After all, a one-foot thick chunk of ice does not form alone on a plane's wing. There was no storm in the area and no plane was heard or, at least, reported overhead. The ice was apparently not a toilet discharge.

There are two major international airports near Mercer Co. Do commercial or passenger aircraft need to discharge their presumably near-empty toilets on take-off or to discharge possibly full toilets just prior to landing?

Who can account for all those reports of pure water ice-chunk falls that are not under airplane routes or that occurred centuries ago and that just do not fit conventional media explanations?

• • •

Giant Ice Ball Falls From Sky

A basketball-size piece of ice that fell from an airplane missed a Mercer County Airport employee by inches before it tore a gaping hole in an aircraft wing and shattered, officials say.

Ross White of Trenton, N.J., a Ronson Aviation employee, said he was refueling a plane here yesterday when the ice chunk whizzed by about five inches from his head.

"It sounded like an explosion," said White, who was standing on a ladder at the time.

"I didn't know what in the world was going on. I jumped off the ladder as fast as I could and looked up at the sky. I just wanted to get out of the way before something else happened," he said.

George Michaels, an investigator with the Federal Aviation Administration's Philadelphia office, theorized that the clump of ice formed on the wings of a large aircraft passing high over the airport.

Ice sometimes accumulates on planes as they pass through moisture at a very high, cold altitude.

SOURCE: (AP) Asbury Park *Press*, NJ 10/24/85
CREDIT: Member #432

Ice Smashes Into Home

The sky rained ice and a Pomona, CA residence felt the impact of a 20-pound chunk.

"I awoke with a jolt and thought that someone had smashed in through our patio windows," said Claudette Walker. "We rushed to the living room and saw the big hole in the ceiling."

The rough, cloudy ice chunk struck the Walker home near Ontario International Airport early Wednesday. It shattered as it hit the roof, but the impact was strong enough to bring down plaster and insulation onto some living room furniture.

SOURCE: (AP) Daily *Sun-Post*, 8/22/85
CREDIT: Member #432

2-Pound Hailstones Kill At Least 20 in Brazil

Rescuers hacked through ice slabs searching for victims of a freak hailstorm that killed at least 20 people and left the streets covered in foot-deep sheets of ice.

The storm lasted only 15 minutes but damaged more than 2,000 houses. Almost 4,000 people in the town of 10,000 were left homeless.

Communications with the town of Itabirinha, 300 miles north of Rio de Janeiro, were severed, and news of the deaths emerged slowly.

"So far we have 20 confirmed dead — two from direct hail blows on the head," doctor Nilson de Oliveira said. Other victims were frozen, drowned or crushed under ice, falling masonry or collapsing earth banks.

"My aunt hid under the bed, but then the ice came and just shut her in," one resident told national television.

Officials said another 17-year-old student hid under her bed with her 3-year-old sister as the roof of their house collapsed. The victims were hacked out of a block of ice a day later.

Two people also were killed in the nearby town of Ipatinga, one by electrocution and another buried in a landslide.

De Oliveira said rescue teams were digging through rubble and ice looking for more victims.

In the state capital of Belo Horizonte, civil defense coordinator Lt. Col. Fabiano Castro said four or five more bodies might be found when the ice melts in two more days.

Residents said hailstones weighing about 2 pounds fell from the darkened sky. Police said one street was covered by a slab of 5-foot-deep ice that stretched for 100 feet.

SOURCE: (UPI) Trenton *Times*, NJ 10/3/85
CREDIT: R. Durant

The 'Sea Serpent' of Loch Ness — Resident or Visitor?

by Ulrich Magin

Much has already been written about the Loch Ness Monster, but so far nobody has been able to determine beyond doubt what kind of animal it is, how long it has been there, why it walks on land, and how many such live in the lake.

This is no new attempt to solve the question of Nessie's identity, but in this paper I will try to solve some of the more puzzling questions that sightings of the monster have raised.

To do this, I will consider 'fringe' reports — those sightings which may tell us more about the monster than the endless mass of reports of humps or necks seen in the loch. By 'fringe' reports I mean sightings of more than one creature and reports of the monster on land or otherwise outside of its supposed habitat.

Landsightings

Landsightings are perhaps the most exciting aspect of Nessie reports. Their place in Nessie literature has been likened by some to close-encounter cases in UFO folklore. Some, like the alleged picture-faker Frank Searle, claim that there were never trustworthy sightings at all. Others, more correctly, think they must be considered valuable as possible clues in the mystery. But so far no one has been able to point out why the animals walk ashore at all. If I'm right, they simply have to have that ability, or they would not be in the lake. I do not think I have to retell any of the now famous reports, my complete list of which can be found in Table A.

But perhaps I should point out some details which might help to evaluate them better. In my opinion the most famous of them all, the Spicer sighting, must be considered dubious, since the size of the monster grew from 6 or 8 feet in the original report to 30 feet in 1936, when Mr. Spicer told the story in a letter to F. L. Holiday. Either the animal was only vaguely seen, or it was a 'fish' story from the start. And the next most famous report of Arthur Grant of January 1934 may easily have been about an otter.

But more than ten good reports remain, nevertheless, and it should be pointed out that there were five stories after 1934, with a short peak in the early sixties.

All we have to note is that landsightings do occur, seem to happen rarely, and then, usually in waves.

Multiple Evidence

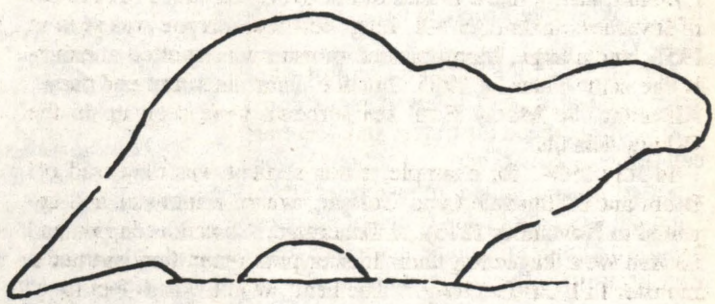
Nearly all modern writers who believe in the monster agree that there is indeed a breeding herd in Loch Ness. If this is so, we should expect to find many sightings reported before 1933 — but this is not the case. Actually, as Binns has shown, there is hardly any historical evidence before that date (except a short article in the *Inverness Courier* of 1852). And, furthermore, when the monster first appeared in 1933, letters to the editor in the local press agreed that it must have been a marine visitor as no traditional monster was known. This attitude began to change when the first reports of more than one animal began to emerge (and even before that date, but only as speculations). The belief that there is a breeding herd of animals firmly was rooted into the brains of believers by Constance Whyte in her book, *More than a Legend*.

But do we have real evidence for a large population of monsters in the loch? Table B gives all the reports of more-than-one animal known to me. You will see that there are fewer reports of this kind than landsightings, and that the highest number ever reported was only 5 — and that sighting seems to be dubious as it is not included in Mackal's list of sightings. What's more, a lot of reports of three animals together seem to be doubtful — the 3 heads seen by K.A. Key in 1952 were, in my opinion, ducks and the 3 baby-monsters filmed by Jon Beckjord in 1983 are also generally believed to be ducks or wind-and-wake effects. The only evidence that stands firm is that of the two monsters seen together, with occasional sightings of three, and the majority sightings of only one. Does that fix the pattern of a herd of 250 monsters as suggested by Mackal and others? If there are 250 animals in the loch, they should appear more often on the surface, and if there is a lesser number of Nessiterras rhombobteryx in the lake, the population would not be able to breed. Therefore, we may not have a herd of monsters which dwells in the loch since ancient times, but only a few animals in very recent times. Were those people of Inverness, who thought Nessie was only a marine visitor, right after all?

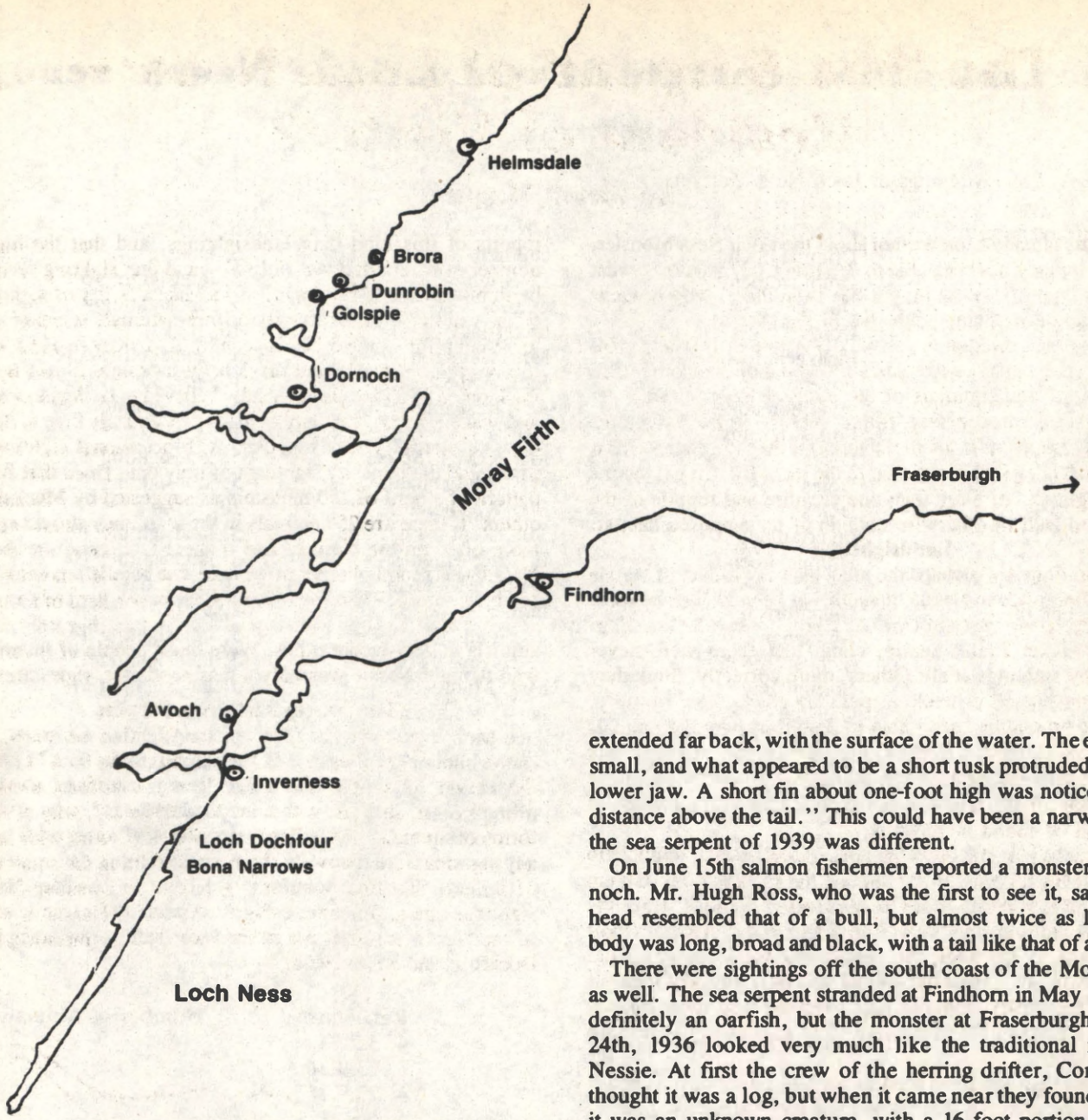
The Moray Firth Sea Serpent

If there is no evidence for a breeding herd of monsters, how do we explain the presence of the animals in the loch? I believe the answer is simple and solves many questions about the phenomenon, such as; where are the carcasses?, why so many forms of animals?, why flap years and why years with hardly any sightings?, and how do monsters survive in the small lakes of Ireland? To find solutions, we have to consider 'fringe' sightings again, this time using the reports of Nessie in waters of the Ness basin, but not in the loch itself — meaning Loch Dochfour and River Ness.

A. Grant's 1934 landsighting.



Otter on land (*Das Tier*, Feb. 1969, p. 15)



Loch Ness ends at Lochend, narrows and then forms a new loch, Loch Dochfour. The strait that connects both lakes is called Bona Narrows — where, in 1952, Mrs. Finlay and her son made a now-famous observation of the head, neck and humps of a monster closeup. From Dochfour to the North Sea leads the broad but shallow River Ness, which flows into the sea at Inverness. About halfway between the lake and the sea lies Holm Mills, where a monster has been seen several times (see Table C). And, lastly, in the mouth of the river, near the YMCA Hall of Inverness, a strange 5-ft. long, eel-like creature was seen in 1951, and a large, hump-backed monster was spotted at exactly the same place in 1965. But the chain does not end there. All along the Moray Firth sea serpents were seen up to the Orkney Islands.

In July 1934, for example, a sea serpent was observed off Brora and Helmsdale (near Golspie, where a monster had appeared in November 1873). A fisherman, Alexander Jappy, and his son were inspecting their lobster pots when they spotted a monster fully 30-feet long. "The head, which was 6-feet long, had a low, flat crown and long, deep jaws. The top of the head extended far back, with the surface of the water. The eyes were small, and what appeared to be a short tusk protruded from the lower jaw. A short fin about one-foot high was noticed a little distance above the tail." This could have been a narwhale, but the sea serpent of 1939 was different.

On June 15th salmon fishermen reported a monster off Dornoch. Mr. Hugh Ross, who was the first to see it, said: "The head resembled that of a bull, but almost twice as large...its body was long, broad and black, with a tail like that of a whale."

There were sightings off the south coast of the Moray Firth as well. The sea serpent stranded at Findhorn in May 1934 was definitely an oarfish, but the monster at Fraserburgh on June 24th, 1936 looked very much like the traditional image of Nessie. At first the crew of the herring drifter, Coral Bank, thought it was a log, but when it came near they found out that it was an unknown creature, with a 16-foot portion showing above the surface, but more of it submerged. It had "three humps, a long neck, and a head like a camel, of greyish colour."

This leaves the question: Was the animal seen at Inverness a Nessie or a sea serpent? Did it come from the loch or the sea? If it came from the sea, are the monsters of the River Ness sea serpents? If it came from the loch, was the sea serpent at Fraserburgh a Nessie? I feel the answer is obvious. There is no clear division between the Loch Ness Monster and the sea serpent. One can simply not determine where, geographically, lake monsters end and sea serpents begin. Therefore, I suggest there is no breeding herd of monsters in the loch, but there are, regularly, marine visitors. This explains the flap years, and the meagre ones (there may be months, or even years, when there is no monster in the loch), and the variety of shapes and colours seen. It is not always the same animal or herd of animals seen (though I must say that it definitely is always of the same species). The theory also explains why the monsters can walk ashore. Parts of the River Ness are quite shallow, and any creature entering the loch in hot, waterless years should be able to crawl over dry land.

Three tables that separate data of various 'Nessie' reports

Table A: Land Sightings of Loch Ness Monsters

Date (day) month	Place	Observer	Ref. Source
1879	Drumnadrochit	children	5, landsighting 2
1880	Drumnadrochit	E. Bright	5, landsighting 3
1890s	Dores	gypsies	5, landsighting 4
1900?	Dores	tinker lady	10, p. 131
1909	Inchnacardoch	Mrs. Cameron	5, landsighting 5 & 6
1919, 2	Foyers?	Jock Forbes	10, p. 130
1923, 4	Invermoriston	A. Cruishank	5, landsighting 7
1920s	Fort Augustus	girl	10, p. 133
1933, 22.7	Dores	Mr. & Mrs. Spicer	5, landsighting 11
1933, 8	Dores	Mrs. McLennan	5, landsighting 12
1933, 20.12	Dores	Mr. Weatherell	10, p. 60
1933, 20.12	Inverfarigaig	Mrs. Reid	5, landsighting 12
1933	Drumnadrochit	E. Price-Hughes	5, landsighting 10
1933	Dores	William McLean	10, p. 136
1934, before	Glenmoriston	farmer	2, p. 143
1934, 4.1	Abriachan	A. Grant	5, landsighting 14
1934, 2	Inchnacardoch	P. Havey	5, landsighting 15
1934, 5.6	Borlum Bay	Mrs. Munro	5, landsighting 16
1934, 7	Glendoe	Ian J. Matheson	10, p. 141
1930s	Inverfarigaig	Alec Muir	5, landsighting 8
1930s	Drumnadrochit	schoolchildren	5, landsighting 9
1960, 28.2	Horseshoe	T. McLeod	5, landsighting 17
1962, 8	Urquhart Castle	Arthur Kopit	7, 1.8.1976
1962	Inverfarigaig	Ted Holiday	2, p. 121
1963, 6.6	Whitefield	LNPIB	5, landsighting 18
1975, 10	Fort Augustus	R. Lipinski	6, Nr. 11

Table B: Multiple Sightings of Loch Ness Monsters

Date (day) month	Place	Observer	Ref. Source	Number of Animals
1934, 30.6	Urquhart Bay	farmer	4, 3.7.34	2
1934, 9	?	Lady Hay	8, 23.9.36	2
1936, 17.9	Fort Augustus	C. Campbell	4, 22.9.36	2
1937, 3.1	Fort Augustus	Mr. Farrel	5, obs. 111	2
1937, 13.7	Brachla	Gourlay	5, obs. 113	3
1939	Brachla	S. H. Gordon	5, obs. 127	2
1943, 8.1	Horseshoe	S. Grant	5, obs. 132	2
1951, 14.7	Whitefield	L. Stuart	5, p.	3?
1952, 9	?	K. A. Key	1, p. 187	3
1957, 16.6	Dores	D. Campbell	5, obs. 164	2
1958, 16.7	Fort Augustus	A. Campbell	10, p. 81	2
1960, 3.7	?	P. O'Conner	5, obs. 168	2
1962, 29.6	Urquhart Bay	H. G. Hasler	2, p. 94	3
1964, 9.6	?	doctor & wife	12, 205	5
1965, 1.8	Achnahannet	E. Hall	2, p. 102	2
1968, 18.4	Cobb Memorial	W. V. Turl	5, obs. 237	3
1969, 9	Dores?	Mr. Connel	1, p. 189	3
1971, 18.8	Fort Augustus	K. Robertson	11, p. 22	2
1974, 6	Inverfarigaig	D. Steward	6, Nr. 4	2
1976, 7	Abriachan	B. Kennedy	6, Nr. 17	2
1981	Dores	D. Bead	6, Nr. 50	3
1982, 5	Aldourie	farmer	6, Nr. 53	3
1983, 6.8	Urquhart Bay	Jon Beckjord	6, Nr. 59	3

Table C: Nessie Outside Loch Ness

Date (day) month	Place	Observer	Ref. Source	Comment
565	River Ness	St. Columba		
1873, 16.11	Dunrobin	F. L. Gower	3, p. 579	In sea
1873, 17.11	Golspie	Dr. Soutar	3, p. 579	In sea
1873, 18.11	Golspie	J. Joass	3, p. 579	In sea
1927	River Ness	camper	2, p. 25	
1930, 6	Inverness	M. Shand	6, Nr. 18	In sea
1932, 2	River Ness	Mrs. MacDonald	4, 12.1.34	
1933, 3	River Ness	Miss M'Donald	9, 15.12.33	
1933, 12	Avoch	?	8, 27.12.33	In sea/was seal
1934, 5	Findhorn	A. G. Cumming	9, 22.5.34	In sea/oarfish
1934, 7	Helmsdale	A. Jappy	8, 25.7.34	In sea
1934, 7	Brora	fishermen	8, 25.7.34	In sea
1934	River Ness	?	4, 16.1.34	
1935, 10.6	Loch Dochfour	Mrs. Magrath	8, 12.6.35	
1936, 24.6	Fraserburgh	'Coral Bank'	4, 26.6.34	In sea
1936, 6	River Ness	Mr. & Mrs. Hallman	5, obs. 109	
1939, 15.6	Dornoch	H. Ross	8, 21.6.39	In sea
1951, 24.2	Inverness	many people	4, 27.2.51	
1952, 20.8	Bona Narrows	Mrs. Finlay	4, 22.8.52	
1965, 30.7	Inverness	H. Ferguson	5, Obs. 200	
1968, 6.11	Bona Narrows	Mr. McLeod	5, Obs. 247	

How they manage to swim through Inverness without being seen, and how often, I do not know, but at least two sightings suggest that they do not always swim through Inverness unnoticed. And, furthermore, other marine creatures came to the loch via the same route. Seals were seen in the lake in 1934 and 1985, without, to my knowledge, prior sightings in the river. Two porpoises were spotted near Foyers in 1917, apparently again without being reported in the river, (another marine creature, a lamprey, was caught off Fort Augustus in 1953).

How often they travel through the river cannot be said, but we have reports quite regularly. I personally think they spend some time of their life-cycle in the sea, and some time in fresh water, like salmon or eel. This theory might explain why no more sea serpents are seen in Scandinavian waters — many lakes there are poisoned by acid rain, so no animal can live or feed there. This interrupts the life-cycle. It also sheds light on where we can expect to find lake monsters and sea serpents. For example, the highest number of sea-serpent reports in Scotland comes from the Sound of Sleat and the waters surrounding the Isle of Skye — only 500 yards, as the crow flies, from famous Loch Morar. (And it could also explain why there are only three modern reports from Loch Lomond. They were marine visitors...and, incidentally, the Firth of Clyde, with which Loch Lomond is connected by River Leven, has produced a number of good sea-serpent reports in recent years, too.)

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Related SITUation

Champ Observed 14 Times In 1985

Is the 109 mile long Lake Champlain the habitat of a colony of 15-25 foot long Loch-Ness-like mystery animals? Recent evidence indicates that possibly Lake Champlain is another Loch Ness.

"There were 14 reported sightings of Champ in 1985," announced Joseph W. Zarzynski, of Wilton, director of the Lake Champlain Phenomena Investigation.

Sightings of Champ have persisted for decades and the 35 year old Zarzynski says he has catalogued over 250 Champ sightings.

"Of the 14 Champ sightings in 1985," said Zarzynski, "10 were reported on the Vermont side of the lake and 4 from the New York side." The lake resides in Vermont, New York, and Quebec and it is 400 feet deep.

Zarzynski says some of the sightings could just be cases of honest ministerpretation but that others show validity.

In his 1984 book, "Champ-Beyond the Legend," Zarzynski theorizes that Champ may be a plesiosaur, a zeuglodon, or a sea lion-type creature. Plesiosaurs, marine reptiles, have been extinct for over 60 years. The zeuglodon, an ancestor to the modern day whale, has been thought extinct for 20-40 million years. If it is the sea lion-like animal it might be a new species of wildlife.

"Although the Champ controversy remains unresolved," Zarzynski said, "the evidence on Champ is impressive and tanalizing."

Zarzynski's research team completed 31 days of field work at Lake Champlain in 1985 and his team's report on Champ will be published in 1986 in the scientific journal *Cryptozoology*.

The reported sightings in 1985 of Champ are very encouraging as they suggest science has not yet scratched the bottom of the zoological bathtub," concluded Zarzynski, a teacher in the Saratoga Springs area.

SOURCE: *Times* of Ticonderoga, NY 12/31/85

CREDIT: Joe Zarzynski

Some Recent Developments in the SORRAT Experiments

Dr. J. T. Richards (center) discusses the SORRAT Experiments with Michael Edwards (left) and Dr. Otto Schmitt during a break in the filming of the midwestern psi segment of Alan Neuman's motion picture, "The Psychic Connection."

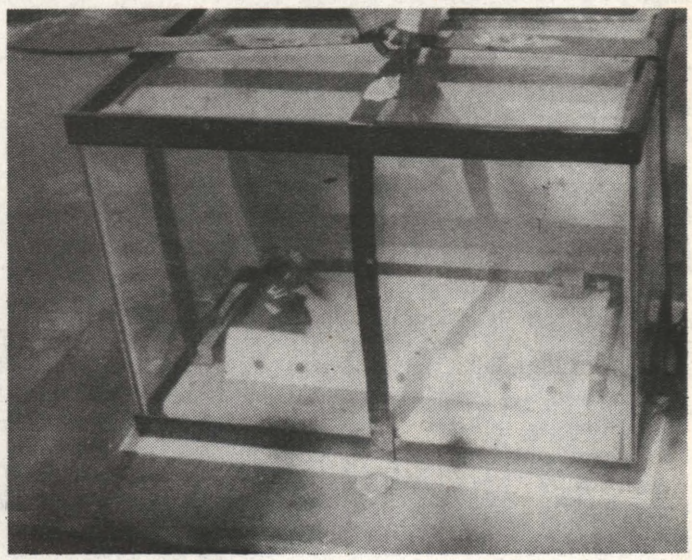
by Dr. John Thomas Richards

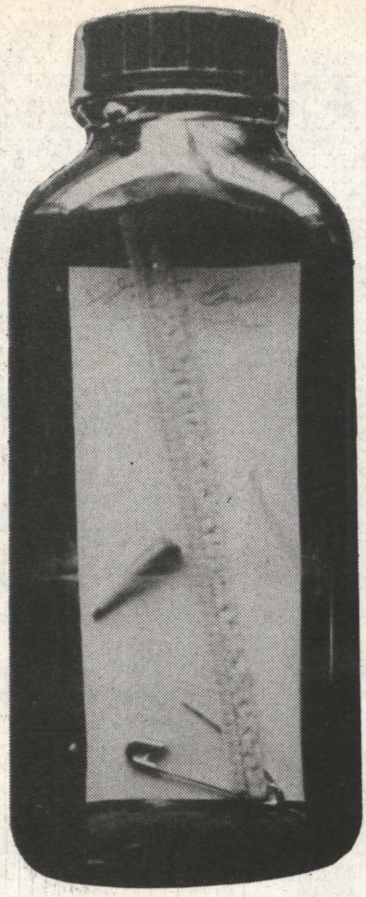
For those unfamiliar with the SORRAT psychokinesis experiments and the storm of controversy which these unorthodox heavy-PK group sessions have engendered, I can briefly state that the Society for Research on Rapport and Telekinesis was formed by Dr. John G. Neihardt, Poet Laureate of Nebraska and well-known expert on American Indian culture and history, in the fall of 1961 at his home, Skyrim Farm, seven miles north of Columbia, Missouri. This group met with the expectation of achieving the same heavy-PK results obtained by some Victorian sitter groups, and hoped to discover how to maximize and control "seance room" psychokinesis, achieving true telekinesis — mind over matter.

For twenty years, the experiments continued, progressing from traditional table levitations and raps to the uncommon "earthquake effect" of room-vibrations, apports, spontaneous writings, healings, the mediumship of Alice Thompson and Joe Mangini, and psychokinetic movements of objects inside sealed containers. Neihardt was advised by his old friend, Dr. Joseph Banks Rhine, in the construction and use of PK observation boxes and other monitoring devices, and in 1969, William Edward Cox was sent by Rhine to personally investigate the SORRAT group. Cox later moved to Missouri and has worked diligently to devise methods of filming and otherwise recording and testing a variety of PK phenomena. In 1982, my book, *SORRAT: A History of the Neihardt Psychokinesis Experiments, 1961-1981,* was published. (Scarecrow Press, 52 Liberty Street, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840, $17.50).

