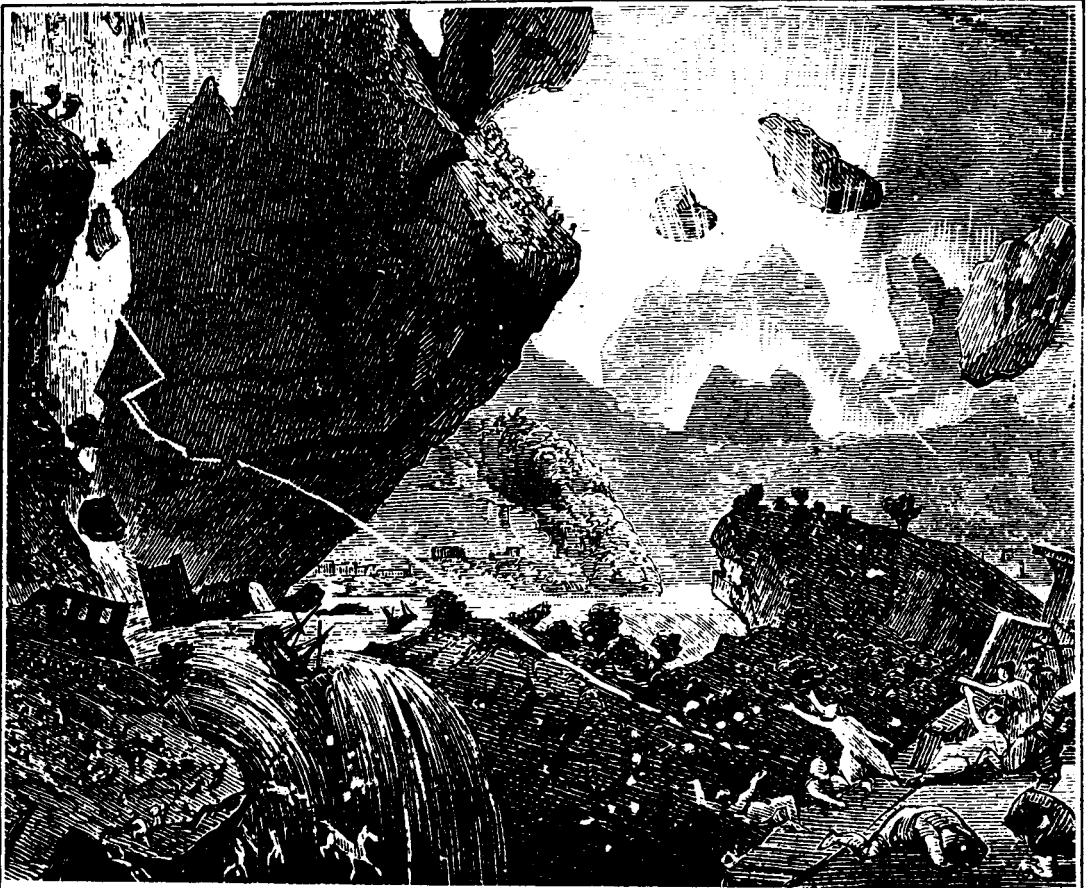


FORGOTTEN TIMES

strange phenomena - curiosities - prodigies - portents - mysteries



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FORTEAN TIMES

A Contemporary Record
of Strange Phenomena

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OCTOBER 1976

NEW ADDRESS

We are pleased to announce we finally have a permanent address for **FT** (see the colophon opposite), to be used from this issue onward. It has come just in time as your editor is about to begin a year of flat-hopping. I was having nightmares over the address confusion this could have involved. Those in personal communication with me can continue to use the Aldermaston address (as mail will be forwarded) until I can give you another one. If in doubt use the PO Box.

DELAY DEPT.

Many apologies for the lateness of this issue - due to my commitments to my book (see below) and to finding a place to live, this latter having thrown my routines, files etc, into utter chaos. At this time the problem is not sorted out yet, so please expect the December issue to be delayed also. Similarly my grand plans for the 1975 index are postponed once again. I hope to be back on schedule with the first issue next year.

JOINT DEPT

We share our new address with The Ley Hunter, and as announced, from this issue on, we offer a joint sub to both TLH and FT at a 10% reduction. This will bring you 6 issues of each for £4.50/\$9.00. Payments may be made to either magazine - we have the same address. We are also continuing our joint sub with the INFO Journal - so please indicate (on the address-label when renewing) which you want.