When *SORRAT* appeared, all hell broke loose. Skyrim Farm

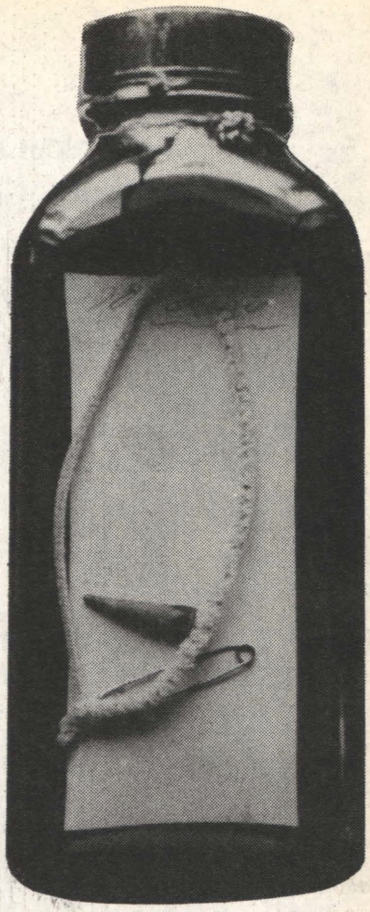
William Edward Cox exhibits his sealed mini-lab. When a target object rises inside the box, a microswitch activates the camera which photographs the PK activity.





THE W. E. COX TEST BOTTLE EXPERIMENT

The test bottle was laid flat; various small objects were placed inside, and the cap was sealed with "booby traps" to secure the closure against entry. At a session in Minneapolis, November 6, 1982, two pipestem cleaners sealed in by Cox were bent into an oval, the pencil-stub traced a yin-and-yang symbol, and the open safety-pin closed.



became the Mecca of many would-be participants in the controversial experiments. What publications such as the *National Enquirer* forgot to mention was the fact that only about a third of the SORRAT experiments were, in fact, successful, and only a small number of the successful sessions were at all spectacular. My book had led people to think that everything paranormal which had happened during twenty years of research, *always* happened at *every* experiment. Not all of these people were simply curiosity-seeking tourists; some professional parapsychologists attended SORRAT sessions, and while a few, like Dr. James McClenon, reported amazing results, others were disappointed and went away saying that Skyrim and the Sorrats were dismal failures, at best.

Alice Thompson, who is the late Dr. Neihardt's daughter and the present leader of the Sorrats, gently but firmly turned away many "SORRAT groupies" who seemed motivated only by idle curiosity, and some newspersons who sought to sensationalize Sorrats and levitating tables for the popular press. Still, the publicity and the stream of visitors to Skyrim did diminish the number of times when the Sorrats could meet undisturbed. We no longer meet regulary every Friday evening, as I described in *SORRAT,* but at irregular dates known only to SORRAT members and invited guests.

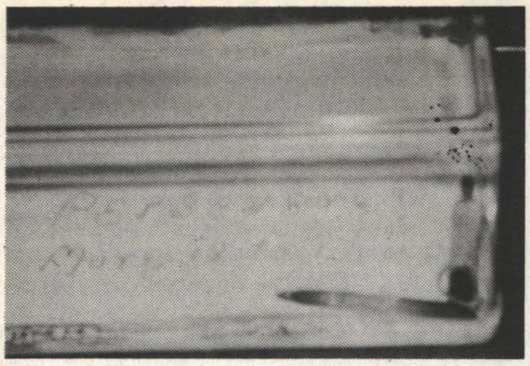
On November 6, 1982, Alice Thompson, her daughter Lynn and I represented SORRAT in Minneapolis, for the midwestern psi segment of Alan Neuman's motion picture, *The Psychic Connection* (now available on videocassette). That evening, after filming was over for the day, we participated in an experiment with Walter and Mary Jo Uphoff of the New Frontiers Foundation, Dennis Stillings and Gail Duke of the ARCHAEUS Project, psi research investigator Loren Park, parapsychologist Dr. Otto Schmitt, and Michael Edwards, a self-styled psychic. (Edwards later confessed to deception and admitted to proselytizing on behalf of an anti-psi magician.)

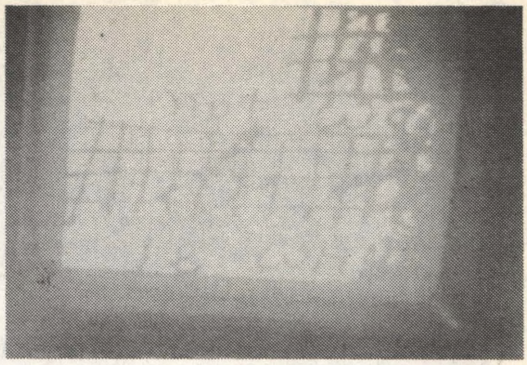
During this mission, two pipestem cleaners in a test bottle, sealed by W. E. Cox, bent into an oval, and the pencil stub in the bottle drew a yin-and-yang symbol. Edwards took credit at the time for paranormally producing these phenomena, and later claimed to have accomplished this impossible trick by sleight of hand, but photographs taken during the session show that the bending took place while Alice Thompson held the bottle, *not* later, after Edwards had taken the bottle from her. Perhaps Edwards served as a "scapegoat" to overcome ownership resistance to psi, and allowed the PK energy in the group to function. This would be an ironic twist — that someone conspiring to destroy psi research would unintentionally encourage psi to occur! Perhaps, conversely, PK needs no living person present in order to occur.

On Labor Day, 1983, SORRAT was the subject of another psi film. A motion picture crew from Yorkshire Television Ltd., Leeds, England, filmed an interview with W. E. Cox and me at Cox's home. As an on-camera experiment, a locksmith sealed the locks on Cox's mini-lab, a glass rectangular container strapped firmly to a solid wooden base. Inside the mini-lab, the director of the film placed a letter addressed to Arthur C. Clarke in Sri Lanka, along with marked quarters for a coin-assorting test and other test-target objects. Two weeks after the filming, the letter — containing one of the quarters — vanished from

In a typical successful "levitation" at Skyrim Farm, the table rises with all hands extended on its upper surface.

About a third of the SORRAT Experiments were, in fact, successful, and only a small number of the successful sessions were at all spectacular.





A message is paranormally written in Cox's plastic test box (left). Letters are shown to have vanished under cross-hatched marks (right) without disturbing these marks, as shown by spectrographic analysis to detect possible erasures.

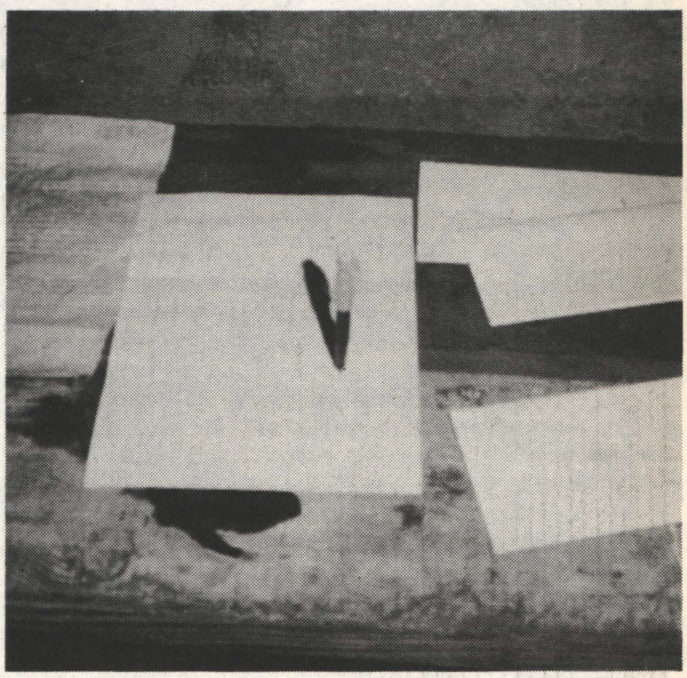
the sealed mini-lab and mailed itself, with adequate postage, to Clarke. In July 1985, this segment appeared as part of the television program, Arthur C. Clarke's, *World of Strange Powers*.

However, despite publicity, the serious psychical research continued. Even with a crowd of twenty-three participants from five states at a Skyrim Farm session just before Halloween in 1983, there were not only strong macro-PK phenomena such as table levitations and the shaking of the entire room, but also movements of a test cube in the Cox-Kalugina-Pratt coffeebox, leaving separate markings in the coffee grounds; a lighter and a heavier cube in the same sealed container did not move. There were even paranormal raps under the ground in the Siouxan Prayer Garden. On another occasion, Cox used a stethoscope to locate the source of these "ground raps," which spelled messages using an alphabet code (one rap for "A," two raps for "B," and so forth). The rapped messages were not only comforting and morally instructive, they also correctly answered test questions by Sorrats and visitors, and rapped out a list of numbers which Cox had prepared and kept in a sealed envelope on his person.

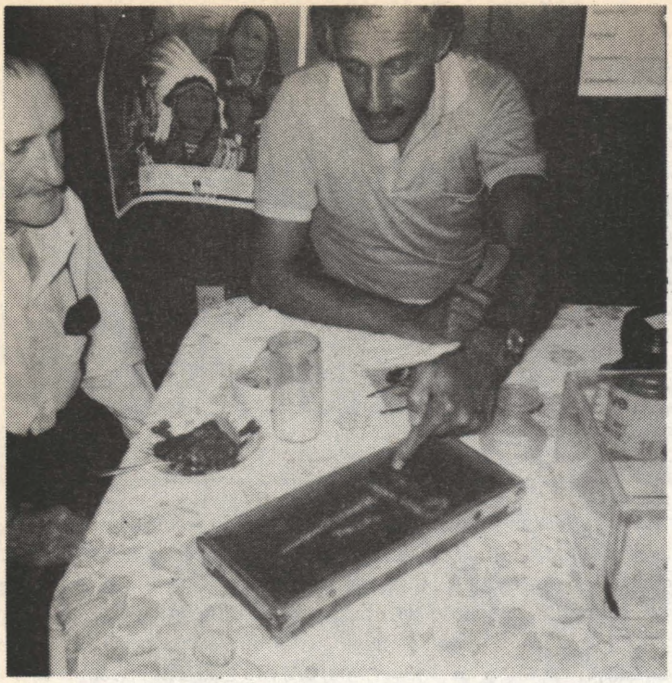
Cox set up an experiment in which a camera automatically captured a levitated pen in the act of writing him a message. There were many of these Recurrent Spontaneous Psychokinetic (RSPK) messages, which have paranormally mailed themselves to people in distant cities and countries — sometimes postmarked from distant cities where no Sorrat could have physically mailed them, and sometimes delivered without going through the mails. Upon occasion, foreign stamps were added to the envelopes, and at least once, a letter was apparently postmarked *before* it vanished! Dr. James McClenon, a sociologist/parapsychologist has recently completed the first volume of *The Entity Papers: Messages from the Mini-Lab*. His wife, Wendy, is currently editor of *The SORRAT Newsletter* in Okinawa.

Another SORRAT splinter-group involves Shirley Starke in Valley City, North Dakota. She and her friends successfully linked plywood rings provided by W. E. Cox (featured in Volume 42 of *The Unexplained* magazine). Since that article appeared, the linked rings have been examined and tested by Dr. John Hasted, Physics Department, Birkbeck College, University of London, the London College of Furniture, Dr. John Beloff of the University of Edinburgh, and other investigators, as well as Cox, who made the rings originally. The results of these tests have caused much controversy; no one has found a normal explanation for the linkage. The wood had not been cut, jigsawed, cracked apart, or otherwise separated, and the glue is the same type as originally bonded the wood, with no evidence that the layers were taken apart, separated in different places, and then reglued. Still, wood is always a suspect material; consequently, Shirley and other Sorrats interested in the ring-linking phenomenon are now working with laminated metal, leather, and paper rings. (One pair of paper rings has been linked on camera during a min-lab experiment, but the friction of the linkage caused it to ignite and burn.) Most recently, metallurgist Donald Clark has provided a pair of oval metal rings with a known, unique metallic composition, and each is coated with a specially-prepared, chemically-unique enamel, one orange and one black, and sealed inside a plastic envelope. Other materials are being used for ring-linking tests.

On July 15, 1984, during a SORRAT experiment at Skyrim, Cox's red felt pen inside a sealed plastic box wrote "PERSEVERE — MORE IS TO COME," in large letters on the cardboard bottom of the box. When I saw this box again just before Christmas 1984, the ink was almost indecipherable. In June, I took the box from Skyrim to Cox's home in Rolla after a typical SORRAT levitation experiment. The writing had entirely vanished by that time — the first time I have seen a paranormal *un*written message! Since then, Cox's tests have shown that this sort of ink simply *could not* fade away normally inside this sealed container. Cox's invisible friend, "3 x 3,"



A pen levitates and writes a brief message.

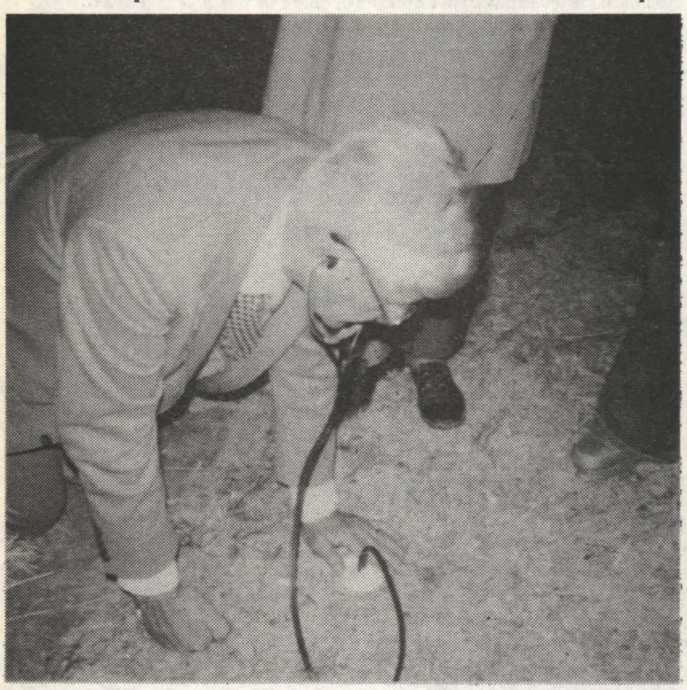


Joseph F. Mangini shows a coffeebox trace to Dick Cook.

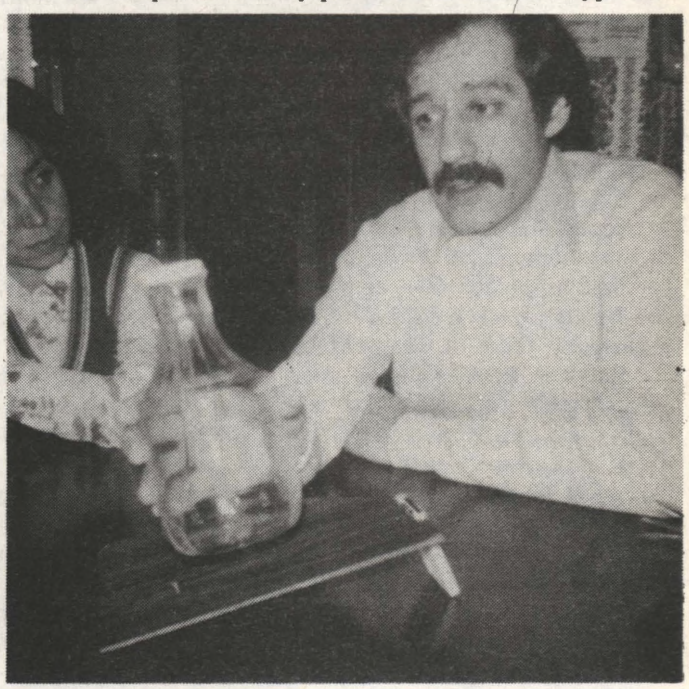
Alice Thompson examines a new cube trace in the coffeebox.

later scribbled in his "111 x 111" mark on the completely white cardboard covering the bottom of this box. Cox ran other tests involving the paranormal vanishing of a written message; one involved a series of letters under penciled cross-hatch marks on a slip of paper, with instructions to the entities to remove every other letter without disturbing the cross-hatches, a normal impossibility, even if the paper were not sealed away from normal contact. Soon, Cox found that the entities had complied. "A" was removed as though it had never been on the paper, while "B" remained under the unbroken cross-hatches; "D" remained, but "C" was missing, and so forth. The entities had also written a short message to Cox between the lines, asking if they were doing this task correctly! (Usually, entities do not choose to perform tasks as Cox desires, and show frequent whimsy in providing evidence of their reality.)

As a consequence of the attention which the SORRAT experiments have provoked, research in psychokinesis has become, if not acceptable in the more dogmatic scientific circles, at least more commonly discussed and intelligently considered by thoughtful people, both within and outside the field of psychical research. This does not mean that most parapsychologists accept Sorrats as fellow investigators; there is still entirely too much jealousy and political infighting within the general field to allow such a group of "upstarts" to come along and start upsetting complacent world-views. While we have not made much impression on the hard-line materialists, many in the "new wave" of parascience have realized that Skyrim and the SORRAT experiments may prove models for new hypotheses



Cox locates raps in the ground inside the Siouxan Prayer Garden at Skyrim Farm.



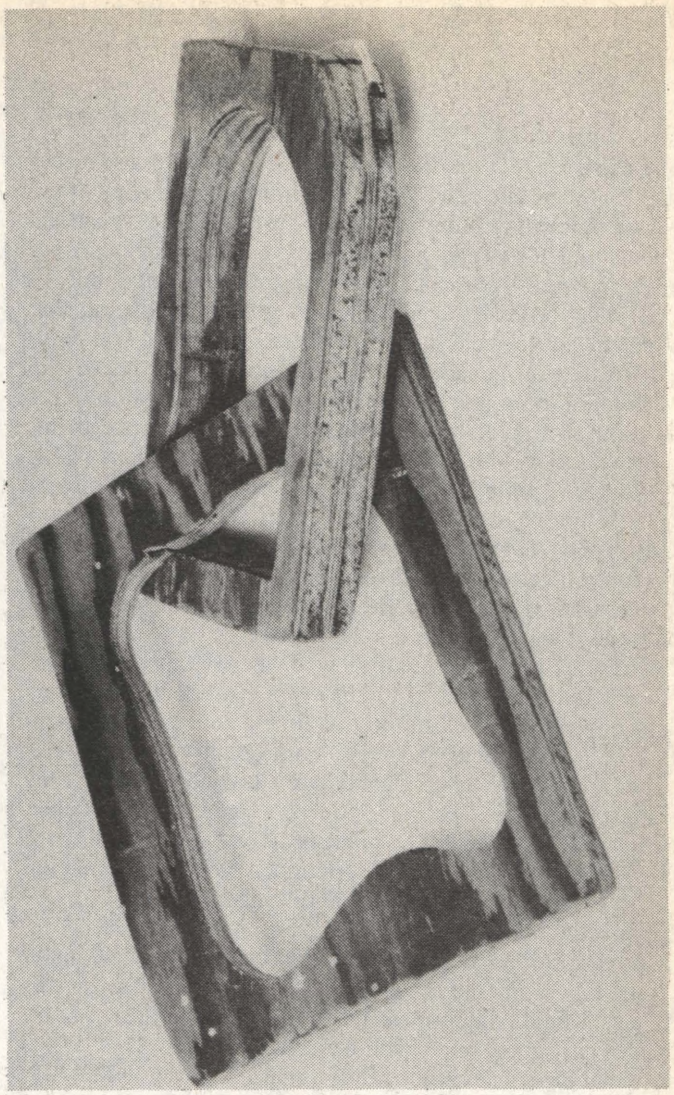
Mangini causes a spoon inside a test jar to bend and its handle to twist in a SORRAT experiment.

and their own experiments in PK and ESP. The investigators who have gone to Skyrim Farm and who have witnessed successful SORRAT experiments can verify that macro-PK events do occur, and the raps do give meaningful answers to test questions — often, beyond the range of the information available to living Sorrats . . . although the "super-ESP" theory cannot, by its nature, be disproven.

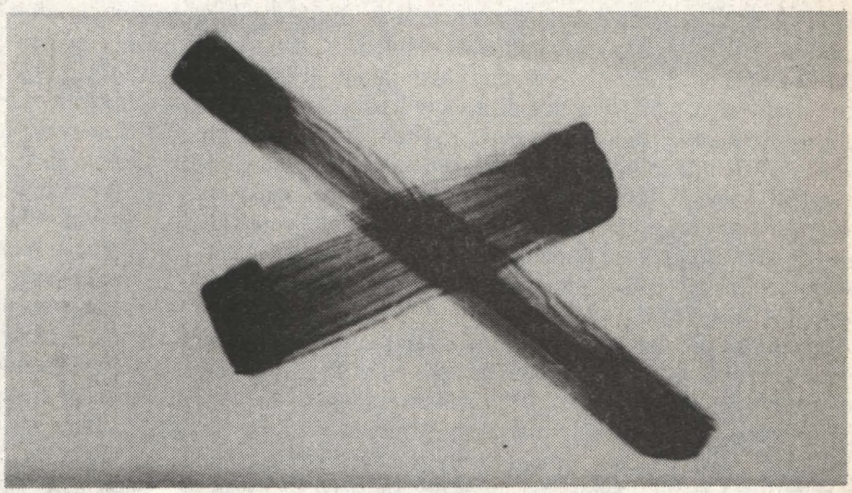
Dr. Kenneth J. Batcheldor, in Exeter, England is now conducting experiments which replicate and, in terms of heavy paranormal phenomena, sometimes go far beyond the experiments at Skyrim Farm. At Birkbeck College, Dr. John Hasted uses sophisticated electronic equipment to test PK in sitter sessions similar to those conducted by SORRAT. At the McDonnell Laboratory for Psychical Research in St. Louis, Dr. Peter R. Phillips and his staff built mini-labs and used one to automatically film some PK movements of target objects, replicating W. E. Cox's RSPK Automatic Filming Device and the mini-labs used with SORRAT. (Unfortunately, Phillips' laboratory was closed at the end of August 1985; when he did not find a way to harness PK energy, the McDonnell-Douglas company ceased funding his psi research.)

On a more philosophical level, one may hope that Sorrats will bridge the chasm between scientific psychical researchers and the members of spiritualistic groups who, after all, may obtain the same psi phenomena while attributing it to a different source — and who is to say with any certainty that either side is entirely right or entirely wrong? Contrary to common assumptions, Sorrats do not consider SORRAT as a religion or a substitute for a religion, nor do we consider our group purely scientific in purpose. We accept the unseen entities as personalities separate from the conscious and subconscious minds of the experimenters, because every shred of evidence indicates that this is the case.

If "super-ESP" has the ability to create all of the psi phenomena which I described in *SORRAT*, and everything that has happened at Skyrim Farm *since* 1981, then immortality would be a logical extrapolation of this very force, and should therefore not be dismissed as either "superstition" or "unscientific." However, this is speculation and the subject for more controversy, while the experiments themselves, and their incontrovertible results, have proven controversial enough.



The Shirley Starke linked plywood rings still defy a normal explanation after exhaustive testing. The piece of white yarn marks a core sample hole, to show that it was not part of the original plywood ring.



Here is one photo from a series of a complete 360° CT Scan that Dr. Cox requested. This x-ray picture shows clearly there is no cut, crack or jigsawing effect on the surface or inside in any of the layers of the plywood rings.

The Westchester Wing - Part II

by R. Perry Collins

The wave of UFO activity characterized as the "Westchester Wing" has carried on into 1985, although the magnitude of the wave seems to have diminished. There have been several unusual incidents which serve to highlight covert federal interests not only in "coverup" attempts but also in active pursuit of the object(s). It has become increasingly obvious to investigators that the federal government not only is almost frantically attempting to explain away and deny the phenomenon, but also to tap the efforts of those less restricted (civilian) investigators. This has, at times, led to some humorous situations. At one point, in a conversation with Bob Girard about the implications of this surveillance, I jokingly said that I really had no problem with it, as I belonged to the "KSP." Bob asked what that was. I calmly replied that the KSP was the "Krypton Special Police," assigned to investigate the investigators of UFO investigators. Whoever was listening in overreacted as our line was immediately cut and I was left with a dead phone.

Lt. Lesnick, tired of being followed whenever he went to interview witnesses, decided to get even. He had his followers tailed. For several weeks up to five cars played Keystone cops across the Connecticut and New York countryside. Phil Imbrogno, amazed, watched a helicopter slowly drifting over his residence as an individual inside pointed a camera at him. Quickly, Phil ran for a camera to point back at them. Heedless of this merriment, the "Wing" continued appearing, making friends among the populace and causing alarm to the establishment.

The implications of all this, and the details of the actions of both the UFOs and the people involved with them provides us with a rich field of information. There is a great deal to learn here, not only about our "visitors," but about ourselves. When I say "making friends among the populace" I mean it literally. In many cases involving this "Westchester Wing," as with other UFO appearances over the years, there is evidence of what we call "psychic" interaction between the witnesses and the object. There have been many cases, some of which will be detailed here, where this interaction took place. For instance, the object has been noted to recede in distance when witnesses became fearful, come closer when they desired a better look, and respond to witness viewing positions with maneuvers and displays of lights. The object has hovered over residences of families who had noticed it slowly following them home. It has even hovered at less than 500 feet altitude a short distance from homes until whole families gathered to watch. Then, slowly cruising directly over, it displayed itself with breathtaking effects and beautiful lights. The wing-shaped arrays of light are multicolored, strong but with a soft glow and are almost entrancing. These lights are turned on and off, again in direct correlation to the presence of witnesses. Someone, it seems, is saying hello.

Someone is also paying very close attention to our nuclear weapons storage areas. Someone is providing periodic demonstrations of ability to quickly and easily nullify ballistic missile installations, antiaircraft missile launches and jet aircraft interception attempts. This activity has been going on for years but it is only recently that investigators have been able to get solid information about it and to make that information more available to the public. The wave of activity involving the "Westchester Wing" comes at just this time of growing public awareness. This UFO wave has been identified by J. Allen Hynek as one of the largest and most consistent displays in history. It has been centered over one of the most affluent and influential population centers in the nation. We must ask ourselves whether or not all this can be coincidental.

There have been numerous appearances of the "Wing" in 1985, but, as stated, the reports have decreased in number. I shall concentrate on three specific events of note; a very dramatic incident over the Indian Point nuclear facility, a sighting over Meriden, Connecticut involving an untraceable military helicopter and an unusually well-planned example of efforts to divert attention from the real phenomenon. These cases will provide a focus for what seems to be the fading of this particular wave of UFO activity. As other investigators, particularly Jacques Vallee, have noted, UFOs generally seem to present themselves with periodic waves in both time and location. This wave may now have served its purpose: the reinforcement of the almost mythological reality of the UFO phenomenon.

The three examples shall detail some reactions of established social groups, primarily those concerned with government and national security. Before going into depth with those examples, let's look more closely at the reactions of local groups and individuals, especially those individuals who observed the "Wing" at close range. The reactions of local police were touched on in the previous article.* Many police officers who were witnesses to the low overflights of the UFO were adamant in their statements. They agreed that what they saw was not a plane or groups of planes. One officer reported a very large, structured craft which glided silently over his cruiser, stopped, rotated on its axis, and moved slowly over his position again. Many other patrolmen who had seen only the formations of planes were just as convinced that the whole thing could be explained as aircraft. In early 1983, when the UFO overflights began, the first explanation offered was that the sightings could be explained by the presence of ultralight aircraft. Just as this was being publicized as untenable (largely through the efforts of Phil Imbrogno), the formations of Cessna aircraft began to be noticed. It is important to note that these formations of aircraft had not been widely seen nor reported in the media until more than a month after the first reported UFO sightings over Yorktown, NY. Since that time there have been many reports, both of a very large, low, dark object variously illuminated and of close formations of light aircraft, flying at five to seven thousand feet, displaying non-regulation lights. Many witnesses, some of them pilots themselves, reported having seen both displays. They agreed that there was no confusing the two.

While the majority of the population in the area where the highest number of reported sightings has seen nothing, a significantly large minority has viewed and reported definitely seeing an unusual object(s). Throughout the summer and fall of 1983 and well into 1984 the UFO wave gained momentum. Local media reports, witness reports and intensive investigation by Lesnick and Imbrogno became the talk of many social gatherings. It became fashionable to discuss the subject and debate the pros and cons of its real nature. Local newspapers did yeoman service in presenting many of the aspects of the situation. Independent radio and television stations followed the

*See *PURSUIT*, Vol. 18, No. 2

activity, often interviewing Lt. Lesnick and Imbrogno., The "V"-shaped displays of lights continued. Those who saw them were often professional people whose articulate reports were difficult to discount. It became easier, as reports came in, to separate the planes from the UFO. Often the witnesses themselves knew the difference.

The area where these reports were most concentrated included Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess counties of New York and Fairfield County in Connecticut. These four counties are closely clustered around New York City. The media there receive much more national attention and were reluctant to get involved with the whole subject. City journalists who spoke to investigators said they frankly didn't know what to think. There were several times that major televison networks mentioned the reports. These came after evenings where the witnesses numbered in the thousands. But these were isolated dates and the networks made no effort to follow up or clarify their brief airings. All but one of the major newspapers of the city made little or no effort to publish the numerous reports. The New York *Times* published two well written items discussing the activity. These appeared on April 17, 1983, near the beginning of the true UFO wave and on September 11, 1984, as the wave continued but as reports of the aircraft became more numerous.

The reports of low overflights of the large, structured UFO often referred to strong thoughts and feelings by the individuals involved. Often the UFO seemed to respond to these thoughts and in some cases to initiate them. Many witnesses noticed more direct interaction than the obvious light displays and maneuvers. Bill Hele works as meteorologist for the National Weather Corporation at Westchester Airport. On the evening of March 24, 1983, he was driving along the Taconic State Parkway in Westchester County, NY when he saw the object. "I've been around aircraft all my life and I can honestly say I've never seen anything like it," he stated. "I had the feeling of being stared at, analyzed and rejected. It wasn't a dangerous feeling, but I had the feeling of being examined from head to toe. There was a series of lights, maybe a half a dozen in a row, with one or two hanging on the end like a pendant. They went out for 15 to 20 seconds and reappeared with no sound. There was no shadow, no silhouette, no nothing. Just lights, but they were changing multiprismatically. We're talking a magnitude of a quarter mile long or longer of lights ... It caught me by total surprise." Hele's experience was mentioned in the Sept. issue of *Omni* magazine and again in the Hartford *Courant* of Aug. 16, 1984.

As the sightings continued, there were more people who noticed an almost "psychic" interaction with the object. Approximately ten percent of the witnesses reported definite correlations between their thoughts and the actions of the "Wing." On March 17, 1983, between 7 and 10 pm, several hundred people in the area of Brewster, NY watched as a large "V"-shaped array of lights cruised low over the town and nearby Interstate 84. One witness, Dennis Sant, got an extremely good look at it. He and his family were coming home from church when they saw the object hovering near their home. As they got closer to the house, it seemed to disappear. Thinking that was all there was to see, they went inside. Soon Sant felt an impulse to go back outside and walked out his front door. As he glanced in the direction of nearby I-84, he saw a large "boomerang"-shaped object hovering silently less than 200 feet over the highway. It had red, white, blue and green lights on its "wings" and a large yellow light in the middle. People on the road were stopping, exiting their cars and staring at it. Sant remembers wishing he could get a better look. Immediately after his thought, the craft made a sharp turn and slowly moved directly towards him. It lost altitude until it was about thirty feet from him and less than 100 feet up. Now it stopped and resumed hovering for approximately one minute. Then it began slowly moving over his back yard, emitting a soft hum. Sant was able to jog almost directly under it and saw a dark, grey metallic structure. The object again stopped and hovered and Sant backed away from beneath it. As his family and neighbors watched, it suddenly shot down a brilliant beam, illuminating the entire yard for approximately thirty seconds. It then slowly moved away towards the north, gaining altitude.

Many more such "interactive" cases could be presented here, but I prefer to discuss one with which I am most familiar — my own. As described in my previous article, I too got a good look at the "Wing" in late August of 1983. Several hundred people saw the object that night over a cluster of Connecticut towns that included New Haven, Orange, Milford, Bridgeport, Monroe and Stratford. I interviewed many of them on tape. We all saw the same thing and many of us had similar reactions. I was home alone that night on the third floor of my residence in the north end of Bridgeport, near St. Vincent's Hospital. Strangely enough, just before I saw it. I was reviewing some notes I'd made after speaking with Lt. Lesnick about the wave of "Wing" reports. Deciding to take a break, I walked to my north window.

Suddenly three lights appeared, seemingly low over the rooftops to the northwest. I told myself I was seeing a light plane, but immediately dismissed the idea as the lights were too widely spaced and were drifting very slowly to my left. Just as I became intensely curious, the lights went out. Hoping to see them again, I moved to my bedroom and the west window. As I looked out, directly over my neighbor's house, the lights reappeared. They were much closer now, stationary and about twenty to twenty-five degrees above the horizon. I was amazed. Here I was, a man whose hobby is UFOs, apparently seeing one. The lights sat there, the left one red, the middle one green, the right one blue. Abruptly, I began speaking aloud, "If you are what I think you are, tell me somehow that I'm not hallucinating." The lights seemed to react; the green slowly faded out, came back on and then they all faded. Immediately I received a strong impression to move back to the north window. The impression was so abrupt and so clearly not my own thought that I started to resist it even as I began to move to the next window. Excitement and curiosity overcame me, however, and I quickly moved to the forward room and leaned out the open window. An immense, wing-shaped array of lights greeted me. Later I calculated that the object supporting the lights must have moved sideways and forwards at least one-quarter-of-a-mile in the few seconds it took me to move from the west to the north window. It was now almost directly overhead, between myself and nearby St. Vincent's hospital. It was moving slowly, silently, apex forward, directly to the east. I had several reactions. I was conscious of a very focused and somehow logical presence, but my mind was only secondarily aware of this. I had worked as a quality control engineer and had grown up in an Air Force family. I first realized that this "wing," if that was what it was, could not be an airfoil. It was moving too slowly to hold itself up. I was also busily engaged trying to line up reference points, judge how many hand widths it took up, etc., so that I could later trigonometrically figure out its actual dimensions. It seemed very large and very low. For approximately 20 to 30 seconds it drifted over and then suddenly the lights dimmed and went out. I strained to see a shape or a structure, but could not.

In all the exitement, I hadn't thought to find a camera. I quick-

ly walked to the phone, noting the time from the wall clock and called Lt. George Lesnick. After a brief talk, I walked outside and towards the area where it had "disappeared." I spent a long time, at least half an hour, standing in an open area, wondering, hoping it would come back. It had definitely impressed me, "psychically" and otherwise. As I previously mentioned, I spent a good deal of time on the phone that night, calling local police and airports, finding that many others were also seeing it.

There are numerous other examples of the interactive nature of this wave of UFO activity. In July of 1984 I interviewed a family of four living in the suburbs of Danbury, Connecticut. The husband had been leaving work later than usual and was moving out of the parking lot when he noticed some odd looking lights in the nearby sky. At first he paid little attention to them, thinking only that a plane was flying around at low altitude. As he drove home (a trip of several minutes) he began noticing that the lights seemed to be pacing him. Still he took little notice until he pulled into his driveway and got out of his car. He then could clearly see a huge array of colored lights drifting slowly towards his house. Calling his wife and children, they all gathered on the back porch just as the object came directly over them. It was clearly triangular in shape and as it moved overhead it executed an abrupt ninety-degree turn without slowing or showing a turn radius. The husband described the turn, "The tip of the triangle was moving in the direction of flight when the thing seemed to slowly rotate on its central axis, so that the tip was finally pointing ninety degrees from where it started. Then, without any change in speed, just as the tip completed its rotation, the thing just moved off in a completely separate direction, back over the front of my house." The couple had spoken to only a few close friends about the incident and seemed relieved to hear that many other people were having similar experiences in the area. While this case doesn't necessarily show interaction of a "psychic" nature, there certainly appears to have been a specific display for a specific group of witnesses. The family felt no fear of the object and it displayed no hostility. Again we can say it seems someone, using a clearly unknown and very impressive technology, may be saying "hello" at such a level so as not to disturb society as a whole. The apparently immense craft has yet to land in the center of town in broad daylight. Human nature and our current cultural consensus could conceivably make such an event an unmanageable chaos. Whoever is "saying hello" presumably knows us well and seems to be showing great care in letting us get gradually and comfortably aquainted with it or them.

We should attempt here a closer approximation to the actual structure of the object displaying the lights. "Westchester Wing" is a term I coined simply because most of the reports were coming from Westchester residents and most of the reports described a wing or boomerang-shaped display of lights. Only a relatively few reports refer to a structure. The most common descriptions of the structure itself are: huge, dark metallic grey, a grid or lattice underneath, tubular attachments and circular attachments. Descriptions vary as to the actual outline of the object or objects. Phil Imbrogno has deduced from computer studies of reported times, areas, durations and frequencies that we may be dealing with as many as three different UFOs, all with similar characteristics.

One witness I interviewed gave some pertinent clues about the ambiguity of the actual shape or structure of the unknown object. The report came from a professional woman living near Goshen, Connecticut. Between 9:00 and 10:00 pm, on September 17th, 1984, she was driving along a fairly deserted road outside of Goshen when she saw a long string of glowing white lights paralleling her car just over the treetops on the side of the road. She slowed to get a better look and as she did so the lights moved directly over her car, changing in shape to resemble a very large "horse shoe." They remained hovering like this for approximately two minutes. A pickup truck approached from the opposite lane and continued on down the road. As it disappeared, the lights seemed to "uncoil" and form a "V" shape, which then very rapidly moved away to the south. The woman was convinced that the lights were all attached to one object as their relative distance from one another never varied, only their configuration. Within an hour of her sighting, reports were received from several hundred people in the areas of Southington and Southbury, Connecticut, approximately thirty miles away. From all the available reports of these definitely unidentified objects, we can deduce only two possibilities. Either there are several structurally different UFOs or there is one very large UFO which appears to change shape using a variable lighting display.

The first of the previously mentioned three incidents of 1985 on which we'll focus actually took place in the summer of 1984, but only came to public attention in January of 1985. On January 12, 1985, two newspapers ran similar headlines. They were startling and controversial. "NUKE PLANT GUARDS REPORT HOVERING UFOS" appeared in the *Journal-News* of Nyack, NY "UFOS — DID ALIENS BUZZ INDIAN POINT PLANT?" read the *Reporter Dispatch* of White Plains, New York. Again it was through the tireless efforts of Phil Imbrogno that these incidents came to light. Both articles said basically the same thing. The stories were presented fairly, with both sides of the question aired. Plant authorities basically denied and downplayed the incident. Imbrogno stated that on July 24, 1984, a huge "V"-shaped object slowly descended to within 300 yards of the nuclear plant. Guards became alarmed, shotguns were issued and nearby Fort Smith was alerted. John Branciforte, security coordinator at Indian Point, stated: "He (Imbrogno) could possibly be making it up or he took what they (witnesses) gave him and stretched it out. I think people are going to publish stories on hysteria and misinformation. As far as I'm concerned, it's pure speculation."

The real story, related by Lt. George Lesnick, sounds almost like science fiction. Lesnick was with Imbrogno when they investigated the incident. They interviewed six of the fifteen guards involved. They found more than twenty other witnesses in residences near the installation. And they found definite indications of a coverup, of jobs threatened, of an almost frantic effort to keep the real story from surfacing. Whether or not federal authorities were involved wasn't determined, but certinaly responsible officials denied the known facts and even came close to slander. From all that I know of the case, it seems some of the officials, uninformed of the real nature of the events, simply tried to explain it away on the basis of their own preconceptions. As in many UFO cases, there seems to have been two types of coverup: official denial of the facts by those who should be aware of them and denial of the facts by those whose access to them was not direct. The second is a manifestation of our desire to create and maintain a comfortable cultural consensus, whereas the first is purposeful deception and is not so easily forgiven.

George Lesnick had worked as a police officer for the town of Fairfield, Connecticut for twenty-nine years, rising to the rank of Lieutenant before retiring in July of 1985. He is a healthy, robust, straightforward man who had received numerous commendations for his police work. He had been instrumental in saving lives, solving kidnap cases and generally serving his com-

munity as a dedicated and professional police officer. His comments and investigations on a case are those of a professional investigator. He does not "stretch facts." If George is not absolutely sure of his material, he does not speculate.

It is with this in mind that I relate the events that actually led to the January headlines in those New York papers. I spoke with George several times to get the facts of the incident straight. In October of 1984, George, Phil Imbrogno and J. Allen Hynek were being interviewed on a late night radio show in New York. Lee Spiegel of NBC had all three men on a telephone hookup to discuss the now twenty-month-long wave of UFO activity involving the "Westchester Wing." After the show, the investigators received fifteen calls. One came from a man who George named "Deep Throat." He was a security officer at the Indian Point nuclear facility. He had something he wanted to talk about with the investigators. A time and a place were arranged for an interview. No one but Lesnick, Imbrogno and the guard knew of the meeting. The officer indicated he would have several others guards with him.

George and Phil arrived at the meeting to find six guards from the plant and, surprisingly, lawyer Peter Gersten. Accompanying Gersten was the same woman who had interviewed me the year before, posing as a MUFON investigator. (As related in my previous article, she was accompanied at that time by an FBI agent, sitting quietly at the next table, unnoticed by myself but under surveillance by local plainclothes police. George later informed me that he, too, had been invited to that first meeting, but had declined.) As the two investigators entered the diner that had been set up as the rendezvous, they noticed Gersten and his friend, and somewhat surprised, began to talk with them. "Deep Throat" came over and introduced himself and indicated where the other five guards were sitting. At this point Gersten seemed to try to take over and manage the meeting, inviting everyone to sit at his previously reserved table. Lesnick interrupted and insisted on separating the witnesses, so as to get a clearer look at how their stories compared. He took three and Phil took three, leaving Gersten and his friend somewhat at a loss.

The story that came forth was startling but not so unfamiliar to those aware of how authorities at higher levels react to the presence of UFOs at "sensitive" installations. To be fair I attempted to contact the woman involved. It took some time, but I found her Connecticut address, mailed her a letter and got no response. I drove to her house, dropped a note asking her to call me (along with a copy of my previous ***PURSUIT*** article). She did call, but quickly denied being aware of any FBI involvement and hung up before I could ask about her being at the Indian Point meeting. Maybe she's being set up, maybe she's actively involved, but certainly she pops up under unusual circumstances asking informed questions about UFOs. She is not an investigator for MUFON as she told me. This I confirmed through Marge Christensen, MUFON state coordinator for Massachusetts. Perhaps I am mistaken. Perhaps she has a sincere interest in UFOs. Having met her, I would say her interest is sincere, but then so is the interest of the FBI — they just don't seem to be able to admit it.

All six guards related the same basic story. Phil and George questioned them for nearly two hours. On the evening of July 24, 1984, a huge, V-shaped object, displaying two rows of bright, glowing lights, slowly approached the nuclear plant. It descended to an altitude of less than 500 feet and approached the facility to within 100 yards. The second shift security officers at first could not believe it. The object then stopped and hovered over them, emitting a low humming noise. The men became nervous as the object continued to hover and someone gave the order to issue shotguns. Fifteen guards were involved and as the object remained stationary they became very nervous. Another order was issued to contact nearby Fort Smith. As the now thoroughly shaken guards watched, the object continued to hover almost directly overhead. After approximately 15 minutes the object slowly drifted away and then abruptly accelerated upwards and to the northwest. The security officers interviewed were all relieved that no one had ordered them to fire upon the craft, but admitted that they were keyed up enough that they would have, had it been deemed necessary.

The two investigators made appointments with some of the witnesses to meet again, and "Deep Throat" called them several more times. In his last call he said he could no longer talk or meet with Lesnick or Imbrogno, as his job was in jeopardy. Neither of the investigators could reach any of those they had interviewed earlier. They were simply told by powerplant authorities that the men were unavailable for comment and could not come to the phone. When asked about possible films from the plant's security cameras, the same officials replied that the cameras had not been working that night due to a technical malfunction. Lesnick was told the cameras "weren't loaded" at the time. As a professional police officer, he found this explanation difficult to believe. Considering the current protests about nuclear power facilities, and the resultant activity of demonstrators that appear around such plants, a "malfunction of security cameras" is not likely. Security at sensitive installations has also been intensified due to ongoing threats of terrorist activity.

The second incident of note took place over Meriden, Connecticut early in April of 1985. At the time I was working as a technical supervisor at an engineering company in Meriden. Many of my fellow employees knew of my interest in UFOs and would occasionally drop in to my office to discuss the subject. That morning, as I was walking towards my work area, a secretary approached me to relate a UFO sighting she, a friend and her friend's father had experienced less than nine hours before. As I briefly questioned her it became apparent that what she had seen fit the "V"-shaped-object category. The three witnesses had seen the object moving slowly, apex towards the ground, near the junction of the Merritt Parkway (Highway 15) and I-91 (Interstate Highway to Hartford). Since this was near our plant, I took the opportunity to drive over to the area at coffee break. As I looked around for powerlines or other features, I suddenly noticed a very low-flying helicopter of unusual design. I am fairly familiar with aircraft but could not at first identify this one. It appeared to be a military aircraft of gunship design. Stopping my car, I got out and viewed the aircraft through binoculars. It seemed to be making a sweep of the area and was at less than 300 feet altitude. As it made a second pass near my position, I could clearly see it, indeed, was of a military-gunship design, painted dark blue and showing commercial NS numbers in red. I noted the numbers and returned to work as the helicopter slowly moved away to the north at the same low altitude.

Back at the office, I had little time to really think about it, but I was almost sure that there was a connection between the UFO sighting of the previous evening and the appearance of the unusual aircraft. Around two that afternoon, an engineer coworker dropped by to tell me that he and his wife were sure they had seen a UFO early that morning. It turned out to have the same characteristics as the one seen by the secretary, but it was seen six hours after hers and was not moving slowly at all. In fact, the engineer and his wife were at first convinced

they were watching a low-flying delta-winged bomber except that after very quickly traversing the Meriden area, it had stopped abruptly and hovered, again over the area of the highway junction. The helicopter had arrived no more than five hours after the sighting. This was too much for me to ignore, so I called the Bridgeport Air Registry Service and gave them the NS numbers I had noted. I asked who might be flying the craft that day over Meriden. After several minutes they replied that I must be mistaken because the only helicopter with that registry number was owned by an individual in Torrance, California. Now I really became curious. What was a very expensive military helicopter doing low over Meriden, Connecticut, flying a search pattern in exactly the same area as of a UFO report only hours old? What private individual could afford it, get clearance to buy it, ship it from coast to coast and then casually use it to seemingly track UFOs? This was too much.

I didn't give up, but I eventually did find myself, basically, chasing my own tail. I called the Sikorsky Aircraft plant, the Army and Air National Guard in Hartford, the State Police, the Coast Guard at East Haven, the New Haven airport, the Hartford airport (all in Connecticut) and finally another investigator in Long Island. I got nowhere. Nobody had heard of, seen or had any record of such a helicopter. Finally I called Torrance, California and asked for the number of the man listed as the registered owner. There were two listings for that name. I called them both. The first man laughed and said he sure would like to own a helicopter, but he didn't think he could handle the payments. The second politely said no, he didn't fly and that I must be mistaken. I struck out. Whatever happened, three things stand out: the reported UFO apparently was our old friend, the "Wing;" the helicopter was almost as unusual as the UFO itself; the coincidence of the UFO and the gunship being in exactly the same area within hours of each other is difficult to explain. Almost as an afterthought, I might add that military helicopters of gunship design are not usually painted dark blue and they definitely do not display civilian registration numbers in bright red paint. You can draw your own conclusions!

The third incident of note in 1985 really didn't involve the "Westchester Wing" directly, but it certainly gives a very clear example of the extreme efforts being made to dismiss and explain away this wave of UFO activity. It began in February of 1985. I was being interviewed by Jim Montavalli, managing editor of *The Fairfield Advocate,* about the UFO activity. I had contacted him, presented him with the evidence I had gathered, and asked if he was interested in an article for his paper. I found Jim to be an interested and unbiased man, and he ran an enthusiastic three-page article on Feb. 20th. I impressed upon him the fact that the two most informed and active investigators of this UFO wave were Lt. Lesnick and Phil Imbrogno.

Montavalli contacted them and arranged for an hour-long television interview on his weekly program "What Do You Think?" The show was well advertised for a week in advance and was presented live on WUBC, Channel 12 from 8:00 to 9:00 pm on the evening of March 20th. Just as the show ended and everyone was leaving an apparently immense ring of slowly moving lights came on directly over the Bridgeport studio. From Bridgeport the formation of unusual lights moved over New Haven and into central Connecticut, putting on a display seen by many hundreds of people. I saw them while on Route 34 near New Haven and watched them carefully as they moved over New Haven and then inland.

The display lasted approximately seven minutes from my position and very nearly caused several accidents as drivers pulled over to watch. Alas, it was not a UFO. It took me several minutes, but as the formation turned over New Haven, I realized they must be aircraft. There were eight of them, and their precision was almost perfect until the turn. Then four of the planes drifted slightly apart from the other four before reforming. The next day headlines throughout Connecticut loudly condemned these formation-flying fools for nearly causing accidents on highways throughout the state. Demands were made for an FAA investigation. The pilots were never found. The origin of the aircraft remains a mystery. That they were aircraft is certain. Paul Estefan, administrator of Danbury, Connecticut Municipal Airport, dispatched a plane to track the lights and the pilot tracked them to two airports in New York state. But Estefan refused to name the airports, saying that the pilots had not really broken any laws.

Was it really a coincidence that these planes put on a display that began just as the Channel 12 show ended? Was it really a coincidence that immediately after Lesnick and Imbrogno presented the evidence of two years of solid investigation, the perfect and easily accepted explanation casually flew over? Was it really a coincidence that this aircraft formation flew over the exact area where the TV show was being seen? From years of patient inquiry into the UFO phenomenon, I can assure you it all was not.

UFOs have profoundly alarmed those at high levels of national security in almost all of the countries of our planet. They have effortlessly rendered ICBM sites ineffective, easily evaded interception attempts by the most advanced aircraft of the United States and the Soviet Union, destroyed antiaircraft missiles launched at them with a technology far beyond our own. They have, at the same time, made a distinct and almost mythological impression on people throughout the world. They have not displayed overt hostility towards individuals, have not landed and disrupted our society and have shown no inclination to do so as yet. We may evolve into a unified world which peacefully moves out to explore our solar system, our universe. In such a case, UFOs may not make open and direct contact for hundreds of years. It may take that long for us to develop socially to the point where we would not be totally disturbed by such contact. We may also attempt to violently commit nuclear suicide, thereby poisoning our world, and killing all lifeforms on our planet. It would be a human decision. In such a case, somebody may come down and take our toys away, scolding us severely and imposing their own order upon us.

In reaching these kinds of conclusions, I feel that the majority of people in this country presently do not have a firm grasp on the UFO reality. Most simply avoid the subject. The avoidance maneuvers are varied: scientists, in general, see the UFO scene as a can of worms, full of inconsistencies; the media, especially the national media, still treat the subject with tongue in cheek; various authorities, from local police to those up to and including the presidential personnel, simply deny UFOs or explain them away as misidentification of man-made or natural phenomena. A significant portion of the population treat UFOs in a semi-superstitious manner, in much the same way religious prophecies are treated. It is important to realize that these attitudes are not symptoms of a "planned coverup," at least for the most part. Habitual attitudes such as these are more the symptoms of the cultural-consensus "reality" within which we all usually function.

The realities of our world are largely our own creation. In trying to understand that concept, in trying to delineate its boundaries, we very often create that reality most comfortable to ourselves and those around us. This process leads to the cultural

consensus "reality" which most of us share and support. UFOs, as yet, have not been fully accepted into that reality. People often ask me "Do you believe in UFOs?" My most consistent reply is "No! Do you believe in helicopters?"

UFOs are a reality not subject to our belief systems, although it seems they have initiated numerous "beliefs," "mythologies" and even possibly "religions." UFOs exist. The evidence for that existence is now much too solid to deny. That evidence could be an underlying force behind our rapidly evolving military technology. Deep-seated fears of what we label as the "unknown" may be a factor in our feverish arms race. It is even almost comforting to realize that now, as we peer off into the darkness of our self-created position, we could, if unified, at least have some chance to "battle" those "dark forces of the unknown." Unfortunately, those "dark forces" are largely creations of our own imaginations. Alien invaders haven't yet arrived to enslave us. In fact, I should imagine any advanced life form would be hesitant to try. We are an aggressive and pugnacious species and would make very poor slaves.

The human race is rapidly moving into an age where the nature of "reality" is changing every day. We need to understand that we create and maintain that "kind" of reality where we all pretty much agree on "how things are." The ultimate reality of our existence is still very much of a mystery, even to those scientists who specialize in exploring and defining it. We are part of a matter/energy universe which is only now beginning to be somewhat understood. Small-particle physicists, those closest to what we might call the "ultimate" reality, readily admit that at this stage of the game, they can define our universe most closely with only one word: ineffable. Science and religion are now beginning to find that they may well be exploring the same ideas, the only difference being in their approaches. UFOs are representative of a "reality"which also seems to be "ineffable."

The actual appearance of UFOs to witnesses, the evidence of UFO activity not only perceived by our senses but registered on our technological sensors, is overwhelming. It is best understood when viewed in a semantically-clear fashion. *They are here.* They are seen, tracked on radar, photographed, acted upon, and display actions which are as yet poorly understood. The data available on UFOs indicates the presence of several groups or "groupings" of visitors from other worlds. There are several broad common denominators of these groupings. One of the most consistent of these seems to be a gradual and periodically reinforced series of appearances, labelled "UFO waves." These appearances do not take place on a grand scale; likewise, landings and flyovers generally do not occur at the capital cities of the world. We are not yet prepared to face a culture of beings as far ahead of us as we are of cave dwellers. Anthropological studies show clear examples of the fates of primitive societies exposed to modern man.

Another common denominator of UFO activity is their appearances near major military centers throughout the world. These appearances are again periodic, almost on a "reinforcement" schedule. Often these appearances coincide with "demonstrations" of the technological ease with which missile bases are electronically nullified, interceptor aircraft easily outdistanced, antiaircraft missiles destroyed at launch. Examples of these kinds of incidents are coming more and more to the public eye.

Perhaps it is time we started growing up. Our visitors, friendly or not, certainly cannot afford to let us come swarming off our planet armed and angry. What would you do if you were up there looking down at a planet whose dominant lifeforms seem to be preoccupied making bigger, better and deadlier devices to either kill themselves or to keep each other from killing themselves? It would seem our visitors have been extremely patient. Perhaps they can help. Perhaps not. Perhaps they are angelic, attempting to help only indirectly. Perhaps they are demonic, attempting to move us onward towards "Armageddon." Perhaps they are neither.

Here we sit, our halos held up by our horns, for the most part unaware of the real nature of our visitors. Perhaps that nature is unimportant. Perhaps more important is our perception of their nature. Perhaps, just perhaps, we can help ourselves. With the awareness that the universe is not our enemy, that it is just the opposite, we might possibly move into a future of tremendous potential. We are growing up. Hopefully we shall share our movement into racial maturity with others who seem to have already evolved towards social and racial sanity. Again, it is our choice. We are, after all, fairly intelligent, especially when we're not chasing each other through the treetops.

Addendum

I finished this article and submitted it to ***PURSUIT*** in early September of 1985. Since that time there have been two clear cases of the unknown object seen low over populated areas of New York and Connecticut. There was also a sharp rise in the number of isolated reports of unsual lights in these months. Most of these reports could not be attributed to aircraft activity. A summary of these reports is given here; it seems as if this resurgence is a clear indication that this wave is not finished.

The first incident of note came to light through Peter Gersten's UFO Hotline (914-739-6830). On the evening of September 12th, from 9:00 to 10:30 pm, an unusually large number of reports came into the hotline. All described an unusual object, studded with lights, low over New York City and surrounding areas such as Yonkers and New Rochelle. Some callers reported the "V" shape. Others said the lights varied in their appearance. Several callers reported that there was definitely a very large object involved as the stars were occulted or blocked from view by its passage overhead. I listened to the report of one woman who, along with her husband, saw the object as its light configurations began to change. Her report was familiar; the process she described was almost exactly the same as that seen by the woman I interviewed in Goshen, CT. The media did not make much comment on this activity. Channel 7 News at 11:00 pm that night mentioned unusual lights seen over the New York City area.

The second incident involving large numbers of people was one I investigated personally. On the evening of October 17th 1985, an estimated two thousand witnesses saw the object as it appeared over Bridgeport, Fairfield and Danbury, Connecticut. As it moved over these towns it was seen, by separate witnesses, to "change shape" from a "V" to a straight line and back to a "V." The witnesses, some of them police officers, again referred to rows of large lights that defined the shape of the object. It moved very slowly, rotated on its axis and accelerated very rapidly. It was described as "larger than an airliner at low altitude" by witnesses I interviewed. Visiting the Fairfield and Bridgeport, CT police departments, I found that there had been a very large number of calls that night from people concerned about the object.

I decided to call the hotline and put my findings on record. The hotline, established more than a year ago, was a direct result of UFO activity in the area and received reports, replaying some of the more dramatic ones for several days. The report from the night of the 17th was recorded on the 19th and played back on the 20th to the 22nd. It gives a clearer idea of the nature

and magnitude of the incident:

"Thursday, October 17th — "V"-shaped white, red, green and blue lights were first seen over Main Street, Bridgeport, CT at approximately 8:35 pm. The "lights" moved slowly north to the area of St. Vincent's hospital, stopped, hovered for three to five minutes, then rapidly accelerated away to the north. It apparently turned to the east and was next seen hovering over Fairfield University, Fairfield from 8:45 to 8:55 pm. Again stopped, hovered, "V" unfolded to straight line. Altitude verified at less than one thousand feet by "trigging out" witness positions and angles of observation. All witnesses agree the size of the display was larger than a large jet airliner. After hovering over Fairfield, while viewed by police officers, object rotated on its own axis and moved away. Reports came in from Trumbull, Monroe and then Danbury. Shortly after 9:00 pm, over Danbury, police chief John P. Basile saw it with over thirty other witnesses. Also seen over Bethel and New Fairfield areas and then Candlewood Lake. Articles on page four of the Bridgeport *Telegram* of Friday, October 18th and page 13 of the Danbury *News-Times* of the same date. Approximately thirty calls to the Bridgeport Police Department, approximately three hundred calls to the Fairfield Police Department, calls also to the Danbury police, local radio stations and newspapers. Estimated number of witnesses, two thousand."

There can be no doubt that something unknown is evident. Other reports that came to my attention were as follows:

September 11th, 1985: Single witness, female, reports that while walking dog in Trumbull, CT at 11:30 pm, saw large group of red lights moving low over positon from north to south. Reported by personal acquaintance.

October 7th, 1985: A Bridgeport fireman, thirty years old, while bicycling from Bridgeport to Florida (local newspaper coverage) reports seeing low-flying "V"-shaped object followed closely by several military helicopters. Witness reports that this was near the coast of Virginia, about 9:00 to 10:00 pm and object and choppers moving south to north. Reported by personal acquaintance.

October 16th, 1985: Two witnesses, female, report seeing a "V"-shaped object low over beach near West Haven, CT, between 11:30 and 12:00 pm. Report also cites "mild sunburn" as a result of "being under the thing." Interviewed one witness by telephone, unable to follow up and clarify "sunburn" aspect.

October 16th, 1985: Newburg, NY, reports of unusual lights over area, reported by UFO hotline.

October 18th, 1985: Between Atlantic City and Newark, NJ, over Garden State Parkway between 11:00 and 12:00 pm, single witness reports seeing "V"-shaped object with white lights and large central red light. Reported by personal acquaintance.

October 31st, 1985: Report of a "close encounter of the third kind" at 3:30 am in Ossining, NY. UFO hotline, no clarification.

What we have been calling the "Westchester Wing" continues to be seen. Its appearances continue to frame questions of its origin and purpose. We all, each in our own way, have much to learn in probing for answers.

R. Perry Collins is an aerospace engineer and part-time physics teacher living in Connecticut. He has been an active UFO investigator and researcher for a number of years.

Related SITUation

Sane, Sober and Seeing Lights in the Sky

How many nights have I sat in the newsroom and answered phone calls from self-professed "sane" people who claimed to have seen lights in the sky?

"You shoulda seen it. This was no plane," they'd say. "I swear, I'm not crazy or drunk...I've never seen anything like it."

And I'd say, "Don't worry. You're not alone. People are calling in from all over the place. Now, tell me, what did it look like?"

Then I'd hang up and chuckle just a little.

Well, last night I saw a UFO too.

And I wasn't alone, either. At least 15 people — from Danbury, Bethel, New Fairfield — called *The News-Times* from about 9 p.m. on, the editors say. I wasn't here answering calls this time. I was out on a field at the Bethel Educational complex covering a bocce ball tournament.

Play stopped for about 10 minutes when about 30 of the men bolted to the far side of the courts to watch the lights. They knew there was a reporter there.

"Hey, Lisa," called bocce player and Police Chief John P. Basile. "You want real story? Come here and look at the UFO."

Skeptical from the start, I walked to where the crowd was.

It was close. At first I thought it was one of those advertising blimps with moving red neon words. Just too far away to make out.

Then the spinning of the lights changed direction. Then they changed to white. For about 10 minutes, we watched it move quietly and slowly from left to right. Then it hovered for a long time in one spot.

Some of the bocce players were making jokes about it. "This is the strangest thing I've ever seen in my life," one said.

The Chief called headquarters to see what was going on and he reported that cruisers were tracking it on Governor's Lane in Bethel. First Selectman Cliff Hurgin, also a bocce enthusiast, called his son — who has a high-powered telescope — and asked him to keep an eye on the thing.

The rational among us on the field gave the usual explanations: ultralight planes (too cold, others said), helicopters in formation (too quiet), one plane with many lights (no plane has lights like that), blimps (strange flight pattern).

Soon, after a very brief speed spurt toward us, the object started taking on a "V" shape and the lights turned back to red. Then, the quickest and straightest it ever moved, it headed in one direction out of sight and never came back.

Bocce resumed.

As one player put it: "Maybe they saw what was going on down here and left."

SOURCE: *News-Times*, Danbury, CT 10/18/85

CREDIT: R. Collins

UFO Sightings Reported In Area

The UFOs, sighted around 9 p.m., were variously described as flying saucers, blimps, space machines, "flying boomerangs," and meteorites, area police reported.

But air traffic controllers said that the objects were most likely a formation of planes flying at high altitude with their lights flashing.

"We saw them here," said Brian Mitchell, an air traffic controller at Danbury Municipal Airport. "We think there were seven aircraft flying at 8,000 to 10,000 feet. It was probably just a bunch of guys out having a good time."

However, an air traffic controller at Sikorsky Airport in Stratford said the object appeared to be a balloon of some kind.

"We saw it, but we never talked to it," said the controller, who asked not to be identified.

Fairfield police officer Jim Gallagher said that the department was deluged with calls from anxious residents who had sighted the objects.

Mark Napoli, a teacher at Whittier School in Bridgeport, was one of those who sighted the flying objects.

"I was at my girlfriend's house, man, and I saw these lights, all these lights," Napoli said, breathlessly. "It was V-shaped and moving slowly. I never saw anything like that before. It was no plane. Don't think I'm crazy, man."

SOURCE: *The Telegram*, Bridgeport, CT 10/18/85

CREDIT: R. Collins

In New Jersey A Baffling String of Deaths Blamed on Desecration of Indian Graveyard

The curse, Carl Pierce said, was not automatic.

"All they had to do was detour around the field maybe three or four miles and nothing would have happened," said Pierce, who, as Sachem Wayandaga is both chief and medicine man for this country's Delaware Indians.

Instead, they went ahead with the highway, dug up the land, and, some say, triggered the curse.

To the uninitiated, the field just off Route 47 in Deptford, Gloucester County, appeared as simply an open tract in the path of an expansion of Route 55.

To the Delaware, however, it is an ancient burial ground and therefore sacred.

Despite Pierce's warning to the NJ Department of Transportation (DOT) two years ago, construction on a 7.2-mile stretch of Route 55 between Mantua Township and Franklin Township began in March 1983.

Two months later, a 34-year-old construction worker died when he was run over by an asphalt roller truck. Another worker fell while working on a bridge overpass when heavy winds "came up from nowhere," according to Karl Kruger, a DOT site engineer, who no longer talks about the incident with reporters.

An inspector later fell dead on the job from a brain aneurysm, other workers or members of their families have developed cancer or other serious illnesses, one worker's feet turned black, another's wife had a miscarriage and a van carrying five crew members caught fire and blew up for no apparent reason.

The mother and father of an asphalt worker were killed in an automobile accident the night after construction started, and the brother and father of an office worker at the site died during the same weekend.

"I'm not superstitious," said Bernie McCabe, site manager for John M. Rousse Construction Co. "But the state (DOT) people have had a lot of problems, a lot of deaths in the family and that sort of thing."

Yesterday, in fact, workers on the site were out of direct communication with the home office in Havertown, Pa., because of a power outage.

"I told them what would happen if they didn't stop the desecration," said Pierce yesterday. "The damage is done. The problem is I feel sorry for some of the people who will be traveling that road in the future."

"I wouldn't drive that area for any amount of money, particularly after dark," Pierce said.

Pierce said Sachem means "chief of chiefs" and Wayandaga means "chosen one." At 60, Pierce said, he has held the hereditary position of chief for most of his adult life.

He is also the shaman, or medicine man, of the Turtle Clan, which extends throughout the East Coast, he said.

"I know it's difficult for a Caucasian to understand, but I suggest you look up medicine man, what power and ability he has, and I think you'd be somewhat surprised," Pierce said.

Not all native Americans agree with Pierce.

"What they found there were a few artifacts that mean nothing to the legitimate Indian people," said Chief Roy Crazy Horse of the Lenape Reservation in Burlington County. He said Pierce was used by preservationists who wanted to block highway construction.

Asked whether he knew of mysterious misfortunes at burial sites disturbed by construction workers, Crazy Horse said, "I've heard of those things too...There are things that we don't talk about.

"We are 100 percent against disturbing our relatives," he said.

"If it were (a burial ground), I would be there."

"He and I don't get along," Pierce said of Crazy Horse. "He's Powhatan and from Virginia, not New Jersey."

Despite arguments that nothing has been unearthed, Pierce said he knows burial grounds are in the area.

"Wherever you had an encampment of any duration, you'll find a burial ground within 500 feet," he said.

"My people used to travel that route for thousands of years. They used to oyster, clam and fish in Delaware Bay and River in season and hunt all year round.

"Indian families have lived here for 18,000 years. New Jersey's only been here a couple of hundred years," Pierce said.

Evidence of the Indian settlement and burial ground in the field was found in June 1983, when workers for the state Historic Preservation Department unearthed coins, jewelry and bones in the field.

There was an unsuccessful effort to have the site preserved as a national monument that year.

Pierce said artifacts he has seen include spearpoints, arrowheads, tomahawk heads and cooking utensils.

DOT spokeswoman Debbie Lawlor said officials had no comment on the issue.

When an overall $97 million expansion program is complete, Route 55 will run some 40 miles from Port Elizabeth in Cumberland County to Mantua Township in Gloucester County, according to Randy Linthurst, another DOT spokesman.

SOURCE: *Star-Ledger*, Newark, NJ 10/24/85

CREDIT: Nancy Warth

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Baffling Story of Deaths

On the day bulldozers plowed into the earth to build Route 55, a self-proclaimed Indian shaman staged a news conference "to call down the curse of my ancestors" for disturbing the vestiges of a 7,000-year-old prehistoric Indian settlement.

During the past two years, a mounting number of on-site accidents and personal tragedies suffered by the 100-member construction crew has workers wondering if the souls of the ancients are upset.

"The day the medicine man put a curse on me, my freezer broke," says Charles Shoemaker, who headed up one section of the four-mile project until he developed ulcers and transferred off the job.

"It's all true," said Karl Kruger, site engineering supervisor for the state Department of Transportation. "If you take each thing separately, it's nothing unusual. But when you keep adding them up, so many people associated with the job have had illness or tragedy strike."

Construction began in June 1983 on a 4-mile link of the 22-mile, $150 million Route 55 highway linking rural Salem County with the New Jersey Turnpike.

By autumn, Kruger said, "we had one truck driver who wanted to make up T-shirts that said, 'I survived Route 55.' "

Kruger's still on the job and he isn't taking any chances. The tall, rugged engineer says he'll wear his lucky Navaho belt buckle until the project's complete this winter. And an office worker at the construction site says her "dove of peace" charm is always around her neck.

"One of the fellows who had a heart attack told me he'd worked on a project before where they moved graves and tombstones," Kruger said. "He said that didn't feel nearly as eerie as he's felt sometimes on this job.

"I don't like it out there. I hope there aren't any burial grounds on my next job," Kruger said.

The principal archaeologist for the site says there's no burial ground on Route 55, but the presence of Indian artifacts prompted continuous excavation of the site. Tools for hunting and cooking, pottery and soapstone and storage pits have been found at sites, some of which are 7,000 years old, said archaeologist Kurt Kalb.

"To date, there have been no indications of burials. Burial grounds tend to be an unusual occurrence in this state," he said.

But Chief Sachem Wayandaga said, "In the old prophecies and curses, when you go over the dead, you're risking the curse," in a telephone interview. "That road will never be safe to travel on. There will always be more than usual bloodshed."

SOURCE: (AP) *Asbury Park Press*, NJ 10/24/85

CREDIT: Member #432

An Interim Report on the Search for Mokele Mbembe

by Herman A. Regusters and Dr. Kia L. Vandusen

Editor's Note: We are pleased that Mr. Regusters has offered **PURSUIT** *his report of his TRACE-I search for mokele mbembe. The data presented here is only a summary of all the information he gathered. A list of animals sighted, details of geographic pecularities and comparison data such as voice graphics had to be reduced for lack of space.*

We hope to have a report on TRACE-II for our readers after that expedition is completed. An excellent report about the rigors of the TRACE-I effort is available (see reference note #1) and highly recommended.

In 1980, while working with the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), I was given project responsibility for a program being conducted under the auspices of the Office of Naval Research (ONR). The effort entailed the adaptation of high-performance, precision-navigation equipment and the demonstration of its feasibilty for use aboard oceanographic research vessels. As a direct result of those activities, Dr. David Nevin at the same facility, and I, presented a concept for the integration of the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) with the capabilities of the LANDSAT, to achieve an unparalleled degree of mapping resolution and precision. That same year, I happened to read an article in *Science 80* relating to reports of the possible existence of a dinosaur-like animal somewhere in Equatorial Africa. It was the first I had ever read of such a thing. The article named Dr. Roy Mackal at the University of Chicago as an interested investigator. After acquainting myself with the geophysical nature of that area, the idea that such a claim could contain a basis of truth seemed reasonable for the Congo Basin constituted a vast, uninhabitable, uncharted region along Africa's equator. It was not just the thought of an unknown animal that caught my fancy. The idea of utilizing the latest satellite technology to help make a penetration of the region would be my major interest — finding the beast would be a bonus.

After contacting Dr. Mackal, I found he had neither a specific plan of action nor knowledge of existing earth-sensing and geophysical-data-compilation technology, so I flew to visit him at the University of Chicago. When I realized how enthusiastic he was regarding his belief that it was feasible for such an animal to have possibly survived, I offered to provide my expertise to design an expedition plan and make available my technological resources from the NASA/JPL. By mutual agreement we became co-sponsors for a planned expedition to the RPC,* with a two-fold purpose: (1) to demonstrate the application of my GPS/LANDSAT concept for use in scientific exploration, and (2) more specifically, to initiate a deeper study of the physical characteristics of the Basin, and its inhabitants.

Using my work at the Lab as a base, I developed an ambitious proposal which was presented to the Dept. of Defense (DoD) and the California Institute of Technology for consideration of federal funding for the proposed project. In addition to receiving the official blessings of my technical division at JPL to pursue the idea, as with all military and NASA projects, the Lab designed a striking and colorful insigna for my exclusive use, an action that required the approval of NASA. In attendance at one of my proposal briefings at the Missile Systems Division (SAMSO) in Los Angeles, were representatives of the Army, Navy, Air Force and even the CIA. But as it turned out, while the proposal was never officially denied, no funding was offered to my idea.

After several months of proposal presentations, the one tangible result that developed was a well-critiqued and thoughtout plan of action for the execution of an expedition. Several groups had assisted my careful preparations by researching data relative to the physical environment, projected health hazards, climatical expectations, etc., of the Congo Basin. However, with the disappointment of receiving no federal sponsorship, I began to contact executives of various companies and received a high level of in-kind support in the form of needed equipment. Interestingly, several prospective sponsors stated that their support was based upon the fact that I happened to be an engineer rather than a member of the academic community. I believe engineers are perceived by business managers as "achievers," which in business terms mean real dollars. The scientists, such as astronomers, physicists and mathematicians, may possess abstract dreams of space travel, but it becomes the responsibility of the engineers to convert those visions into solid hardware that has practical application. If it was otherwise, man would be yet to walk on the moon!

I believe that it was the lack of mutual modus operandi that led to the eventual separation in the relationship between Mackal and myself — a difference in methodology and approach. To me, his approach was from a very theoretical and idealistic direction, with a lesser latitude for practicality and contingencies and, I feel, this proved to be the major factor that resulted in his failing to reach Lake Tele some months later. In spite of the fact that he and I are on record initially, as co-sponsors of an expedition, at some later date, Mackal was quoted in a national weekly periodical as stating, "Regusters was just another individual who applied to accompany me on my expedition, but I turned [him] down ... I hardly knew him..." On file with JPL, NASA, and DoD are correspondence and other papers that contradict such a quote.

TRACE-I

The Regusters African Congo Expedition (TRACE) lasted from September through December, 1981 and definitely was not a spontaneous or ill-planned junket. Without federal or university financial assistance, funding was primarily provided by my wife, Kia, and myself at a substantial sacrifice to us both. And, several thousands of dollars were contributed by engineers across the country and by the wife of the late Justin Dart, a personal friend and advisor to President Reagan. I was determined to complete the planned journey not only for the time and effort I had already expended but also because the concept had caught the imagination of many people.

The Congo Basin may correctly be viewed as a 800,000 square mile sinkhole. Its evolution from a monumental inland sea to present state is well documented, along with projections of continental drift after the fracturing of Gondwanaland, and need not be discussed here. The Basin now has all the characteristics of an isolated ecosystem, much the same as Madagascar and

*Republique Populaire de Congo

Australia, which have supported the evolution of their own unique species of animal and plant life — or sustained species that existed in prehistory. Data on the Basin came from many sources. Working closely with David Jordt, a research geologist of international repute with the Petrominex Corporation in Texas, we developed a set of profile characteristics that delineate some of the aspects of the environment surrounding the Lake Tele area. Several years of effort went into our assessments. Again, assistance was lent by a number of researchers that include: Dr. David Nevin and Joe Stacey at JPL, Dr. Dick Cooke of the Danish Royal Geological Society, and a nameless number of technicians. A special acknowledgement is due Dr. Charles Elachi, Director of the Shuttle Imaging Radar project at JPL, who arranged for my unrestricted access to the wealth of high-resolution, earth-sensing data being developed by his research group.

1. TRACE group negotiating swamp in Congo Basin area.

The natives at Boa told us we could not travel to the lake by water so we walked the last 65 kilometers to the lake in five days through forest and swamp. We found Lake Tele to be a unique earth-surface feature, with no rational explanation for its isolated presence there, just north of the Equator at 70° 10' E and 1° 20' N. Native folklore credits its existence or its occurrence to the fall of a fiery ball from the sky, which seems to hold more substance than any explanation thus far offered by science. Almost circular, it has an average diameter of about 2½ miles. Although extremely murky, due to the suspension of large amounts of particulate matter, we were amazed in searching the lake and surrounding area that no exit or entry for refreshing water flow could be found by us. And, the lake water circulates in a clockwise direction in a 40-hour cycle. A very noteworthy point is that prior to our arrival at the lake, the people in the village of Boa related a story which, at the time, we attributed to pure superstition. They believed that if one dared to go to the center of Lake Tele, he would be sucked down into its depths by a whirlpool. Possibly, sometime in past history, the velocity of the clockwise water circulation had sufficient momentum to pose a realistic danger. I personally believe so, for we could not convince one of our native companions to travel towards the center of the lake in our small pneumatic boat. On a cursory basis, we cataloged fifteen different species of fish in its waters, plus clams, crabs, shrimp and various turtles. Among the reptiles were four species of crocodile and a multitude of serpents that included mambas, cobras and pythons. There could be no honest attempt to name the profusion of varieties of birds and animals that inhabited the surrounding jungle and swamp, but there were 35 types of birds that we had seen (four types of ducks alone), and untold numbers of four-legged creatures (including panthers) on up to elephants where the swamp depth became lower. There were many families of gorillas and other primates, too. Many things roamed the night — things beyond our wildest speculation.

Through the use of satellite imaging and water-motion intelligence, Jordt and I were able to calculate the average depth of the lake at about 48 feet. Passive microwave imaging also allowed us to identify the coordinates of a deep hole near the center of the lake, which plunges to some, as yet, unmeasured depth. Our personal experience at the lake made this hole known to us when, during one attempted measurement, our line extended down at least 200 feet. The possibility of a meteorite located beneath the lake bottom can not be ruled out since the lake is considered by some Congolese officials and Europeans to be a source of magnetic disturbance. Neither our hand-held devices nor aircraft instrumentation reflected any magnetic deviation — at least at 1500 feet altitude, but low-level flights are forbidden by the government and even pilots of commercial flights avoid flying over the area.

The Monster

I discovered that reports and sightings of monster creatures inhabiting the inaccessible and uncharted intraterritories of Africa date back to the time of first intrusion by Europeans. And, naturally there are much older tales from among the native populations. John Jordan related his personal experience of shooting, with a high-caliber .303 rifle, a "creature" the likes of which he never imagined to exist. His physical description of the animal matched, almost perfectly, that Ankylosaur dinosaur species — a species which at that point had not been classified, much less identified, by scientists. In January 1910, the Seattle *Times* headlined a story "A Giant Dinosaur Still Alive?," and devoted two full pages to the then recent creature reports from Africa by hunters and military personnel.

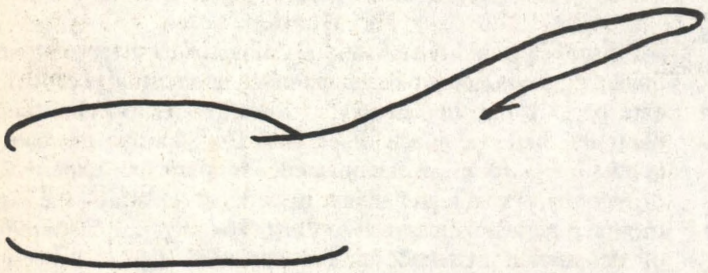
Even if we dismiss all the reports (which scientists and scholars are prone to attribute to imagination and myth) there are documented no less than a dozen eye-witness creature reports made by Westerners since the beginning of this century. I am sure it is safe to assume many more such sightings were never logged because of the fear of personal ridicule — then as today.

The seemingly extraordinary and unbelievable nature of reportings of large creatures may be brought into a more realistic perspective through the aid of the following example: Few people are aware that scientists rejected reports of the existence of the gorilla, until as recently as 1856, when the first skull was obtained by an American missionary. And it was not until 1902 that the first live one was shown to the public. Also, to the present time, it was thought that the gorilla did not exist west of

the Congo River, based on its presumed fear of water. However, during my 1981 trek into the deep swamps in the north of the Republic of the Congo (RPC), we observed and photographed a species of large gorilla that actually inhabited the depths of the swamplands. This fact of habitation was apparently unknown by modern primatologists. I have since received requests from around the world for more details on this discovery — but I am getting ahead of my story.

As a point of clarification, the name "mokele-mbembe" is neither proper in native tradition nor of any significance scientifically. The term is derived from Lingala, a French-missionary invented language, to facilitate communications with the Bantu tribes in a dialect to fit the European tongue. Loosely translated, it means "the animal that blocks the flow of rivers." In the dialect of the north in the RPC, among the Bomitaba people, a subtribe of the Bantu, the animal is known as "emeula natuka," or "the animal that eats the tops of trees." Indeed, a very descriptive label for something that critics claim is only a figment of native imagination.

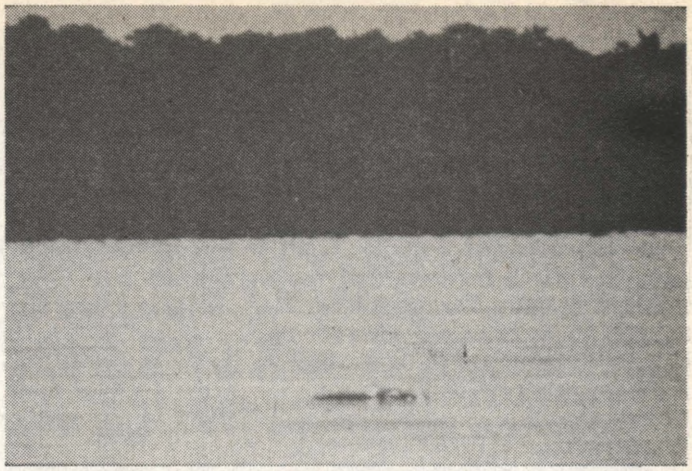
Several weeks following our arrival in Brazzaville in 1981, I received an invitation to meet with a Colonel Emmanuel Mossedzedi, deputy commander of the Brazzaville Garrison and Chief of Air Force Operations and Logistics. The colonel proved to be the stereotype military officer, polished, handsome, and a ramrod posture. He was very quiet spoken, and fluent in French, Russian, Spanish — and of course native dialects. He was also a senior and accomplished jet pilot, who had received training in both Russia and France. I was apprehensive of his military view of Americans in this Marxist atmosphere, and suspected another roadblock to prevent our travel into the interior country. However, I was to receive a surprise. The officer had been born in the Likouala Region, and wished to share an experience of his youth. Some 20 years earlier, he was a member of a hunting safari from his native village of Itanga,



2. Sketch of an animal (monster) made by Colonel Emmanuel Mossedzedi, Deputy Commandant of the Brazzaville Garrison.

which suddenly came upon an animal (monster) that none of them had ever encountered in the forest before. However, its appearance matched that spoken of by some of the elders as emeula natuka. When I asked him to sketch his recollection of the animal, he provided the sketch shown here in Figure 2. It is to be remembered that this information was offered unsolicited, by a high-ranking, well-educated officer (colonel is the highest rank obtainable in the Congolese military), with absolutely nothing to be gained through the dispatch of such information to me, a foreign scientist who can offer the Colonel no political clout in his country, whatsoever. Although vague and unesthetic, the connotation of Colonel Mossedzedi's sketch returned as a clear deja vu some weeks later at Lake Tele.

In spite of a total of five separate observations by members of our group, during the 32-day period at Lake Tele, only one



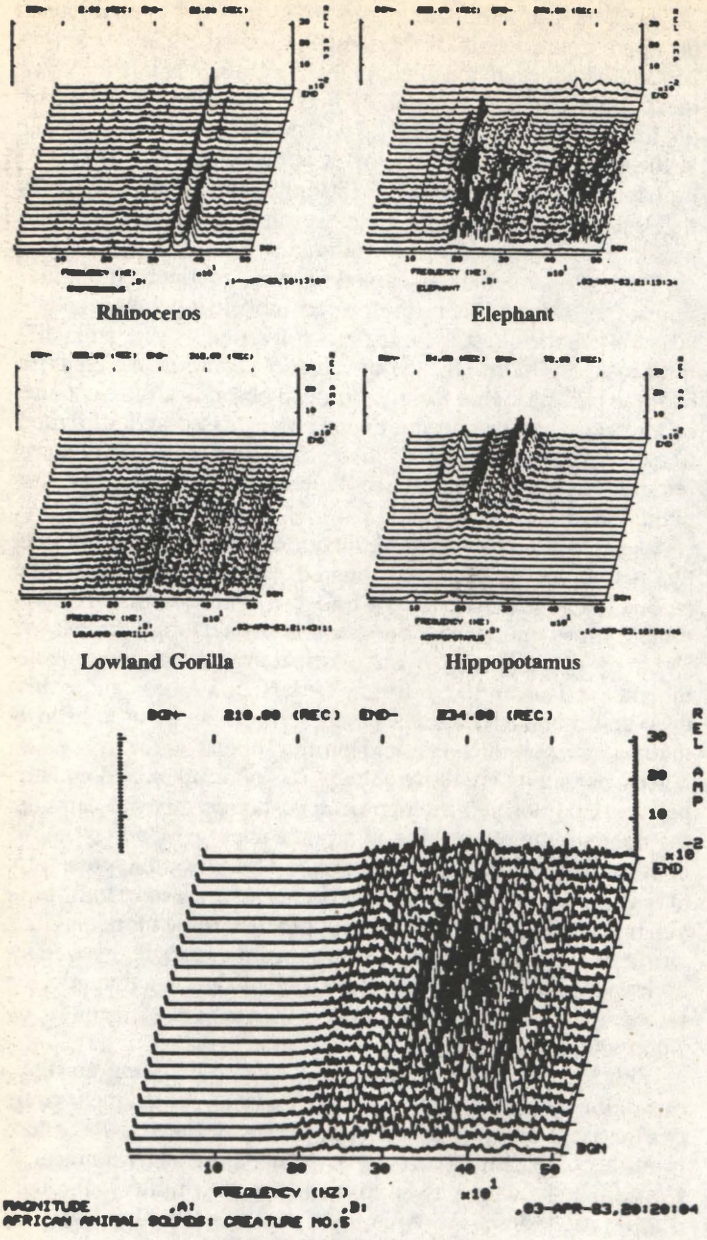
3. Head portion of Mokele Mbembe submerging into Lake Tele. Taken from estimated distance of 300-400 feet.

doubtful and fleeting image was obtained and is shown in Figure 3. The shot depicts an estimated 18-24 inch portion of a submerging head and was processed and enlarged by the Special Imaging Group at Northrop Aircraft in Los Angeles, thanks to manager Jerry Weidenborner. We make no excuses for our failure to have returned with a picture perfect enough to beautify the front pages of the weekly tabloids. The reality of the matter is that the taking of a picture requires (1) being in the right place, at the right time and looking in the right direction, and (2) being fully prepared to mechanically record the event as it occurs. Concrete evidence, such as an original photograph, of any short-lived event is much rarer than the opportunity of human observance. Seeing it and photographing it are not equal tasks. Likewise and particularly annoying is the naive statement, "if it exists then many people would have seen it by now."

A Voice 'Picture'

Even though we were unable to get clear photographs of the creature we sought, another form of graphic evidence developed successfully for us. A very thorough and undeniable scientific analysis was performed on the vocalizations in recordings made by us at the lake of the mokele-mbembe animal. The technical authorities and experts we consulted included: Kenith Templin of Borg-Warner; Dr. David Weishampel, of the University of Tübingen in West Germany, an authority on animal vocalizations; Dr. G. DeGraaff, Assistant Director of the National Parks Research Group in South Africa, where an extensive library of animal voiceprints is maintained; Dr. Rufin Oko, Director of Animal Research at the Ministry of Water and Forests in the Republic of the Congo, and an internationally recognized expert on the vocalizations of African animals; and Dr. Harvey Fischer, Curator of Reptiles at the Los Angeles Zoo.

Audio recordings made at Lake Tele were converted into two- and three-dimensional spectrograms, using computers and other instrumentation at the Borg-Warner Dynamics Research Laboratory. Attentuations by the dense jungle foliage, and high ambient noise contaminations caused by insects, birds and other creatures made the task difficult, but not impossible. An illustration of some of the plots are shown in Figure 4. With his sophisticated equipment, Templin was able to isolate the vocalization of interest to a 300-400 Hertz band. After a conversion into 3-dimensional characteristic plots, a systematic comparison was then made against other types of large animals native to Africa, using their similar voiceprint-type plots. No other animals were found that even closely resembled the spectrum characteristics of the Lake Tele animal. Amazingly, we were also able to clearly distinguish that the voiceprints indicated that



4. Mokele Mbembe voiceprint and comparative spectrograms as produced Borg-Warner Laboratory.

several *different* animals, of the same species, had inadvertently been recorded by the expedition group. The determination of this fact was established in a manner not unlike that used to discern the difference in human voiceprints.

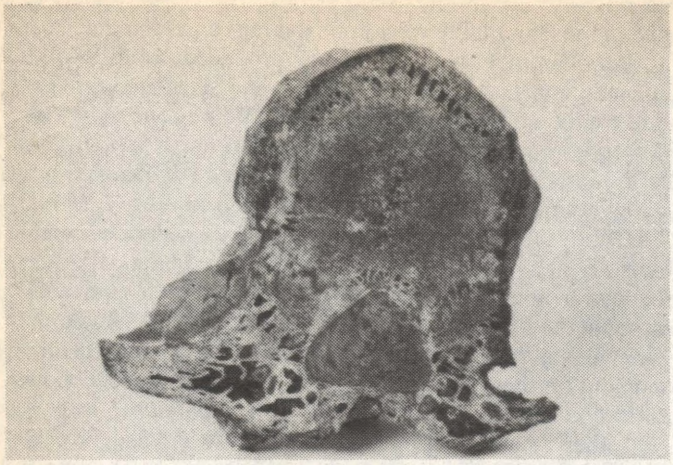
Copies of the original tapes were sent to the researchers in Europe and Africa, who then conducted their own analyses. Subsequently, each of them corroborated our findings here in the United States. Dr. Weishampel wrote from Tübingen, "I cannot say it is a dinosaur, but you have found something new and different out there..." Dr. DeGraaff responded for his group, after making use of their extensive audio library, "I find it impossible to identify the animal." And Dr. Oko, with his extensive knowledge of the animals of Equatorial Africa wrote, "After completing my own analysis, your recording was played for an audience of professors and military officers at the University (Marien-Ngouabi in Brazzaville). We are all amazed and convinced of an animal we do not know." It must be remembered that, probably, without exception all those in attendance at the gathering in Brazzaville were born and raised in remote villages and were familiar with any sound produced by crocodiles, elephants, gorillas, large cats, hippos, and all other animals of the forest including chickens and goats. Who is one to believe, the skeptics and critics who have never so much as journeyed into the interior of Africa or those intimately acquainted with the jungle inhabitants? It was demonstrated to the members of TRACE, over again, that the "primative" natives were capable of identifying, without hesitation, any animal, insect or bird that produced a noise in the jungle. We have not forgotten Dr. Fischer at the Los Angeles Zoo who said, "I am unable to imagine what animal could have produced that cry." A detailed document on these analyses and conclusions is contained in a publication by the Unicorne Research Foundation.[2]

A rather graphic on-the-spot analysis was made by Dr. Etienne-Serge Mingolou, a biologist that accompanied our expedition, and the Director of Animal Management for the RPC. After the initial skepticism, which we all shared, he had the occasion to experience the animal's cry at a very close range, when he was concealed by a wall of jungle. Following the emanation of the cry, a great crashing was heard, he said, as it plowed through the jungle growth. When I inquired of Etienne why he had not made a point of rushing to see the animal firsthand, he replied, "I have not that much courage." And as fearless as were our accompanying native hunters, they would not venture near the jungle sites of our most frequent "sightings" or "hearings."

The Back Bone of the Story

In 1982, following completion of the first TRACE expedition, I was contacted by a member of Nigerair, a French aviation business in the country of Niger. Our pursuits and activities in the Congo were common knowledge throughout Africa by then, thanks to the Voice of America, USIA and the media in Ghana and the Republic of the Congo. Apparently, during the overflight of part of the desert in central Niger, one of the pilots chanced upon an unusual and interesting find. Below, where the sand had shifted, laid fully exposed a huge deposit of bones. Landing his light craft near the site, he walked among a collection of fully articulated skeletons of crocodiles, large turtles, other creatures, and *dinosaurs,* as later identified. Collecting a few of the bones from the largest and most unusual specimen, he continued with his mission. Later, the bones were definitely identified by French and Italian researchers as belonging to a sauropod species dinosaur — now classified as Ouranosaurus nigeriensis. Through sheer luck, they decided to send me a sample of the bone, and I received one of the vertebrae that was about six inches in diameter. Paleontologists at UCLA, UC-Berkeley, University of Arizona, US Geological Survey, LA Museum, Page Museum, and Tokyo University have subsequently corroborated it as a sauropod dinosaur bone.

The first expert I met with was Dr. Rainer Burger at UCLA, recognized internationally for his work with the radiometric dating of fossils. After a visual assessment, he commented, "This bone is of far too recent origin to make use of my laboratory. I would guess that this bone is a little over a million years. Although partially opalized, it is not fossilized." There should be little doubt that I was astonished by his comment. When I asked about his making such a statement in light of the supposition that all dinosaurs died 65 million years ago, he replied, "I am giving my opinion based on my experience with thousands of dinosaur bones. In science, what is so should not be denied to support other purposes." This confirmed my impression of Dr. Burger as being a highly enlightened, forthright person, and a *true* scientist.



5. A cross-section view of vertebra bone from an Ouranosaurus dinosaur found in the desert of Niger.

It should also be mentioned that the remains found in the desert comprised completely articulated skeletons, and did not require chipping out of compacted rock formations. Dr. George Jefferson, at the Page Museum in LA, after viewing the bone sample commented that in his estimation the condition of the specimen, based on his experience with more recent fossil bones, seemed to indicate an age of perhaps several millions of years, at any rate, far short of 65-100 million-year-ago period of extinction. The bone demonstrates complete retention of the external matrix. And the internal structure closely displays clear definition of blood vessels and the Haversion system.

David Jordt and I utilized the wealth of information compiled on the bone to go a step further. Using the currently accepted creep-rate of the southern movement of the sand of the Sahell desert area, we were able to calculate that the point of bone discovery was characterized then as being jungle and swamp (much the same as the geological makeup of the present Congo Basin) about 10,000 years ago. Apparently, a depressed area became isolated at that time and continued to shrink until it no longer sustained the collection of animal bones that had become entrapped.

Space will not permit me now to thank the many contributions by various researchers, but I must summarize some of the efforts for appropriate weight. Microprobe and thin section diagnoses were completed by Caltech, and initial electron microscope scan (SEM) and Rockwell hardness testing at JPL. Additional SEM imaging was accomplished by Dr. Marcia Miller, a researcher at the City of Hope Medical Center. A series of radiometric dating and other chemical analyses were completed by Dr. Garniss Curtis at UC-Berkeley. Dr. James Rooney of JPL was assisted by his colleagues at USC Medical Center in making ultrasound scans, using their newly developed high-resolution device. And James Bischoff of the USGS performed radiometric testing using their unique U_{234}/U_{238} testing series. In November of 1983, the Tandem Accelerator User's Committee at the University of Arizona voted to contribute the use of that very expensive and exacting instrumentation to perform a C_{14} dating. Drs. Tim Jull and Thomas Stafford directed the activities at the University of Arizona and rendered their final report in June of 1984. Although tempered by qualification to take into account the probability of surface contaminants, the bottom line conclusion extended by all the above chemical and radiometric analyses of the estimated/indicated date of the bone sample was between 10,000-70,000 years old! Analytical contributions were also made by Tokyo University, and the results published in several Japanese periodicals.

Also, the estimate made public after the 1981 expedition of the approximate length of the animal observed at Lake Tele was 35 feet. The articulated skeleton of the Ouranosaurus in Niger measured 12 meters, and generally conformed to the profile of the Lake Tele animal. Working with Mark Evans, a researcher at the University of Wisconsin, it is determined to be highly probable that a population of 250 individuals could maintain a K-selected species with ease, in an 800,000 square-mile preserve — free of intrusion by man.

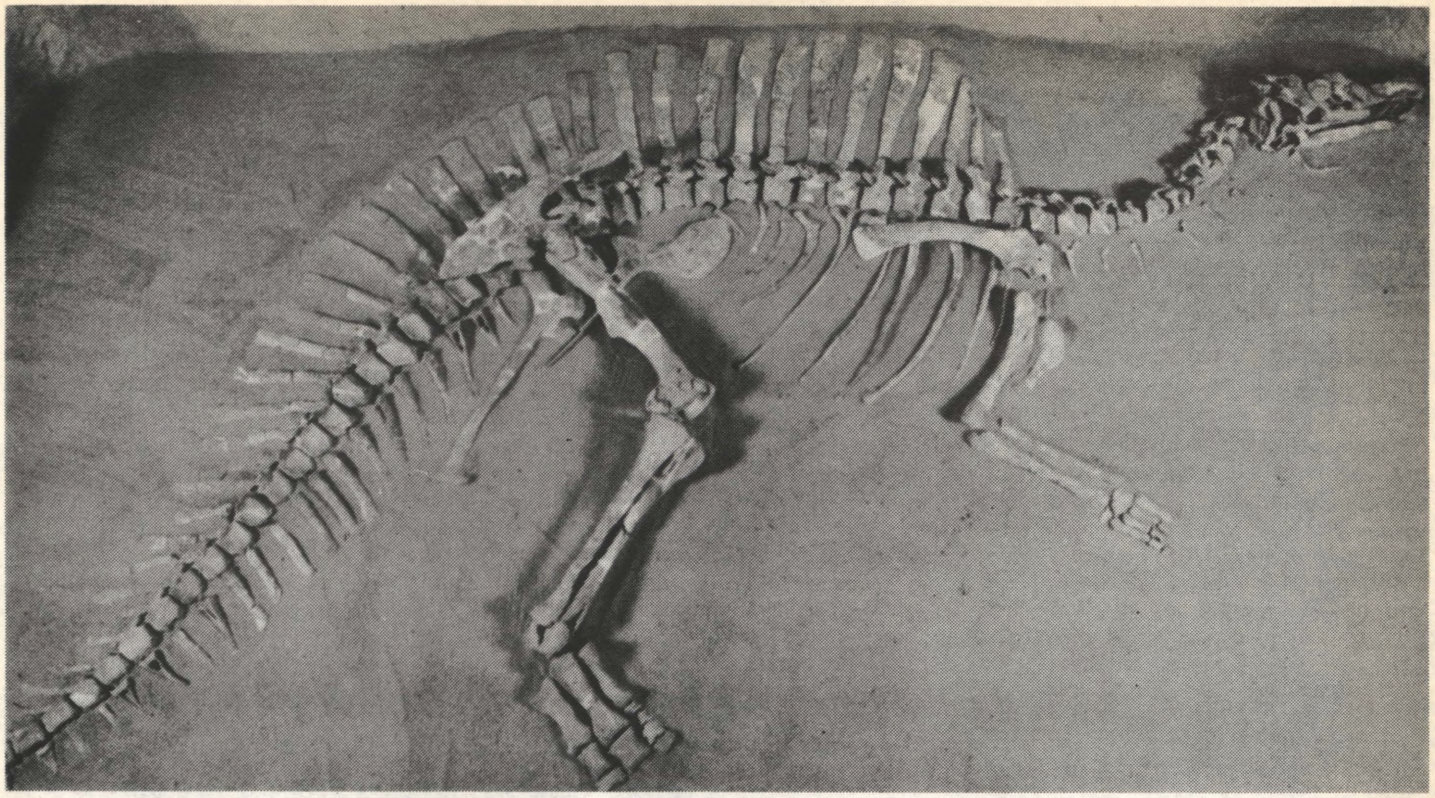
There is too much to be learned from the continued investigations of the Congo Basin,(the 'project mokele mbembe' excluded) to allow the quest to be stifled or diverted by academic differences of opinion. Due to our actual observation of a creature of some unidentifiable form, by trained observers, the existence of mokele mbembe can no longer be dismissed and attributed to native myth now than can the gorilla. The main components required for such research are the curiosity, stamina and just plain "guts."

A key to the shallowness of outside attitudes about such matters may be best expressed by an old chief in the little village of Boa [Boha] by the name of Bangena. Faced with our determination to venture into the hazards of the jungle he asked, "...Why don't you take our word that the animal mokele mbembe exists so that you may better remain here and enjoy the comfort of our village? After all ... you wish for us to believe that your people have walked on the moon."

Also damaging are those "scientists" who take the dogmatic position and unscientific approach of pompously proclaiming the nonexistence of a thing in a place about which they know nothing. It would be appropriate and scientific in approach to at least allow for the possible existence of a creature until proven otherwise. To me, as a devout product of the more tangible world of engineering, whenever the word *cannot* is invoked as an irrevocable operand, the flag of challenge is automatically raised rather than resign myself to man-created edicts of *impossible.*

With regards to our discovery of swamp-dwelling gorillas, one of the world's foremost primatologists, without the benefit of discussion or review of the data, piously declared, "Regusters is mistaken. No gorillas occupy or inhabit a water environment." His comments were passed to me indirectly, initially, through a colleague at Stanford. After my friend at Stanford showed the primatologist the compiled data and photographs, he called and politely asked if I would consider taking his group into the area to assist them in making a survey.

More precisely, our short trek of a 50-mile penetration into the most resistive and hostile jungle on earth exposed a number of significant exceptions to accepted thought in the biological sciences. Included were, (1) a large gorilla population inhabitating a totally inundated area, (2) gorilla family groups consisting of small monogamous assemblages, (3) the observing of the deliberate capture of birds by primates for feeding, (4) the cohabitation of a number of crocodile species within a small defined area, (5) the identification of an animal (Jentink's Duiker) thought to exist in only one area of Africa thousands of miles distant, and (6) the observance of a giant turtle and a sauropod-appearing animal, both of species thought to be long extinct. Several geological anomalies were also registered. The reasonable and logical inquiry becomes, "If exceptions in such numbers were observed by a small group, in a small area, over so brief a period (six weeks), how many more exceptions to rules exist if projected to the total 800,000 square mile area of the Basin?" It is a query whose answer is beyond the scope of current scientific knowledge — and beyond the extrapolated,



6. Articulated skeleton of an Ouranosauras nigeriensis as found.

presumed authority on the part of any individual.

Another area occupying a great deal of post-expedition analyses time was the defining of the geophysical environment, with its related anomalies. The characteristics of the environment we discovered ourselves subjected to were totally unlike any we had anticipated or prepared to find. It bore no semblance to any of the exaggerations of Hollywood, or provided for by the personal experiences of others. It would appear that no other region of the world harbors a forest of such intense extremes. The reason for its being void of human life and its resistance to incursion and exploration became readily apparent. It is a place where insects have undoubtedly attained their greatest level of extravagance. Misled by the romanticisms of Hollywood, many scientists and the public at large are totally ignorant of the price to be paid in making such a trek. Prior to our expedition, I saw pictures of a group from the LA Museum of Natural History that had traveled to the Congo for the explicit purpose of observing gorillas. They were advised by the animal management people there that it would be necessary to venture deep into the northern forest to accomplish their mission. Ignoring this advice they chose to scout the low-lying marshes along the fringe of the dense forest, and were pictured sloshing through the elephant grass lugging their *suitcases*. Naturally they never saw one single gorilla, but returned authoritatively reporting that gorillas were near complete extinction in the country — a declaration that was totally incorrect according to our own findings.

We learned of another high-scale deception that, we were told, was concocted at the site of Mission Evangelique in 1981. A freelance anthropology researcher by the name of Kevin Duffy returned with several minutes of footage of a sighting which he inferred was mokele mbembe swimming in the Ubangi River, just opposite the mission site. The film was, subsequently, sold to the TV show "That's Incredible" and aired nationally in the U.S. in the same light, at a purchase cost to the studio of $10,000. During a return visit by me to the RPC in July 1984, I attended a dinner at the residence of the French Ambassador where Eugene Thomas was also present. To all present, he admitted the filming hoax perpetuated by Duffy, using a poorly photographed, carved log, operated by use of attached wires. However, although present, [when filming] he disclaimed knowledge of the intended application of the production. The adverse impact of this upon our own efforts and other purposeful groups, such as SITU, is readily apparent.

With the encouragement and assistance of Dr. Ned Munger, head of the department of Geopolitical Sciences at Caltech, I authored a comprehensive monograph of the TRACE expedition. Published by the Caltech Munger Africana Library, it has been distributed to over 250 academic groups throughout the world. Since that time, a number of studies and analyses have been conducted on the vast amount of data collected during the TRACE expedition. In the course of these activities, assistance has, again, been rendered directly by previously named researchers.

Our ground level activities at Lake Tele and in the surrounding swamp provided a very signficant contribution to earth-sensing image interpretation science. On the basis of data collected, we were able to provide ground calibrations for the SEASAT and LANDSAT libraries, and assist the scientists at JPL with the validation of their work. A recent NASA publication,[3] co-authored by me, discusses the techniques mentioned here and the actual application of the TRACE data to microwave hydrology science. Another publication by Jordt and me discusses in detail our assessment and analysis of the Lake Tele region,[4] and those factors that support and make possible the survival of mokele mbembe.

Most of the articles about the expedition were so slanted and without objectivity that they do not warrant the dignity of a response. But one misconception does, I feel, require clarification. At the Los Angeles Museum of Science and Industry I was

asked by one reporter, "Dr. Mackel says Lake Tele is only about nine-feet deep. How do you account for a large animal submerging in such a shallow lake?" Apparently, the reporter never asked Mackel how he knew the lake to be that shallow. My information is that Dr. Mackel never reached the lake but only intimated that he had. Some such similar statements, I am told, angered officials of the Congolese government. From this, critical articles appeared in several journals opposing the TRACE-I survey activities at Lake Tele, each with the same concept that Lake Tele is a little over nine-feet deep, *maximum.* Using simple logic and an elementary knowledge about the rapid growth of jungle vegetation, one might deduce a land-locked body of shallow water, even two and one-half miles wide, would have been overgrown long, long ago.

At the urgings of Dr. Oko and the military commander of the Likouala Region, Colonel Mouassiposso, I returned to the RPC in July 1984 to initiate the planning for a second expedition to Lake Tele. Although groups from Belgium, France and Japan have attempted to duplicate our efforts since 1981, they all met with failure. My concept for a joint American-Congolese expedition (TRACE-II) was readily agreeable to the Congolese officials, and a general agreement was signed in August, 1985. A copy is on file with the US Embassy in Brazzaville. The scope of concessions extended to us far exceeds those enjoyed by any scientific research effort by any foreign group in this Marxist country.

Information is continuing to be compiled from the data derived by the 1981 expedition. I am personally convinced that the results of the TRACE-II expedition will hasten the shattering of some of the existing dogma. Our critics will be rendered an answer in the form of concrete achievement and accomplishment. The critic lives an easy life. For him there is no need for demonstration, or proof of his disbelief. But encouragement comes in good form from those who recognize understanding as an integral segment of scientific pursuit. In a reply to my question, Dr. Richard Moody a world renowned paleontologist at Kingston Polytechnic in England, wrote, "It is I who should be asking questions of you." In his authoritative book *Prehistoric World* he states, "The Atlantosaurus species dinosaur continued to thrive for more than 15 million years after the general extinction, with no plausible explanation from science."

In support of my upcoming expedition, TRACE-II, more than 70 foreign and domestic companies have thus far contributed over $150,000 in equipment and supplies, including the use of a helicopter, complete with pilot and fuel. The Kodak Company will be providing all our film and video requirements and the Wrangler Corporation will outfit us with clothing. Southern Marine Research has donated underwater mapping instrumentation and a Swiss manufacturer water purification equipment. The Japanese companies of Tanaka and Uniden have provided lightweight power plants and UHF communication equipment, respectively. We interpret these to be votes of confidence for our next challenge.

TRACE-II presently needs necessary financial support estimated now at $50,000. Our efforts to raise the sum are continuing and any interested persons may send support by contacting SITU or the Unicorne Research Foundation at 2900 Scenic Bend, Modesto CA 95355.

Any request for the collection of a specific sample(s) for interested investigators should be directed to Mark Evans at the University of Wisconsin (608-263-6277). Research groups in over 14 universities and USDA and NASA/JPL have already submitted such requests and we anticipate collecting over 100,000 biological and geological samples to support ongoing activities as diverse as cancer and AIDS research to space technology research.

I close — not because the events of our short trek are exhausted — leaving you with this thought: Our 150 years of learning about the dinosaur is far too brief a period of study of a breed of animals whose reign spanned some 150 million years to allow any so-called expert to remain unchallenged. There is much yet to be understood.

Herman A. Regusters is an aerospace engineer who studied physics at La Salle College and business law at Temple University. One of Mr. Reguster's grandfathers, a Civil War veteran, was born into slavery in 1824. Herman's father served as a missionary and teacher in West Africa in the 1920s. Dr. Kia and Herman were married in a Ghanian ceremony during a pre-TRACE trip to Africa. Because Kia is a graduate psychologist with various medical experience, she served as the 1981 expedition's medical director. We are told she is the first western woman to have experienced the hazards of the vast unexplored Congo Basin.

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THE MEXICAN CHURCH AT CATORCE
Temple of Miracles

By Drs. George, Mercedes and Alice Agogino

The mining town of Catorce, state of San Luis Potosi, is today the largest ghost town in all Mexico. It is basically a silver mining town founded in 1772 and named Catorce (fourteen) for the fourteen bandits that preyed on the town's citizens. The town grew rapidly as the mines developed and grew to 50,000 people, with its own mint (Casa de Moneda) and smelter by 1800. In 1895 this town, remote from the nation's capital, was visited by President Diaz, who dedicated a bridge over a local stream. Minted coins had to be taken from the town by way of a two mile one-way tunnel, which still remains the only road that connects the town with the outside world. A red light warns motorists if another car is in the tunnel, since most of its passageway is only wide enough for one car. Otherwise if two vehicles met in the middle, one car might need to back up over half a mile before these vehicles could pass each other.

By the 1930's the mines of Catorce began to play out. At the same time silver, the main ore at Catorce, was at a monetary low in the international market. The city dwindled to a few thousand people and most of the once prosperous mines closed down. There was a mild revival during World War II when silver and copper was needed for the conflict, and a second boom when gold and silver peaked during the 1970's. The decline began again when precious metals dropped in value in 1981, and today Catorce is almost deserted, with its remaining population between 500 to 1,000 inhabitants.

Central view of ghost town of Catorce.

Catorce lies at an altitude of nearly 8,500 feet above sea level, in a semi-arid environment. Afternoons are mild and the nights chilly even in mid-summer. Surrounding peaks exceed 10,000 feet in altitude.

In spite of Catorce's low resident population, local buses daily bring over 100 outsiders to the town. Many are tourists, wishing to visit Mexico's largest ghost town. In addition, the town's church, named after St. Francis, attracts religious visitors who believe the famous Santo [material representation] of Saint Francis of Assisi can produce miracles. Each day buses are filled with the devout coming to pray before the famous Santo. There are over one thousand testimonials on the church walls attesting to miracle recoveries from illnesses, bad luck and other misfortune.

Gold and silver can still be found in the Catorce area. Only ten miles away is the town of La Paz, with a gold mine in continual operation since 1864. However, the prayers of the resident Catorce miners have produced no miracle for the mines.

Famous curing santo of St. Francis. Yarn painting of Huichol Indians on center of table below santo.

The Santo of Saint Francis of Assisi has its curing origins in an episode that occurred nearly half a century ago. Two former friends, drunk and intent on mutual destruction, fought in the church with knives. The church seemed to be empty since it was late at night. Suddenly, they were roughly separated by a third party, who pushed them apart and criticized each for his drunkenness and fighting. Later the two men, now sober, discussed the event and thought the stranger who separated them looked much like the Santo of Saint Francis. They returned to the church and found the Santo's clothes cut to ribbons apparently by their sharp knives. Both men, shocked by these facts, vowed never to drink again and later became national leaders of a Mexican Alcoholics Anonymous group (Rueda 1984: p. 7).

Soon other types of cures were claimed for the Santo, and its fame for miracle results spread not only throughout Mexico, but into the southwest United States. Today the church walls are covered with pictures and testimonials of the miraculous cures of those who prayed to the Santo with satisfactory results. Traditionally, crude paintings accompany each testimonial. About one thousand pictures and testimonials are currently attached to the walls of the Catorce church of Saint Francis. The claimed miracles include safety from such dangerous events as car, bus, and train accidents, fire, floods and earthquakes, gunshot and knife wounds, and serious illness. Not only do the traditional plaque paintings tell of miracle recoveries, but crutches, braces, and canes for the blind have been left in the church following instant recoveries.

From the success in praying to Saint Francis, one must expect there is no need for a "Campo Santo" or graveyard. In fact the town has none that can be observed. Those who died were buried beneath the floor of the church, which is made of removable wooden segments roughly six feet by three feet. When the town mines were rich in ore the dead were buried in the ground beneath the floor of the church with only the wood floor separating the visitors from the dead within the holy church. It is estimated that several hundred humans are buried within this church in the manner described. Even today, former residents return to Catorce for burial, and elaborate funerals are still held within the church.

There is no question regarding the popularity of the Santo Saint Francis. Up to a half-dozen buses, carrying often more than 200 people daily, come to the ghost town of Catorce and visit the church and pray before the statue of Saint Francis. Because of this daily influx, several small businesses flourish; a grocery store, small tourist shops and several street vendors selling replicas of the Santo and other religious items.

Not only do the regional devout and foreign tourists come to Catorce, but at least one Indian group, the Huichols, come from the remote state of Nayarit on the west coast of Mexico to the Catorce region each spring to collect the hallucinogenic peyote cactus for their rituals. The area between the ghost town of Catorce and the nearby city of Matahuala produces a rich crop of the psychoactive plant.

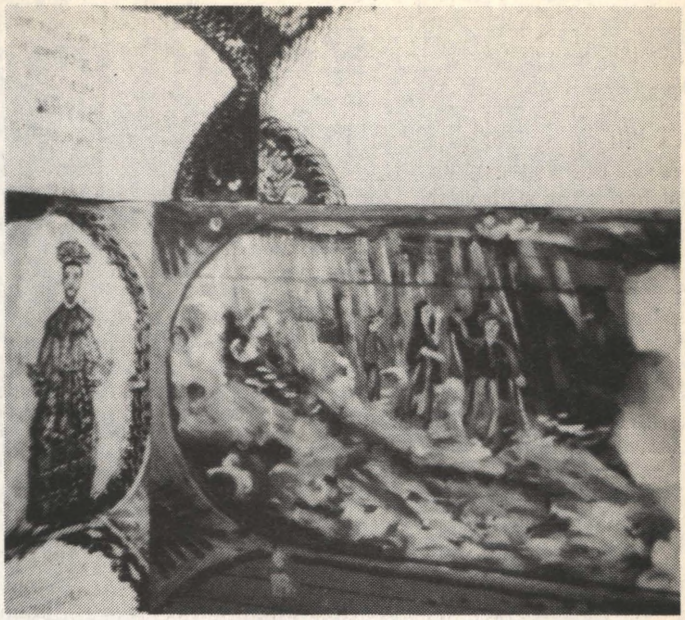
The peyote cactus is a spineless variety of cactus growing at ground level. Huichols feel that without its dried "buttons," they could not gain the knowledge to understand the supernatural forces that guide their lives. In fact, aged Huichols who have made the long 700-mile trip between Nayarit and Catorce twenty times or more are looked upon as "Living Gods" (Bean and others 1980 p. 41). Unquestionably Huichol babies receive their initial dose of the peyote drug in their mother's milk, since nursing mothers are required to use peyote if they are to be functional members of the village (Bean and others 1980: p. 41). Adult Huichols are periodically subjected to both peyote and alcohol, prior to and during major religious ceremonies (Doradom and Agogino 1981: p. 7).

Huichol Indians at Catorce Church (note testimonial paintings covering entire church wall).

Huichol Indians at home at San Andres Mission, Nayarit, Mexico.

One May day in 1984 we three, while visiting the church of Saint Francis of Catorce, saw a dozen Huichol Indians enter the church and place a Huichol yarn drawing before the curing Santo of Saint Francis. At the time of the Huichol Indian visit, some fifty people were on their knees in front of the famous Santo praying for a variety of medical miracles. Perhaps the Huichols had been here earlier and as pseudo-Christians had prayed for the relief of their members, who later may have recovered. Not being literate they could not enter a testimonial, but they used their native yarn drawings to indicate the type of illness and subsequent cure. I am sure, miracle or not, the event strengthened the Huichol belief in the power of the Christian Santo. We studied this yarn drawing, placed directly in front of the Santo, but could not agree on its story. The central figure is a Huichol with his hand extended at a forty-five-degree angle. Rays of light radiate upward from the fingers of the Indian's hands and his heart is exposed and apparently pulsating. In front of this figure is a woman with long blond hair gently touching the central figure.

Close-up of a testimonial drawing.



Close-up of another testimonial drawing.

Today the Huichol are pseudo-Christians, but have not neglected or forgotten their pagan religious beliefs. Their central rite remains the non-Christian peyote pilgrimage. While working with the Huichols in their native village of San Andres de Tuel, we recall seeing peyote buttons on the dress of a santo of the Holy Virgin (Dorado and Agogino 1981: p. 11).

Since the Huichol cannot, with rare exceptions, read or write, they have developed yarn paintings as a story telling device, a method of picturing both myths and events. The making of the yarn drawings is a sacred experience, full of ritual and believed aided by the Gods themselves. For instance, Father Sun melts the wax that cements the colored yarn to a wooden board. The beeswax must be worked in moderate heat, warm enough to keep the wax soft, but not so hot it damages the wool yarn. Because of these conditions, yarn paintings can be properly worked only a few hours each day when the temperatures are just right. These paintings are more than simple religious art; they communicate ideas and restate myths or record an event (Bean and others 1980: p. 27).

One interpretation is that the yarn painting represents the figure of Christ suffering on an invisible cross with the Virgin Mary comforting him. The emphasis on the Christ figure, however, would be unusual, since among the Huichol the Virgin Mary ranks high above Jesus, who is sometimes confused with Satan in their pseudo-Christian mythology. It is interesting to note the importance of blond hair in dark-haired Latin America. Many liquor ads show blond females, why not a blond Virgin Mary? An alternate explanation is that the painting represents a Huichol, who unfamiliar with electricity, has touched a high-voltage wire with his hands. A female watches the event with horror while the dangerous electricity surges into his hands and causes the heart to pulsate dangerously. If this second version is correct, it is probable that the injured man did not die and this yarn drawing is a picture story testimonial to the Huichol's survival.

This episode, while unique since it was a Huichol yarn drawing testimonial, was just one of the thousand reported cures or recoveries pictured and described in the famous church, a temple of miracles in a now nearly deserted city.

Catorce has the distinction of being Mexico's largest ghost town as well as having the nation's most famous curing santo. So large is the volume of cures that the church walls must periodically take down older testimonials and replace them with current claims of miracle cures. Who can say if the cures are divine or only in the mind?

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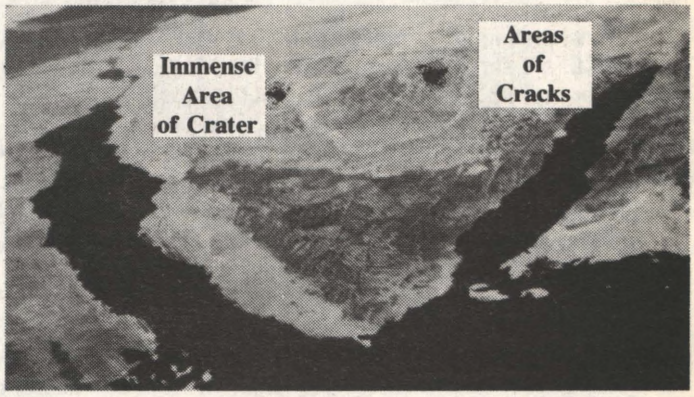
Editor's note: Drs. George and Mercedes Agogino are Professors of Anthropology and Physics, respectively, at Eastern New Mexico University, and Dr. Alice Agogino is an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at UCLA, Berkeley, CA.

CORRECTION

Mr. Zecharia Sitchin, author of *The Gods of War and Men* in the last issue of ***PURSUIT*** (Vol. 18, #3) pointed out that on page 113 the photo should indicate areas of the crater and cracks as shown here.



Report on Conferences

I would like to mention briefly the three remaining conferences I attended this year. Returning from the Ancient Astronaut Conference in Zurich as reported in the previous issue of ***PURSUIT*** (Vol. 18, #3) I stopped in at Todtmoos, deep in the beautiful Black Forest of Germany. My guide was Michael Hesemann, publisher of the magazine "2000." The conference was "Birth and Death - The Gates of Consciousness," Sept. 21-28, 1985. It is unfortunate that, considering there were hundreds of attendees, there was no simultaneous translation as is often available at such conferences. Not all the lectures were of Fortean interest so only the names of the lecturers need be noted here.

They were: Richard Baker-Roshi, (USA); Hans Bender, (Germany); Wolf Buntig (Germany); Cecil Burney (USA); Karlfried Graf Durchkheim (Germany); Stanislav Grof (USA); Maria Hippius (Germany); Holger Kalweit (Germany); Martin Kremer (Germany); Frederick Leboyer (France); Timothy Leary (USA); Norbert Mayer (Germany); Ralph Metzner (USA); Claudio Naranjo (USA); Michel Odent (France); Otto Richter (USA); Kenneth Ring (USA); Henner Ritter (Germany); Lama Sogyal Rinpoche (England); Michael Vetter (Germany); Alberto Villoldo (USA) and Livio Vinardi (USA).

In San Jose, Costa Rica Oct. 14-19 was the International Congress "100 Years of Research in the Great Mysteries of Man." The sponsors Carlos and Ricardo Navamuel and Carlos Ortiz de la Huerta did a fine job considering about half of the invited speakers did not show (for various reasons) and therefore substitution talks and panel discussions were extended to fill the gaps.

Attending were: Juan Altienza (Spain); Juan J. Benitez (Spain); Charles Berlitz (USA); Andreas Faber Kaiser (Spain); Salvador Freixedo (Puerto Rico); John Keel (USA); John & Toni Lilly (USA); Andrija Puharich (USA); Jacques Vallee (USA); Javier Cabrera Darquesea (Peru); Enrique Castillo (Columbia); J. G. Zylberbaum (Mexico); Carlos de Leon (Mexico). Unfortunately B. Le Poer Trench (England); H. N. Banerjee (India); L. Charpentier (France); Erich von Daniken (Switz. - on a new book tour); J. Allen Hynek (USA - ill); F. J. del Oso (Spain); W. Keller (Switz.); Edgar D. Mitchell (USA); Raymond Moody (USA); Louis Pauwells (France); Harold Sherman (USA); Z. Sitchin (USA - his plane ticket never arrived); Brad Steiger (USA) and Carlos Casteneda, all did not attend. Tapes in English and Spanish probably are available from : Carlos V. Navamuel, Aptdo Postal 8033, San Jose, Costa Rica.

On October 26 & 27, 1985 the Institute of Noetic Sciences held a conference on "Consciousness and Survival" at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

The lectures included: "Life After Death - A Modern Inquiry," Bishop John S. Spong; "Is the Question Important?" Senator Claiborne Pell; "Cartesian Presuppositions of the Survival Hypothesis," Antony Flew; Altered States of Consciousness and the Possibility of Survival of Death," Charles T. Tart; "The Mind-Body Problem and Quantum Reality," Paul C. W. Davies; "A Possible Conception of Life After Death," John Hick; "Death and Dying: The Buddhist Perspective," Sogyal Rinpoche; "Mind, Matter and Consciousness: Search for a New Paradigm in Science," Stanislav Grof; "Can Our Memories Survive the Death of Our Brains?," Rupert Sheldrake; "DNA, Neuropeptides and Bodymind," Candace P. Pert; "Near-Death Experience: Imitations of Immortality?," Kenneth Ring. Panel members included: Willis Harman and Jacqueline A. Damgaard (Shirley MacLaine was on location and was unable to attend). Tapes are available from: Institute of Noetic Sciences, 475 Gate Five Rd., Suite 300, Sausalito, CA 94965 (415-331-5650).

UP-COMING CONFERENCES

US Psychotronics Association - July 15 - 19, Lake Forest College, IL. For further information contact: USPA, 3459 Montrose Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. Tapes from last years conference are available at this same address.
Int'l. Tesla Symposium - July 30 - Aug. 3, Colorado College, CO. For further information contact: Int'l Tesla Symposium 330-A West Uintah, Suite 115, Colorado Springs, CO 80905.

These addresses were omitted from the last issue of ***PURSUIT***: New Frontiers Center, Fellowship Farm, Rt. 1, Oregon, WI 53575 and the Ancient Astronaut Society, 1921 St. Johns Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035.

Memo

Anyone wishing to submit original material for possible use in ***PURSUIT*** such as a manuscript, book review, a letter to the editor, etc., please be reminded that it should be typewritten, or if that is not possible, handwritten in block letters, double-spaced on one side of each 8½ x 11 inch sheet of paper with at least one-inch margins on all four page edges. This facilitates easier editorial corrections and comments.

For other related instructions please read inside the front cover of this journal.

We always welcome comments, advice or constructive criticism from our members and readers. Should you request a reply, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and someone of our volunteer staff will be back with you as soon as it is convenient.

Please take note that all original material, photographs, newsclippings and other contents should be sent to SITU headquarters. Also everything pertaining to your membership in SITU, production and mailing of ***PURSUIT*** should be sent to:

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USA

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the article "Explaining Visions Of The Virgin Mary," which appeared in the 1985, third quarter, Vol. 18, No. 3 issue of ***PURSUIT***.

Mr. Carroll's "explanation" of the phenomenon of seeing visions of the Virgin Mary is based on psychoanalytic research. In evaluating this article one must keep in mind that psychoanalysis has come under increasing attack in recent years for being subjective and scientifically invalid.

For example, in the book *The Psychological Society* by Martin Gross, (Random House, NY, 1978) a report was cited by the Social Science Research Council under Dr. R.R. Sears. The report was a detailed study of psychoanalysis. The council concluded that "Psychoanalysis relies upon techniques that do not admit to the repetition of observation, that have no self-evident or denotative validity, and that are tinctured to an unknown degree with the observer's own suggestions" (Gross, Martin).

Psychoanalysis has been shown through many other studies to be unscientific, covertly subjective and suggestive. This is very shaky ground upon which to base an explanation of any phenomenon, especially visions of the Virgin Mary.

The Oedipus complex, which is central to Mr. Carroll's theory, has been repudiated by many social scientists. They regard it to be relatively rare, more pathological than normal (Gross, 1978).

Mr. Carroll based his study on 50 cases of seers. This is a very small sample to use as evidence for a theory. Mr. Carroll also used no control groups in his study. Further, would several different analysts viewing his data make the same interpretations he did? It's not likely. A study based on a small sample with no controls is a poor one, indeed. In my opinion, Mr. Carroll has overgeneralized his study in a way that may mislead people into accepting his metaphysical speculations as facts.

It is ironic that "social scientist" Carroll used the theories of Freud to dismiss Marian appearances as "hallucinations." Freud himself was a superstitious man, who believed in magic numbers, among other things. He was intrigued his whole life with the magical, the mystical, and the metaphysical. This influenced and shaped his absurd theories (Gross, 1978).

On a final note I would like to add that the Roman Catholic church does not treat Marian appearances skeptically, it treats them *cautiously*. Catholics are free to believe in Marian visions as long as their faith and morals are not endangered by doing so.

Finally, even though the Diocese of Brooklyn has termed the visions of the Virgin Mary by Veronica Lueken of Bayside, N.Y. inauthentic, Pope John Paul II has stated that Catholics are free to believe it or not, if they choose. I would also like to report that at Bayside, The Virgin Mary, speaking through Veronica Lueken, on September 28, 1979, predicted that John Paul II would be the victim of an assassination attempt. This prophecy was fulfilled on May 13, 1981. Not bad for a "hallucination."

—J.P. Higgins

Dear Editor:

Michael Swords' excellent review of the Bermuda Triangle [***PURSUIT #70***] situation issues a very necessary warning not to let the bathwater run away without making sure there isn't a baby in it somewhere...an interesting piece in the December 1985 FATE shows that there *could* be a solid and scientific basis for some of the reported anomalies, and probably along the lines that Swords suggests.

I recently came across the following note in the section of Bertino's *Guide de la mer mysterieuse* (Les Guides Noirs, Tchou, Paris 1970) which relates to the Mediterranean island of Elba:

> In the SE part of the island there stands vertically from the sea an extraordinary rocky mass. Red in colour, it is striped with large bands of white misachist, representing so considerable a mass of magnetite that in its proximity compass needles seem to go haywire. This has given birth to a whole series of legends wherein vessels are attracted irresistibly — even from a great distance — to wreck themselves on the accursed headland. In more recent times, popular opinion has even suggested that the point is responsible for a certain number of aerial accidents in the skies over Elba. One thinks particularly of the tragic series of disasters in which several of the British *Comets* were lost in the neighbouring waters, in the 1950s.

Folklore? Very probably. But as another of your articles, that on the hitchhiker, reminds us, folklore has a way of revealing — when one tries to brush it away — stronger roots than at first appears, and seemingly reaching into solid fact.

—Hilary Evans

Dear Editor:

I recently came across an obscure novel by H. G. Wells that I feel should be required reading for every Fortean researcher. Its title is *Star Begotten* and it opens with a disturbed writer's discovery that his wife is somehow different from other people. Later, during a discussion of the role of cosmic rays in evolution, the realization dawns on him that Martians are using these rays to tamper with humanity's development. He immediately drops his current project and embarks on a world tour in search of evidence to support his idea. Any human oddity is viewed as one more bit of proof. Eventually his delusions reach the papers, momentarily becoming an international sensation before fading away.

This book could almost be the biography of any of a number of pseudo-scientists although, fortunately, its ending is more upbeat. Certainly the research method, choosing facts to fit theories rather than theories to fit facts, is sadly familiar.

—Kim. L. Neidigh

Dear Editor:

Please provide me with the mailing address or telephone number of the John W. Patterson whose very fine article on "Man and Dinosaur Coexistence" graced the pages of your last issue of ***PURSUIT*** (Vol. 18, #3).

More than one person has chided me about being the author because I have the same name.

—John W. Patterson

(The above John W. Patterson is Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Iowa State University. He sent us a copy of his paper entitled "An Engineer Looks at the Creationist Movment" and we have forwarded same to our author with, synchronistically, the same name.)

SITUations

In this section, mostly contemporary curious and unexplained events are reported. Members are urged to send in newsclippings and reports they deem responsible. Please be sure to include the source of reference (name of newspaper or periodical), city of publication, date of issue in which article appeared, and your first initial and last name (or membership number only, if you prefer to be credited in that way).

Bigfoot Sightings In Northeast

At least a dozen people in Vermont and upstate New York claim they have seen the 7-foot tall, gorilla-like creature known as "Bigfoot" in Vermont forests.

A logger, a grounds keeper, two policemen, a farmer and a housewife said they have seen the creature, but were reluctant to talk about it publicly.

The witnesses discussed their experiences, some for the first time, at a meeting at Castleton State College.

The meeting included a slide-show and lecture by Warren Cooke, an anthropology professor at the college who has tracked the "Sasquatch" since 1974.

Cook said there were 34 sightings of the creature in New England up to 1984, and six to eight sightings since.

"The species is here," he said. "With the exception of people who have come out and admitted they've seen it, one wonders how many other sightings have taken place and were never reported.

"In Whitehall, a farmer was milking his cows one morning when it came up and glowered at him from the barn door," Cook said. "It scared the pants off him."

At the meeting, Norman and Jeff Pratt of Whitehall, N.Y. produced a blow-up of part of a photograph of a Vermont landscape — in which a gorilla-like figure loomed in the background.

They said the man who took it hadn't noticed he was being watched as he snapped the picture, but the figure was apparent upon closer inspection.

Clifford Sparks, a grounds keeper at Skene Valley Golf Course in Whitehall, N.Y., said he had spotted a hulking, hairy anthropoid in 1975 at about 11 p.m. as he was walking through the course.

"I saw this huge creature," he said. "He turned and looked at me, and then he grunted, turned around, and ran into the woods. He was over six and a half feet tall. I'm 6'2", and he was much bigger, much taller than me," he said.

SOURCE: UPI, *New Haven Register*, CT 7/?/85

CREDIT: Craig Howland

●

Creature Haunting Central Texas Town

A tall, mysterious creature appears to have begun trick-or-treating a week early judging by calls from residents who say they've seen the creature eating their front porches, police said, in Hearne, TX.

The creature has reportedly torn window screens, gnawed on porches, and pounced across roof-tops in this community in Robertson County in the central part of the state. Police Chief James Bundren said yesterday.

One resident told authorities last week that something about 6 feet tall had chewed up the porch, window screen, and railing at the front of his house, Bundren said.

The resident heard a noise at the front door during the night and went to investigate. When he opened the door, Bundren said, he saw the "image of a man, but it had a head that was chewing and slapping at the door."

The resident told police he quickly slammed the door. He looked out the window and saw his frightened dog running down the street. Bundren said the pet has not returned.

Bundren said police have no suspects, but he theorizes the image that the first homeowner saw at his door was a man holding a large dog in front of him.

SOURCE: (AP) Austin *American-Statesman*, TX 10/24/85

CREDIT: John Palin

●

Keystone Big Foot?

Halloween arrived early in East Pennsboro Township, Pa.

A few residents in a rural, wooded area of the township, northwest of Harrisburg, reported an ape-like apparition which they have dubbed the "creature."

East Pennsboro Township Police Chief James Corbett says, "We are not making a joke out of it, but I can't buy the fact that it's not...a human being."

First reports of a strange beast, a terrible screeching sound and an awful stench, came from three or four people in August, Corbett said. On Sept. 29, police received five reports of the terrible sound and odor.

One young man claimed to have seen a 6½-foot hairy creature with long fangs and arms that extended below its knees. Three officers were sent to investigate and "one did hear the sound," Corbett said. "He described it as like a screech, but with a guttural, deep down effect."

The chief believes the creature was a costumed prankster getting an early start on Halloween.

He was so convinced that after the Sept. 29 reports he called department stores in Harrisburg to check on their sales of Halloween costumes. He found one that they had put up a display two weeks earlier and had sold two gorilla outfits that matched the description, down to the fangs, he said.

Corbett said he has not closed the case on the creature and will continue to follow up all calls. "But we're not out knocking on doors and sending men out there at night," he said.

SOURCE: *Asbury Park Press*, NJ 10/11/85

SOURCE: Member #432

●

Seekers of Elflike Creatures Enrage Villagers in Java

Hundreds of mystics and parapsychology buffs descended on a sleepy Javanese village in search of invisible, elflike creatures known as *tuyuls*, but were turned away by angry villagers.

Stories in Jakarta newspapers said the *tour de tuyul* was organized by the Universal Parapsychology Foundation.

The *Indonesia Times* described *tuyuls* as "spriritual beings having the form of a naked child with clean-shaven head, big eyes and red skin."

Budiman Amien, chairman of the foundations branch in Semarang, central Java, said he hoped to "communicate with the spirits" living in an old banyan tree in the central Javanese village of Bero Pacadang, 252 miles southeast of Jakarta, Indonesia.

But when hundreds of cars, buses and wagons filled with *tuyul*-hunters and a Japanese TV crew tried to enter Bero Pacadang, angry police and villagers blocked all the roads, the *Daily Kompas* reported.

"There are no *tuyuls* here. All of you should go away," a policeman was quoted as saying.

SOURCE: (UPI) Houston *Chronicle*, TX 11/22/85

CREDIT: Scott Parker via R. Nelke

●

'Nessie' Back Again — Like Fireman's Helmet

A bagpiper has reported the first sighting this year of the elusive Loch Ness monster in Drumnodrochit, Scotland.

Murdo Urquhart, 55, said he was sitting in his car with two tourists Sunday when he saw a black object about six feet across in Britain's biggest lake.

"I just saw a hump," the bagpipe player told reporters. "It looked like a fireman's helmet. It seemed to be between two waves and was submerging. I'm convinced it was the monster."

The first reported sighting of the creature was in 1933, and more than 3,000 have been reported since. Experts have searched the loch in vain, although serious research has produced 40 unexplained sonar contacts.

SOURCE: *Los Angeles Times*, CA 9/18/85

CREDIT: Paul Forder

Man Missing For 15 Years Returns to Wife

A man declared legally dead after he suffered amnesia and vanished 15 years ago hits his head, recovers his memory, returns home and embraces his faithful wife on Christmas Day.

How corny can you get? Ask James and Anne McDonnell, who played that soap opera script in real life this week.

"It's like a fairy tale," Anne McDonnell said Friday in the thick brogue of her native County Cork, Ireland. "I'm still realizing it."

Ever since her husband vanished on March 29, 1971, and even though she had him declared dead in 1976 in order to get on with her life, she says she kept "hoping, hoping, hoping, maybe some day" he would return. She stayed in the same house in this New York City suburb and kept her telephone listing under his name.

On Christmas morning, Anne McDonnell had returned from church and was fixing a late breakfast when the doorbell rang, there in Larchmont, N.Y.

"Hello Anne," said the 64-year-old man at the door.

"It was something out of the blue," she said. "He had a beard and looked like Santa Claus. I thought it was a joke, then I recognized him...He's so thin now. He's been neglected, I know."

McDonnell told his wife he had spent the past 15 years in Philadelphia as Jim Peters, short-order cook, bartender and seasonal Santa for kids in an orphanage. He lived quietly in a house he bought, and occasionally played poker with friends.

On Christmas Eve, he said, he bumped his head in the cellar of the luncheonette where he worked. The lost memories of his life in Larchmont flooded back and home he came on the next train.

"I've always felt right from the beginning he had to be a victim of amnesia," said George Mulcahy, a former detective who had investigated McDonnell's disappearance.

Anne McDonnell said she also thought of amnesia as a possibility through the years she waited, supporting herself as a nurses' aide.

"He had two accidents and had head injuries. I thought, maybe, that was it," she said.

The McDonnells, who are childless, had been married 11 years when, on Feb. 24, 1971, McDonnell fell down the back stairs of his home.

The next day, in a violent fit of sneezing, he lost control of his car and crashed into a pole.

A day later he complained of a headache at work and fell down a flight of stairs after a dizzy spell.

On March 11 he suffered a mild concussion and brief unconsciousness in another car accident.

Then on March 29, he recalled, he began walking home from an errand because he had a headache and thought some fresh air would fix it.

"The next thing I knew I was in Philadelphia," he said. "I don't know how I got there."

Now that he's home, McDonnell would like to get his old job back as chief letter carrier in the Larchmont Post Office.

There's also a lot of paperwork: getting himself restored officially to the ranks of the living and working out something with the insurance company that paid benefits to his wife.

SOURCE: (AP) *News-Democrat*, Belleville, IL 12/28/85

CREDIT: R. Nelke

●

Pilots Wearied By Flight in 'Triangle'

Two upstate New York men were "emotionally drained" by an 843-mile trip in a single-engine plane that took them through the Bermuda Triangle during a bad storm, the pilot said at St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

Millard Harmon, 59, of Delmar and Thomas Whitehurst, 48, of Troy left Bermuda on schedule at 8 a.m. in their single-engine plane, but arrived at St. Thomas at 4 p.m. two hours late.

"It was very interesting," Harmon said in a telephone interview from St. Thomas. "We discovered why people don't fly over the triangle much. We had difficult weather and lost radio contact. We had some very concerned moments."

The pilot said he encountered a storm in the open sea that was packing heavy headwinds. Harmon, an experienced sport pilot, said he had never flown in such poor weather.

The pair encountered stiff headwinds and lost communications for about 3½ hours, Harmon said.

"It was a very difficult flight. We feel emotionally drained," he said.

Harmon set a record in his Beechcraft Bonanza by flying from Albany to Bermuda in 4 hours, 4 minutes at an average speed of 214.7 mph. The record was confirmed by the National Aeronautical Association, said Bob Slocum, a spokesman for Harmon and Whitehurst.

The plane was aided by tailwinds of about 45 mph during portions of the trip, he added.

Harmon said so far on the trip he had set eight speed records.

The aviators were informed when they landed in Bermuda that Saturday three sailors and a boat were lost in the Bermuda Triangle — an area of ocean that runs from Bermuda to south Florida and to the Carribean — in which at least 16 aircraft have disappeared since World War II, Slocum said.

The loss of radio contact was definitely connected to the triangle, Slocum said.

"It was mysterious because everything went out. It was really typical of what happened to the many airplanes that have gone over there and were lost," he said. "It was a very hairy experience for them."

During their flight across the triangle, the aviators dropped a bottle of champagne into the water in memory of Joshua Slocum, the first man to solo circumnavigate the world.

The famous navigator was believed to have perished in the area in 1909, said Slocum, a great-grandson of the sailor.

Harmon flew the same plane to Moscow in June and was detained for several days by Soviet officials before being allowed to return to the United States.

Harmon has a daughter who lives in St. Thomas, and the aviators will stay there until departing for Fort Lauderdale, Fla., their final swing through the triangle.

They are expected to complete the roughly 3,000-mile long trip when they arrive from Florida at Albany County Airport.

Whitehurst, a co-pilot, is considered the observer on the plane and is keeping data that will be used to verify the records, Slocum said.

SOURCE: (UPI) Schenectady *Gazette*, NY 10/31/85

CREDIT: Bob Girard

●

Psychic Solves Case That Baffled Police

Police in Harrisburg, IL, tried their best, but finally admitted they were stumped in trying to find a missing man. So they did the only thing they could think of. They called in a psychic, Greta Alexander of nearby Delavan.

Alexander solved the mystery quickly after police sought her help at the request of Evelyn Hicks, wife of the missing man, Ronald Dean Hicks.

Police said the psychic's information was uncannily accurate, even to her description of his death.

In a consultation by telephone, Alexander told authorities she believed that Hicks had been shot twice and was dead, said Williamson County Sheriff Harry Spiller. She also described the area where his body could be found as near a bridge and a pool of smelly water along a patch of ground used by hunters, Spiller said.

Two men exercising their hunting dogs found the remains of a man nine days ago next to a sewage lagoon and about 100 yards from a railroad bridge, Spiller said. The body later was identified from dental records as that of Hicks.

"It's real weird, to be truthful," the sheriff said. "I've never seen anything like this before."

Assistant police chief Dee Pelhank said Alexander, who believes she is "somehow able to put herself into the missing person's body," also described a pickup truck in need of repairs and said her head hurt. Pelhank said Hicks' truck did need repairs, and Evelyn Hicks said her husband had complained of headaches and trouble breathing before he vanished.

"Spiller said that two small-caliber bullets were found with the body and that it appeared Hicks had been shot twice.

Using a psychic to locate Hicks, who disappeared July 2, is not something the police like to do, Pelhank said. "We don't encourage it; we don't depend on it." But he said it was a last resort "in a case where you can't find anything else to do."

"I wish I had been wrong," said Alexander. "I just wish he had been found alive."

SOURCE: Philadelphia *Inquirer*, PA 11/11/85

CREDIT: H. Hollander

A Real Cat Burglar

In Nashville, Tenn. a cat burglar with shifty yellow eyes has been prowling a suburban neighborhood, but instead of nabbing jewels with gloved hands he mostly hits clotheslines for a haul of potholders and underwear.

The victims so far are mostly amused by the cat burglar — which really is a cat.

Stymie, a 4-year-old feline, drags the goods home between his legs.

"About a year ago, he started bringing in items much like cats bring in rodents, but he brought in dish towels, potholders and stuff like that. Then he started moving up to dresses, shirts, underwear and pants," says owner Ernie Couch.

Besides clotheslines, the jet-black Manx stalks garages and almost every day sneaks off with four or five garments. His record is 10 in one day.

"Last week we returned a lot of children's clothes to one family he had been hitting pretty regularly," Couch says. "They were glad to get their clothes back."

"It's interesting," said Couch's 12-year-old son Jason. "I sort of like it. If you're gonna have a cat, you might as well have one that does something interesting. His main cycle is eat, sleep, steal."

SOURCE: (AP) *Asbury Park Press,* NJ 11/19/85

CREDIT: Nancy Warth

•

Out-foxing golfers

A quick red fox with a taste for golf balls has become a new hazard on the Longview Golf Course in Timonium, Md., says golfer Bob Spicer.

"He didn't hesitate a minute. He came out, got my ball, made a little double move to put the ball deeper in his throat and grabbed another one," said Spicer. "He stopped and looked at me, then took off for the woods."

Then a few days ago, Spicer was playing the par-3 11th hole in a threesome when their tee shots all hit the green and out came the fox.

He grabbed Spicer's ball and fled to the woods.

"Nobody believed me the first time," Spicer said. "The second time, I had witnesses."

Longview Golf Course starter Henry DeFries said he used to get one complaint about the fox every couple of weeks. "Now it's every day."

Longview officials may call in animal control officers if the fox doesn't mend his way, but in the meantime the rules of golf treat the fox as a burrowing animal.

SOURCE: *Asbury Park Press,* NJ 6/8/85

CREDIT: Member #432

•

Cleric Turns Attack by Birds into Learning Situation

A clergyman said he turned a scary episode into a "learning situation" when 10 large black birds descended upon a dozen 6-year-old children in a bible class and one bird stole a child's ink marker.

The Rev. Doug Haefner, associate pastor of St. James Roman Catholic Church in Woodbridge, NJ, said the children were sitting on the rectory porch coloring pictures when a large bird approached.

As a teacher tried to move the children to a school building across the yard, the rest of the birds swooped down on them and one took an ink marker, said Haefner.

Haefner grabbed a chair and a dust mop to try to scare the birds off, he said.

A maintenance worker killed one of the birds with a broom before the others calmed down and flew away, said Haefner.

He tried to relieve the children by describing a parable about a good seed that escapes the birds to grow into fields of wheat, he said.

"I always try to make a learning situation out of everything," he said. "This is, like, so ridiculous, but it was so scary at the time."

The police were called but the birds departed before officers arrived.

SOURCE: AP in The *Asbury Park Press,* NJ 7/18/85

CREDIT: Member #432

•

'Missing Link' Search Focuses On Agriculture

A team of archeologists has left Port Moresby, capital of Papua New Guinea, to search for evidence that may solve one of the great mysteries of the emergence of modern man.

The expedition, led by Les Groube, an associate professor at the University of Papua New Guinea, hopes to explore cave sites on an upraised coral coastline in a remote area of Northern New Guinea.

Primitive stone ax heads were found recently about 93 miles north of the city of Lae.

The axes, with grooved heads where they were bound to their handles, are believed by archeologists to have been used for agriculture.

The Groube expedition hopes to excavate caves in which people lived at that time to prove conclusively that primitive agriculture was in use.

If this is the case, it will be the earliest known agricultured site used by modern man anywhere on Earth, Groube says, and it will provide a missing link in the social evolution of modern man, or Homo sapiens.

Archeologists currently place the beginings of agriculture in the Middle East and southwest Asia about 10,000 years ago. Plowing is thought to have begun in the Mediterranean basin about 5,000 years ago.

The expedition — one of several to the Huon Peninsula over the past decade — hopes to gather evidence that modern man emerged in southeast Asia and not Europe or the Near East as some anthropologists have suggested.

Data gathered by Groube suggests also a link with modern man on the Australian continent and the southern offshore island of Tasmania.

Scientists theorize that the three islands, plus New Zealand and Antarctica, were once joined to India, Africa and America to form the continent of Gondwanaland.

Groube, a New Zealander, believes that further evidence may be found near sites inhabited by the forebears of the Australian aborigine.

Stone implements gathered on the seashore terraces of the Huon Peninsula, a geological marvel first located by United States Air Force reconnaissance flights in World War II, dovetail historically with discoveries made about an early aboriginal settlement at Lake Mungo in the Australian state of New South Wales.

Adding significance to the Huon Peninsula discoveries is that they are found in rock formations stretching back for the past 200,000 years — the different levels of which can be dated with some accuracy.

The coastline is at a point where two major geological plates intersect and has been rising steadily for that period. Elsewhere in the world where early man settled, coastlines have been slowly sinking beneath the rising seas caused by the end of the ice age.

So far, the most significant find on the Huon Peninsula, is a heavy stone-waisted ax in strata associated with a coastline of 45,000 years ago.

The ax, still encased in sediments and volcanic ash, was spotted by one of Groube's students, Jo Mangi.

It was sent to the Australian National University in Canberra for thermolumininescent dating and found to be at least 38,000 years old.

Elsewhere in Papua New Guinea, there also is evidence of early man.

At Kosipe in the Central Highlands, the sediment around stone tools have been dated to 26,000 years ago, as has evidence of human intervention in swamp drainage.

SOURE: UPI in The *Schenectady Gazette,* NY 9/29/85

CREDIT: Bob Girard

•

Englishman Spots 'Bounder,' After Having A Few Hops

It's true, in Crowmarsh, England that Greg Caswell was leaving a pub when he saw the "bounder."

But he really hadn't had that much to drink.

"It was a kangaroo or wallaby, about three feet high," Caswell declared, after describing how he swerved to avoid the creature.

After chasing the animal in vain, he said, "I got back in the car and went off in search of a policeman."

Turns out Caswell wasn't the only one seeing things in this west England hamlet.

The police soon confirmed Caswell's sighting when a caller reported a kangaroo had knocked a bicyclist to the ground just outside the village. He wasn't injured.

Then, Constable Michael Slatford checked in to report sighting the animal and chasing it over a hedge and across a field before being outpaced.

"We think it must belong to someone who lives locally," said Detective Insepctor Dave McCorkell. He said checks have been made with local safari parks and zoos, "but no one seems to have lost an animal."

SOURCE: (AP) Beaumont *Enterprise,* TX 8/18/85

CREDIT: Scott Parker via R. Nelke

Soot Evidence Links Firestorms to Demise of Dinosaurs

Scientists at the University of Chicago have found evidence that continent-sized firestorms raged across much of the Earth 65 million years ago, blackening the skies with soot and helping to trigger a sudden global freeze that wiped out the dinosaurs.

The catastrophic event would have occurred at the time that other scientists have said a giant asteroid collided with the Earth. Such a collision would have generated enough heat to start the fires.

It was the asteroid theory that led researchers to ask whether a nuclear war could trigger a similar freeze, a phenomenon now known as nuclear winter.

The new findings suggest that nuclear-winter theorists have greatly underestimated the amount of soot that would enter the atmosphere from wildfires.

The researchers have found some of the soot, which eventually settled to the ground, in the same geologic layers that gave evidence five years ago of the asteroid impact. The soot is in the form of fluffy, black particles known to be produced by forest fires and the burning of fossil fuels.

The layer, which has been sampled in regions as far apart as Europe and New Zealand, contains an amount of soot, which is pure carbon, equal to about 10 percent of the carbon now incorporated into all forms of life on the Earth. Nearly all the molecules that make up living things contain carbon atoms.

The original impact theory held that an asteroid, probably at least 6 miles wide, slammed into the Earth, blasting enough rock dust into the atmosphere to darken the sky for weeks.

Deprived of sunlight, the ground would have cooled, bringing on a global freeze that exterminated not only the dinosaurs, but also many other species all over a world that had been largely tropical.

Paleontologists long have known that the dinosaurs died out in the most wide-ranging mass extinction the Earth has ever seen. The worst-hit region was between the Ural Mountains of central Eurasia and the Rocky Mountains of North America, where 69 percent of known fossil species died out.

Scientists working on the asteroid-impact theory had already calculated that airborne rock dust alone would have been thick enough to bring on a devastating freeze.

The discovery that vast quantities of soot may also have been injected into the upper atmosphere indicates that the period of darkness and freezing would have lasted longer, perhaps months, although it would have been no darker or colder than originally thought. This is because soot washes out of the atmosphere more slowly than does rock dust.

The soot finding also adds two more factors that could have contributed to the extinction: heavy concentrations of fire-produced toxic substances, such as carbon monoxide, and the destruction of plants and animals by fire.

The scientists says the fires also would have added enough carbon dioxide to the atmosphere to trigger a so-called greenhouse effect.

Once the sun came out again, its heat would have been trapped near the ground, raising average world temperatures by an estimated 10 degrees Fahrenheit above pre-impact temperatures.

The new findings were made by Edward Anders, Wendy S. Wolbach and Roy S. Lewis of the University of Chicago. The findings are being published in the Oct. 11 issue of the journal *Science*.

Anders said the discovery was an accident. He and his colleagues were examining ancient sediments laid down at the time of the impact, looking for traces of gases that had been part of the asteroid, he said.

Instead, they found that the sediments contained about 10,000 times as much carbon as would have seen normal.

The layer, sampled in Denmark, Spain and New Zealand, is the same one, found all over the world, in which five years ago other scientists found unsually high concentrations of iridium, an element that is rare on Earth but abundant in meteorites and asteroids.

It is thought that when the asteroid hit the Earth, the impact would have generated enough heat to vaporize it, sending its content of iridium into the atmosphere. Gradually the iridium and the carbon settled to the ground.

Anders said the impact would have scattered white-hot particles of rock dust in all directions as far as 800 and maybe 1,200 miles. The particles would have been hot enough to ignite forest fires over the entire area.

SOURCE: *Wilmington Morning News*, DE 10/4/85

CREDIT: H. Hollander

•

Found 5 Months Later

While hunting for sea shells and sharks' teeth at Mayport, Fla., Naval Station, Kathy Schramke found an artifical tooth her husband lost while swimming in the ocean in December.

"I just picked it up and knew it was his," she said Monday.

"It was way up on the beach with all the sea shells and stuff that had washed up," she said.

Doug Schramke said he lost the tooth when a wave crashed down on him. And he said there was no doubt that the tooth found Sunday is the one he lost.

"I put in my mouth and it still fits perfectly," he said. "...I thought it was gone forever."

SOURCE: *Asbury Park Press*, NJ 5/15/85

CREDIT: Nancy Warth

•

A 33-foot Salmon

Chinese scientists have identified a species of 33-foot-long fish in a remote lake in northwestern China as the biggest salmon ever discovered, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

SOURCE: (UPI) Detroit *News*, MI 1985

CREDIT: R. Nelke

China Reports Finding Very Unusual Trees

China reported the discovery of trees that secrete oil, produce salt and forecast weather.

Leaves and branches torn off the "white milk trees" found in Shaanxi Province secrete white oil that can be used for cooking, the state press agency Xinhua reported.

In the frigid area bordering Heilongjiang and Jilin Provinces in northwest China, a tree in the summer produces a frostlike powder on the bark, which can be used as cooking salt, Xinhua said.

The weather-predicting tree is 150 years old and located in Xincheng County of Guangxi Province, a hilly region bordering Vietnam.

Its leaves turn from dark green to red three days before it rains, Xinhua said.

Forty-eight date trees planted in northern China 1,119 years ago in the Tang dynasty also were reported to be living and producing. One of them, 39 feet tall, produces 110 pounds of dates annually, the press agency reported.

Last year, China reported the discovery of a tree that glowed in the dark when the bark became wet.

SOURCE: (UPI) Houston *Chronicle*, TX 4/18/84

CREDIT: Scott Parker via R. Nelke

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Cornering the Lumber Market

A forest of trees with square trunks has been discovered in the southeast China province of Zhejiang.

The official news agency Xinhua says more than 120 of the trees, standing from 10 to 16 feet tall, with yellowish bark, were discovered growing in a 60-square-yard area.

SOURCE: *Weekly World News* 9/17/85

CREDIT: H. Holland

•

Chinese "Worm Fluid" Yuck!

Chinese researchers who brewed a batch of worms in alcohol came up with a new "earthworm fluid" that can reduce fever, smooth wrinkles and add zest to your favorite drink, the *China Daily* newspaper said today.

Describing the new potion as a "wonder fluid," *China Daily* said the liquid was developed by college chemists.

"The liquid, called earthworm fluid, has no stench or sediment and can be preserved for two months," the newspaper said.

China Daily said the liquid is brewed by distilling earthworms in alcohol, and it only costs $3,000 to produce 330 pounds of the liquid.

Chemistry instructor Ji Heli said the fluid could be used to treat diuresis and acute fevers and aid detoxification.

SOURCE: (UPI) Saginaw *News*, MI 12/8/85

CREDIT: Bill Kingsley via R. Nelke

The Notes of Charles Fort

Deciphered by Carl J. Pabst

ABBREVIATIONS

+	exceptional note
*	For some obscure reason, Fort cut a notch on the right side of the note.
ab	about
Ac to	According to
A 1	[?Almanac?]
A J Sci	*American Journal of Science*
An Reg	*Annual Register*
Annals of Phil.	*Annals of Philosophy*
An Soc Met de France	*Annales de las Societe Meteorologique de France*
An de Deb	*Annales de Debats*
Ap.	April
BA	*Report of the British Associaiton for the Advancement of Science*
BCF	*The Books of Charles Fort*
BD	*The Book of the Damned*
B Eagle	*Brooklyn Eagle*
Bib. Brit	*Bibliographie British*[?]
BO	"It is clear from the arrangement of the notes that he [Fort] was searching his chronological arrangement and plucking out specific notes for a future book in which he would refer to these data as approbrious to the Scientists for the odor, 'B O' " (*The Fortean*, #3, p. 14, c 1)
Boll Sis. Ital	[?]
Cor.	correspondent
C.R.	*Comptes Rendus*
D-176	*The Book of the Damned*, p.176
det. met.	detonating meteor
Eclectic Mag.	*Electric Magazine*
Edin N.	*Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal*
Eng.	England
etc.	et cetera
ext.	extraordinary
(F)	*Fletcher's List*
Feb.	February
Fr.	France
frgs	frogs
Gent's Mag	*Gentleman's Magazine*
h	hours
Inf Conj	Inferior Conjunction
It	Italy
J F Inst	*Journal of the Franklin Institute*
(K)	[?]
L'Institut	[?]
L.T.	London *Times*
Mag. Pop. Sci.	*Magazine of Popular Science*
Met	Meteor
Metite	Meteorite
n.	new
N	North
N and Q	Notes and Queries
N.M.	No More
MWR	*Monthly Weather Review*
Op. Mars	Opposition Mars
phe	phenomenon
Phil. Mag.	*Philosphical Magazine*
Polt	Poltergeist
q	earthquake
Q.J. Roy. Inst.	*Quarterly Journal of the Royal Institute*
Ref	Reference
Rept. 54/85	*Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*
Symon's Met	*Symon's Meterological Magazine*
Timbs. Y.B.	*Timbs' Year Book*
trans.	transit
Volc	Volcano
W	West

(continued from **PURSUIT** Vol. 18, #3, page 144)

Mr. Pabst brought to our attention the fact that a group of notes were omitted by us several years ago. We have included them in this and the last issue for those readers who are documenting a complete file.

1813 Feb. 1 and 2 / Roumania / I / [Small quake / *BA* 1911].

1813 March 8 / Stonefall / ac to Baumbauer / *BA* '60.

1813 March 14 / Fall was at Idria, Carniola, ac to *Q. J. Roy Inst* 27-430.

1813 March 14 / See March 14, 1823.

1813 March 14 / Story of frightened people in churches, etc. Date verified. / [Reverse side] *An Soc Met de France*. 1903-73.

1813 March 14 / Cutro, Calabria / Stone fell. / *Phil Mag.*, 4/8/459.

1813 March 14 / Same story as March 14, 1818.

1813 March 14 / Red powder at Carniola. "Boiling water separated a yellow,

[Reverse side] vegetable, gummy matter. / *Mag. Nat. Hist* 7-304.

1813 March 14 / Idria, in Carniola / abundant fall of red snow / C.R. 15/583.

1813 March 14 / This dust analyzed and chemist astonished at high percentage (24%) of organic

[Reverse side] matter, and of "titane" 3.75% (look this up). A very rare metal upon this earth. / *An. Soc. Met de France*. 1903-74.

1813 March 14 / Gerace, Calabria / ab. 2:15 p.m. / Sun obscured — sky ca[?] of fire. Deeper darkness and frightened people crowding into the cathedral.

[Reverse side] Deep sounds in the sky and a rain of blood — nevertheless said that the substance was pale yellow. / *Bib. Brit* 55/356.

1813 March 14-15 / night of / Red rain — Calabria / yellow snow and hail — Tuscany / D-29 / Brownish-yellow snow — Bologna / *Q. Jour Roy Inst* 7/189 / strong in veg or animal matter.

[*BCF*, p. 27:

Blackwood's Magazine, 3-338:

A yellow powder that fell at Gerace, Calabria, March 14, 1813. Some of this substance was collected by Sig. Simenini, Professor of Chemistry, at Naples. It had an earthy, insipid, taste, and is described as "unctuous." When heated, this matter turned brown, then black, then red. According to the *Annals of Philosophy*, 11-466, one of the components was a greenish-yellow substance, which, when dried, was found to be resinous.

But concomitants of this fall:

Loud noises were heard in the sky.

Stones fell from the sky.

According to Chladni, these concomitants occurred, and to me they seem — rather brutal? — or not associable with something so soft and gentle as a fall of pollen?]

1813 March 21 / 6:20 a.m. / Shock at Exmouth / *Gent's Mag* 83/1/278.

1813 March 21 / ab. 10 p.m. / Met. / New Haven / ab size of moon / *A.J.S.* 13/36.

1813 March 30 / q. / Peru / III [Great] / *BA* 1911-46.

1813 Ap. 3 / q-sun / 3:45 a.m. / "terrible noise" and shock / Leghorn and Pisa / "The light of the sun appeared dim during the day." / *BA*, 54.

1813 Ap. 20 / 10:15 p.m. / W by N to E by S. at New Haven, Conn. / great detonating meteor / *Niles' Weekly Register*, Sept. 25

1813 May to Dec. / Vesuvius.

1813 May 30 / Peru / I or II / [Small or medium quake / *BA* 1911].

1813 July 28 / Great rain and violent q / Jamaica / *C.R.* 16-1290 / *BA* 54.

1813 July 30 / Op Mars / (A1).

1813 July 31 / Tottenham / starlit night / flashes of light alo[?] t.[to?] storm in Hastings and in France / *Timbs Y.B.* 1853 — 272.

[*BCF*, p. 392:

Night of July 31, 1813 — flashes of light in the sky of Tottenham, near London (*Year Book of Facts*, 1853-272). The sky was clear. The flashes were attributed to a storm at Hastings, 65 miles away. We note not only that the planet Mars was in opposition at this time (July 30), but in one of the nearest of its oppositions in the 19th century.]

1813 July 31 / A new star in Capricornus reported from Cincinnati. / *Niles' Weekly Register*, Aug. 21 /

[Reverse side] Issue Aug. 28, correspondent writes that was the planet Mars then in opposition. / Capricorn in zodiac?

1813 Aug. 6, 7 / Illyria and Carniola / tremendous rainstorm and qs / *C.R.* 17-619.

1813 Aug. 7 / 1 a.m. / Layback / q and heavy rain / *BA* 54.

1813 Aug. 7 / q and rain / Laibach / shocks / "Heavy rain fell at the moment of the shocks. / *BA* '54.

1813 Aug. 22 / 2 shocks at Irkutsk / *B Assoc.* '54/101.

1813 August / Icicles / Near the pass of Maya in the Pyrenees, masses of ice size of hen's egg — of transparent ice — on [Reverse side] them were "icicles about

the length and thickness of the prong of a common silver fork. / *Edin Phil Jour* 9/195.

1813 Augus[t] / Vesuvius active / 26th, gigantic column of flame / also following night. / See Dec. / *QJ R. Inst* 8-28.

1813 Aug. 27-29 / Extraordinary spots on the sun noted in English and American papers. / *Gent's Mag.* 1815/1/639.

1813 Aug. or Sept. / Malpas, Cheshire / Metite / *BA* '60.

1813 Sept. to Oct. / q's / China / I / [small / *BA* 1911].

1813 Sept. 2 / Fireball / Berne / *BA* 60.

1813 Sept. 10 / Met-ite / Adare, Limerick, Ireland / *L.T.*, Nov. 14, 1886 / (F).

[Reverse side] *An de Chimie* 2/31/260 / 9 a.m. / (ab. 9 a.m. / *Gent's Mag.* 83/2/390).

1813 Sept. 21 / 8:40 a.m. / Forli, Italy / "The sun appeared with a pale color. / *BA* 54.

1813 Sept. 22 / 1:45 a.m. / shocks / Grisons / during th. storm / *BA* '54.

1813 Sept. 24 / evening / shock / W. to E. / Stamford, etc., England / *Gent's Mag,* 83/2/391 /

[Reverse side] *LT*, Oct. 4-3-d.

1813 Oct. 4 / [London *Times*], 3-d / Stamford, etc. / q's.

1813 Oct. 20 / Swabia / Fireball / *BA* '60.

1813 Nov. 8 / England — a light considered auroral. In the evening, many shooting stars. /

[Reverse side] *Mag. Pop. Sci.* 3/61.

1813 Nov. 8 / Woodfort / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1813 Nov. 10 / Sunderland / Fireball / *BA* '60.

1813 Nov. 10 / Bishopwearmouth / Stream of light in sky / *Annals of Phil.* 1813-456.

1813 Nov. 12 / qs / Jamaica / "Three tremendous concussions. / *Gent's Mag* 83/1/80.

1813 Dec. 13 / Aerolite — Viborg, in Finland / No nickel in it. / *A. J. Sci* 6/397.

[Reverse side] (F) / For another see June 15, 1822 / Oct. 21, 1901.

1813 Dec. / Epirus / great q and th. storm / *BA* 54.

1813 Dec. / q's in Greece / *BA* '11.

1813 Dec. 25, 26 / Great eruption / Vesuvius / *Q J. Roy Inst* 8-29.

1813 Dec. 28 / 4 p.m. / q / East Haddam / during rain / *BA* 54.

1813 Dec. 28 / one explosion / Moodus sounds like explosions. / East Haddam, Conn. / *Am. J. Sci* 39/339.

[*BCF*, p. 392:

Dec. 28, 1813 — an explosive sound at East Haddam.]

1814

1814 / Madras, India / Metite / (F).

1814 / Auroras / G. and Brit / *Am J. Sci* 14/96.

1814 / Frogs / near Amiens, France / *M.W.R.* 45/221.

1814 / Dry fog / extreme darkness / London and Dublin / *Chambers' Jour* 9-308.

1814 Jan. 12 / q / China / I / [Small / *BA* 1911].

1814 Jan. 15 / [London *Times*], 2-e / Vesuvius.

1814 Jan. 21 / (Fr) / 7:35 a.m. / Alencon (Orne) / q / *BA* '54.

1814 Jan. 27 / Zurich / Fireball / *BA* '60.

1814 Jan. 28 / [London *Times*], 4-c / Knill Const / Harpton / Norton / Old Radnor / q.

1814 Feb. 1 / (Ref) / (+) / Mayon Volc. / Philippines. /

[Reverse side] Report on the Seismic and Volcanic Centers of the Philippine Archipelago / By M. S. Maso.

1814 Feb. 1-10 / *An Reg* 1815/510 / Volc / Philippines / 5 towns destroyed / Mayon Volc. / been quiet 13 years. [Reverse side] to 10th / *Gent's Mag* 89/2/641.

1814 Feb. 1 / q. / Peru / I / [Small / *BA* 1911].

1814 Feb. 2 / q. / Philippines (Albay) / I / [Small / *BA* 1911].

1814 Feb. 12 / Shower of burnt paper, said from a burning Custom House 5 miles away. It descended from a point [Reverse side] higher than the eye could trace. / *Symons Met* 21/147.

1814 Feb. 15 / Bachmat, Ekaterinoslav, Russia. / Met. / (F) /

[Reverse side] *BA* '60.

1814 March / Vesuvius never ceased from Dec. 25, 1813. / *QJ Roy Inst* 8-33.

1814 March 11 / 22 h / Venus / Inf conjunction / (Al).

1814 Mar. 19 / Fr / La Chatre (Indre) / q preceded by 2 mets / *BA* 54.

1814 Ap. 3 / q fog / q. / Leghorn and Pisa / 3:45 a.m. / "The light of the sun appeared dim during the day. / *BA* '54.

1814 Ap. 3 / Leghorn and Pisa, Italy / q. / I / [Small / *BA* 1911].

1814 Ap. 19 / Fireball / Berlin / [*BA* 60].

1814 Ap. 28 / Innsbruck, Austria / q. / I / [Small / *BA* 1911].

1814 May 10 / Qs, and a little island appeared in the Sea of Azov. / At 2 p.m., a violent submarine

[Reverse side] eruption on coast of Kamchatka. / *BA*, 54.

1814 June to July / q's / China / I / [Small / *BA* 1911].

1814 June 4 / Hail — 13 to 15 inches in diameter in Ohio / Thomson, *Met.* — p. 180.

1814 early in July / St. Lawrence River / fall of dust, etc. / *Phil Mag* 44/91.

1814 July 3 and 4 / night / St. Lawrence River, 20 miles from the Bay of Swan Islands — account by a British officer of engineers of a great fall of ashes.

[Reverse side] Toward morning, "the whole atmosphere appeared red and fiery to a wonderful degree. Ashes appeared to be wood ashes." But a det. met? / *Phil Mag* 44/91.

1814 July 3 or 4 / "Canada / Meteor; detonation; dustfall; or 4th of July? / *BA* 60-65.

1814 July / Editor of *Phil Mag*. 48/73 writes that a military offic[er] had sent him an account [o]f phe in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

[Reverse side] The sea was as black as ink and ashes falling upon ships and for 2 days sun could scarcely be seen.

1814 July 29 / Geneva / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1814 Aug. / BO / letter Institut / at Fremon, near Amiens / frgs / *L'Institut* 2/354 / Cor told of [them] falling on his

[Reverse side] clothes.

1814 Aug. 3 / In *Jour F. Inst* 15/408, L. Blesson, Major of Engineers, Berlin, says shot off fireworks

[Reverse side] from summit of a mountain near Minden. "A number of small red flames were observed around us, below the summit which however speedily extinguished — to be succeeded however by others on the firing of the next rocket.

1814 Aug. 3 / Frankfort / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1814 Aug. 9, 26 / Vesuvius active / Oct. 9, 26, 28, Dec. 25 — terrific noises / Vesuvius, Phillips, p 98.

1814 Sept. early / (F) / Alais (Gard.) / Loud explosions and a pit formed. / *BA* '54 / See Sept. 15. / See March 15, '06.

1814 Sept. 3 / Great q / Irkutsk / *BA* '11.

1814 Sept. 5 / Metites / In several communes of Lot et Garronc, great number of stones. / *Gent's Mag.*, 84/2/279.

1814 Sept. 5 / See Aug., 1826. / Agen, Lot-et-Garrone, France / Met-ite / *Bib Brit* 57/80 / (F) / about noon.

1814 Sept. 8 / Augsburg / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1814 Sept. 11 / Fireball toward S. / Glasgow / *BA* '60.

1814 Oct. 27 / (It Piedmont) / (D-287) / Like brick dust / Oneglia, Piedmont / Leisure Hour 16/6 /

[Reverse side] N.Q. 4-9-327 / Ciel et Terre 5-174 / *Eclectic Mag.* 68-437 / (+) Vesuvius active. / See Aug. 6.

[*BCF*, pp. 299-300:

Whatever it may have been, something like red-brick dust, or a red substance in a dried state, fell at Piedmont, Italy, Oct. 27, 1814 (*Electric Magazine*, 68-437). A red powder fell, in Switzerland, winter of 1867 (*Pop. Sci. Rev.*, 10-112) —

That something, far from this earth, had bled — super-dragon that had rammed a comet —

Or that there are oceans of blood somewhere in the sky — substance that dries, and falls in a powder — wafts for ages in powdered form — that there is a vast area that will some day be known to aviators as the Desert of Blood. We attempt little of super-topography, at present, but Ocean of Blood, or Desert of Blood — or both — Italy is nearest to it — or to them.

I suspect that there were corpuscles in the substance that fell in Switzerland, but all that could be published in 1867 was that in this substance there was a high proportion of "variously shaped organic matter."]

1814 Nov. 6 / Lyons, etc., preceded by loud explosion. Much rain fell. / *BA* '54.

1814 Nov. 5 / Chail, Allahabad, N.W. Prov, India / (F).

[Reverse side] 4:30 p.m. / *BA* '60.

1814 Nov. 6 / France / Lyons, and from Macon to Vienne / q. / II / [Medium / *BA* 1911].

1814 Nov. 24 / q / China / III / [Violent / *BA* 1911].

1814 Dec. 2 / Peckham, near London / *Annals of Phil* 5/236 / Writer, walking in open part of

[Reverse side] the village, suddenly surr. by a great light — nearly equal to daylight, ab 20 to 11 p.m. / Others saw it — no meteor seen, no explosion heard. /

[Front side] Jabez Brown.

1815

1815 / q's / Japan / China / [*BA*] '11.

1815 / Acad of Sci of St. Petersburg rec[eived] a case containing specimens of stones that fell during a hailstorm at Wilna, of which some hundreds weighed

[Reverse side] as much as a pound. / *Symons Met* 17/151 /

[Front side] See 1844.

1815 Jan. 2 / Kaga, Japan / q. / III / [Violent / *BA* 1911].

1815 Feb. 18 / (F) / Metite fell at Dooralla, India. / several pages, *BA* 1850-118 /

[Reverse side] 16 or 18 miles from Umballah / ab. noon.

1815 Ap. 2-17 / Volc / Java / *C.R.* 70-878 / N.M.

1815 Ap. 3 / Met trail for ¼ hour in zenith / Eng / *European Mag.* 67/300 / (L).

1815 Ap. 5 / Sounds like gunfire heard in Java. / See Ap. 11.

1815 Ap. 11 / first heard on 5th / Sounds like gunfire heard in many places in Java. Thought to be cannonading and troops were called out.

[Reverse side] In one place people thought that a fort was being attacked and marched to its defense. Learned that a volc eruption on island of Sumbawa. / *Quar Jour Roy Inst* 1-248.

1815 Ap. 30 / Florence / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1815 May 3 / Mexico / q / III / [Violent / *BA* 1911].

1815 May 10 / fireball / Worcester / *BA* 1860.

1815 May / volc / Great eruption, island of Sumbawa, about 550 miles from Batavia, Java. / *Gent's Mag.* 1815/2/558 / Tidal waves and, far at sea, pumice and trunks of trees. At places 250 miles away, darkness until noon.

[1815 June 21] / B / *L.T.* / Ext. phe in sun / 1815 / June 21-3-d.

1815 July / q / Formosa / III / [Violent / *BA* 1911].

1815 summer / Stones / Malpas / near Chester / *An. Phil.*, Nov., 1913 / See some years before. / Look this up.

1815 / Aug. 5-6 / q / China / I / [Small / *BA* 1911].

1815 Aug. 15 / Waterspout / near Huddersfield / *Gent's Mag* 85/2/175 / (1815).

1815 Aug. / Perseids / *A. J. Sci.* 37-335.

1815 Aug. 15 / Volc / Goentoes / Java / N.M. / *C.R.* 70-878.

1815 Sept. / Eruption of salt mud in Java

/ *An Reg* '16-585.

1815 Sept. / Hurricane / *Am J. Sci* 42-243.

1815 Sept. 16 / Göttingen / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1815 Sept. 29 / London / Fireball / BA 60.

1815 Sept. latter part / Sea south of India covered with dust / *Phil Mag.*, July, 1816.

1815 Oct. 3 / Chassigny, Haute Marne, France / Metite / (F).

1815 Oct. 12 / 21 h / Venus / Inf conjunction / (Al).

1815 Oct. 14 / Formosa / q / II /- [Medium / *BA* 1911].

1815 Oct. 17 / Op. Mars / (Al).

1815 Oct. 21 / q. / China / III / [Violent / *BA* 1911].

1815 Nov. 4 / BO / (Stones rising) / *Niles Weekly Register* (Baltimore) of / Writes that ac to interviews with several persons, stones had been seen to rise in a field near Marbletown, rising 3 or 4 [Reverse side] feet and moving horizontally from 30 to 60 feet, a few of them moving higher than tree tops. / This ac to *NY Courier*— the phe in Ulster Co., N.Y. /

[Second page] Also copies from *Albany Argus* that facts substantially the same been stated to Editor of *Argus*. / Said that long time before been a similar occurrence at Albany.

[*BCF*, p. 570:

In *Niles' Weekly Register*, Nov. 4, 1815, there is an account of stones that had been watched rising in a field, near Marbleton, Ulster County, New York — that these stones had been seen to rise three or four feet from the ground, then moving horizontally, from thirty to sixty feet.]

1815 Nov. 16 / China / q / III / [Violent / *BA* 1911].

1815 Nov. 15 / Trans. Mercury / S. Op. 1.

1816

1816 / Italian series / Sounds / regular / See March 16, 1888. / 3's.

1816 / Boll / Reference / See "1888-89" note.

1816 / Auroras / Gt. Brit. / *A. J. Sci* 14/96.

1816 Jan. 8 / Pesth, Hungary / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1816 Jan. / The Tower ghost / *N and Q* 2/10/192.

1816 / Look for Tower ghost. / Polt and a cylindrical glass obj., Dec. 25, 1880.

1816 / Tower ghost / obj like football, July 15, 1882.

1816 / Tower ghost / a black object, March 13, 1920.

1816 Feb. 1 / early morning / All Saints Day / (+) / Lisbon q. / A thick fog covered the city.

[Reverse side] Ab 1 a.m., a q — a little later, a meteor. 7 a.m., another but lighter shock. / *An Reg* 1816.

1816 Feb. 2 / Shock at Lisbon / followed by heavy rain / *BA* 54.

1816 Feb. 2 / Lisbon / Quake lasted one min — others 6 hours later — a meteor appeared.

[Reverse side] Things in the air that were uttering cries — said been "flocks of birds." / *Rept 54*/106 / What species? pigeons?

[*BCF*, pp. 392-393:

Feb. 2, 1816 — a quake at Lisbon. There was something in the sky. Extraordinary sounds were heard, but were attributed to "flocks of birds." But six hours later something was seen in the sky: it is said to have been a meteor (*Rept. B. A.*, 1854-106).]

1816 Feb. 16 / Highest recorded tide on Tyne / *L.T.*, 1868, Feb. 11-4-4.

1816 March / *Annals of Philosophy* / That recently 9 miles from Lausanne, singular snow covered with larvae "different from any which are

[Reverse side] usually observed in that country. They seemed to be dead but revived when placed near a fire.

1816 March 17 / q / *Manchest[er] M[orning] Post*, Oct. 9, '63 / See 1843.

1816 March 17 / 1 p.m. / Mansfield / Woodhouse / Nottingham / Chester / (q) / (L*T* 23-3-c / 25-3-e / 26—) / rumbling sound and sound as if of fall of hail / this of fall of pieces of stone and mortar from a church steeple /

[Reverse side] Lincoln / Leicester / Loughborough / Sheffield / 12:37 p.m. at Derby.

1816 March 23 / Oxford and Surrey / det. met. / *BA* '60.

1816 March 25 / Berkshire and Oxford / bet 10 and 11 p.m. / detonating meteor louder than thunder / *Gent's Mag* 1816-1-367.

1816 Ap. 13 / [London *Times*], 3-d / Great earthfall in Sweden.

1816 Ap. 15 / Red dust, different places in Italy / *An de Chimie* 2/31/268 / See March 14, 1813.

1816 Ap. 29-30 / Sunspots / *Niles Register* 10/167, 168.

1816 May 26 / India / Upper Ganges / q / I [Small] / *BA* '11.

1816 June 10 / 5 sunspots / June 12 — 6 / France / *L.T.*, June 26.

1816 summer / A n. eye sunspot for 8 or 10 days in succession / *Niles' Weekly Register*, Oct. 1, 1831.

1816 summer / *B. Eagle* / 1901 / June 24-10-1.

1816 summer / [newspaper clipping] / [untitled article about summer of 1816] / *N.Y. Ev. Post* of [June 21, 1927].

1816 July 19 / Stones — "during the storms, inundations and hurricanes of that month / *Mag Nat Hist* 7-303.

1816 Aug. 7 / Vesuvius / *Gent's Mag* 1816/2/267.

1816 Aug. 7 / Hungary / Det. met. / *BA* 60.

1816 Aug. or July / Glastonbury / Metite / *BA* '60 / See May 17, '16.

1816 Aug. 13 / Comrie / said that at Dunkeld a small meteor seen at time of shock / *L.T.*, Aug. 21, 1816 / 10:45 p.m.

[*BCF*, p. 393:

Since the year 1788, many earthquakes, or concussions that were listed as earthquakes, had occurred at the town of Comrie, Perthshire, Scotland. Seventeen instances were recorded in the year 1795. Almost all records of the phenomena of Comrie start with the year 1788, but, in Macara's *Guide to Creiff*, it is said that the disturbances were recorded as far back as the year 1597. They were slight shocks, and until the occurrence upon Aug. 13, 1816, conventional explanations, excluding all thought of relations with anything in the sky, seemed adequate enough. But, in an account in the London *Times*, Aug. 21, 1816, it is said that, at the time of the quake of August 13, a luminous object, or a "small meteor," had been seen at Dunkeld, near Comrie; and, according to David Milne (*Edin. New Phil. Jour.*, 31-110), a resident of Comrie had reported "a large luminous body, bent like a crescent, which stretched itself over the heavens."]

1816 Aug. 13 / q / I [Small] / Inverness, Scotland / *BA* '11.

1816 Sept. 20 / Volc / Goentoes / Java / N.M. / *C.R.* 70-878.

1816 Sept. 24 / Comrie / Milne's list / *Edin New* 31/110 / gives at least back to 1788 / 17 instances in 1795 /

[Reverse side] Quotes a resident of Comrie — that in sky had been "a large luminous body, bent like a crescent, which stretched itself over the heavens." /

[Front side] This first assoc. with aerial [end of sentence].

[*BCF*, pp. 242-243:

In the *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal* — have to go away back to 1841 — days of less efficient strangulation — Sir David Milne lists phenomena of quakes in Great Britain. I pick out a few that indicate to me that other worlds were near this earth's surface:

Violent storm before a shock of 1703 — ball of fire "preceding," 1750 — a large ball of fire seen upon day following a quake, 1755 — "uncommon phenomenon in the air; a large luminous body, bent like a crescent, which stretched itself over the heavens, 1816 — vast ball of fire, 1750 — black rains and black snows, 1755 — numerous instances of upward projection — or upward attraction? — during quakes — "preceded by a cloud, very black and lowering," 1795 — fall of black powder, preceding a quake, by six hours, 1837.

Some of these instances seem to me to be very striking — a smaller world: it is greatly racked by the attraction of this earth — black substance is tom down from it — not until six hours later, after an approach still closer, does this earth suffer perturbation. As to the extraordinary spectacle of a thing, world, superconstruction, that was seen in the sky, in 1816, I have not yet been able to find out more. I think that here our acceptance is relatively sound: that this occurrence was tremendously of more importance than such occurrence as, say, transits of Venus, upon which hundreds of papers have been written — that not another mention have I found, though I have not looked so especially as I shall look for more data — that all but undetailed record of this occurrence was suppressed.]

1816 Sept. 24 / Belfast / 8:20 / Auroral arch, east end as if origin in Pleiades, passing through Cassiopia. Before 10, the

[Reverse side] top of the arch had regularly declined from the zenith about 20 degrees toward south. /

[Front side] *L.T.*, Oct. 3

1816 Oct. 11-14 / qs / Banda, Java / N.M. / *C.R.* 70-878.

1816 Oct. 19 / Dusseldorf / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1816 (Oct. 19?) / At Dusseldorf fell a large mass of

[Reverse side] friable substance of sulphurous odor. / *Niles Weekly Register* (Baltimore), Jan. 14, 1817, p. 307.

1816 Nov. 15 / Severe shocks in Canada / *Niles Weekly Register*, Nov. 30 / N.M.

1816 Dec. 16-25 / Italy / Rumblings like cannon fire / *Boll. Sis. Ital.* 7/36 / Ref.

1816 Dec. 20 / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1817

1817 Jan. 17 / It. Sound / Rumblings / Sciacca / See '16.

1817 Jan. 19-24 / (It) / Sciacca / sulphurous odor / column of fire and smoke, or a luminous whirlwind / See 1805.

1817 Jan. 23rd and to March / Great eruptions in Java / *L.T.*, Sept. 20-3-a.

1817 Jan. 24 / Feb. 18 / / Volc / Java / N.M. / *C.R.* 70-878.

1817 Jan. 27 / 11 p.m. / Shock — Mansfield, England /. *Gent's Mag.* 1817/1/268.

1817 Feb. 8 / Aurora at Sunderland / *Annals of Phil* 9/250.

1817 Feb. 13 / [London *Times*], 3-e / Aurora / Derby.

1817 March 2 / Gothenburg / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1817 March 11 / potential trying to find its pole / Q in Switzerland and lightning in a clear sky over Mt. Blanc *BA* 54 / [Reverse side] or a met. / "a loud detonation.

1817 March — / fish / Appin, Scotland / *J. F. Inst* 4/43.

★

1817 March 18 / Spain / Intense darkness, rain and q / *C.R.* 17-619.

[Reverse side] 10:45 a.m. / *BA* 54.

1817 March 18 / N Spain / q / II / [Medium / *BA* 1911].

1817 March 18 / Lot-et-Garrone / Fireball / *BA* 60.

1817 March 18 / the unipumic[?] volcano / Q [in] Spain and a volcano reported to be in the Sierra de Causeros. / *Jour des Deb*, Ap. 6-1-1.

1817 March 18 / 10:45 a.m. / "The sun disappeared and a terrible obscurity began. / q — Madrid / *BA* 54.

(In the next issue of **PURSUIT**, Vol. 19. #1, we shall resume printing the Fort Notes from where we left off in Vol. 18, #2)

The Society For The Investigation of The Unexplained

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ORIGINS OF SITU/PURSUIT

Zoologist, biologist, botanist and geologist Ivan T. Sanderson, F.L.S., F.R.G.S., F.Z.S., in association with a number of other distinguished authors, established in 1965 a "foundation" for the exposition and research of the paranormal — those "disquieting mysteries of the natural world" to which they had devoted much of their investigative lifetimes.

As a means of persuading other professionals, and non-professionals having interests similar to their own, to enlist in an uncommon cause, the steering group decided to publish a newsletter. The first issue came out in May 1967. The response, though not overwhelming, was sufficient to reassure the founding fathers that public interest in the what, why and where of their work would indeed survive them.

Newsletter No. 2, dated March 1968, announced new plans for the Sanderson foundation: a structure larger than its architects had first envisioned was to be built upon it, the whole to be called the Society for the Investigation of The Unexplained, as set forth in documents filed with the New Jersey Secretary of State. The choice of name was prophetic, for Dr. Sanderson titled one of the last of his two-dozen books "Investigating the Unexplained," published in 1972 and dedicated to the Society.

Another publication was issued in June 1968, but "newsletter" was now a subtitle; above it the name ***PURSUIT*** was displayed for the first time. Vol. 1, No. 4 in September 1968 ("incorporating the fourth Society newsletter") noted that "the abbreviation SITU has now been formally adopted as the designation of our Society." Issue number 4 moreover introduced the Scientific Advisory Board, listing the names and affiliations of the advisors. Administrative matters no longer dominated the contents; these were relegated to the last four of the twenty pages. Most of the issue was given over to investigative reporting on phenomena such as "a great armadillo (6 feet long, 3 feet high) said to have been captured in Argentina" — the instant transportation of solid objects "from one place to another and even through solids" — the attack on the famed University of Colorado UFO Project headed by Dr. Edward U. Condon — and some updated information about "ringing rocks" and "stone spheres."

Thus SITU was born, and thus ***PURSUIT*** began to chronicle our Investigation of The Unexplained.

Printed in U.S.A. ISSN 0033-4685

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