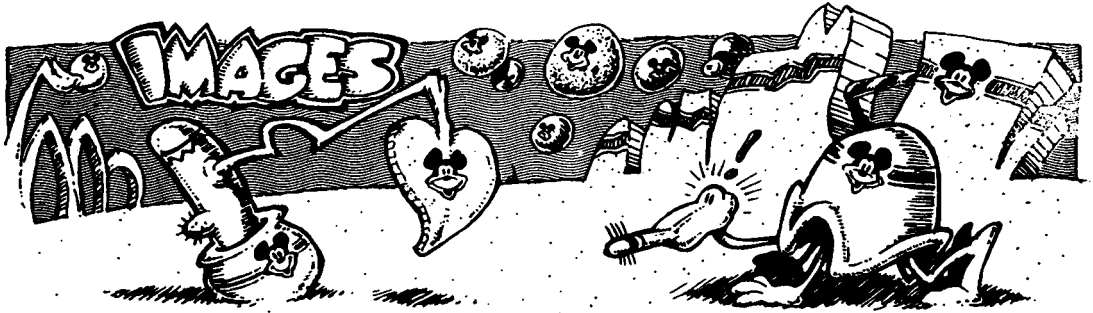
TRUSS FUND

- in which we appeal for support! Many thanks to the following for their kind donations to our survival fund: Frank Adey, Nick Cohn, David Dunthorn, Bill Figorski, John Glover, Chris Holtzhausen, Phil Ledger, Udo Schlegel, Aaron Sussman, Nigel Watson. Our special thanks go to Gary L Abbott for his parcels of US weeklies and gift sub to the National Enquirer; and to Bram Stokes of Dark They were & Golden Eyed, the famous London weird bookshop, who gave us a boxfull of old US editions of Fate (very timely too, see p7). If you have piles of old mags (relevant ones) you don't want - send them to us. Our long-term plan is to build a central Fortean reference facility.

NEWS DEPT

INFO has undergone a considerable change of staff at its Arlington, VA, headquarters, in the last few months. They wish to assure their members of their survival, continuity, and intentions to improve their services.

...cont on p5



CHRIST IN A HEN HOUSE

On 19 Sept this year the Sunday People published a large photo of a stained asbestos wall on the inside of a hen house. They told that the owners and workers of Billsdown Poultry Farm, St Ives, near Bournemouth, Hants, can plainly see the head and shoulders of a crucified Christ in the stains. We thought about reproducing the photo but its large white area and faint grey stains would not have come out at all. The image, says Jack Griffin, a partner in the farm, appeared sometime in mid-August, when one of the workers spotted it. The asbestos is 15-years old, and usually goes black, said Griffin. They kept quiet about it because 'we didn't want people to think we were religious nut cases'. It seems that far from fading, the picture is developing details 'like a photograph', the eyes, nose and hair, particularly becoming more clearly defined. If Fort was reporting this, he'd probably have fastened onto a notion that at first a vague patch of stains is interpreted as a meaningful image, and then, perhaps because of the magical feelings associated with the image, it fleshes out in response to the interpretation. We note that the hen house stands in the shadow of All Saints' parish church, for whatever significance that may hold. The farm owners say they tried to brush it off but the stains are in the material itself. 'This is certainly not a hoax or a con trick,' said Griffin.

The People asked their readers what they saw in the photo, and in their 26 Sept issue they publish a selection of replies, and three quite different drawings of where they saw the head and shoulders, etc. People sent in drawings of images ranging from 4 angels; Boris Karloff; a jug, candle, river and trees; 5 separate heads; and Christ reclining on a sofa, among the more conventional interpretations. It was even likened to the Holy Shroud of Turin which bears the body-image of Christ. (Cr: both items - Ion A Will).

This reminds me of a documentary earlier in the year on the work of the sculptor Rodin. When he died in 1917, a few drawings were found and claimed as the only landscapes he ever drew. They showed 'wooded valleys, curving hills and waving fields of grass'. Just before they were due to be exhibited, it was found that each bore a woman's name, and were, in fact, close-ups of their (cough) private parts! Just goes to show, eh? But let's get more explicit.

BEHIND THE SCREEN DOOR

About the 10th June 1969, the image of a face 'resembling a painting of Christ' was first noticed on the screen door at the back of the Bass' home, 816 Avenue C, Port Neches, Texas. The image was attracting large crowds and could be clearly seen and photographed. The story appears in the Port Neches Chronicle 18 June 1969, along with a good photo, but alas, we only have a thin grey xerox useless for reproduction here. It is said that the face is life-size and can be more easily seen in the afternoon when direct sunlight falls on the back of the house. (Cr: INFO/Gaulding). An interesting detail is that some people have reported that they can see it in colour.

CHRIST STUCCO ON THE WALL

On 18 May 1975, the 'face and chest of Christ' appeared on a pink stucco wall, facing the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in the small village of Holman, north central New Mexico. Since then, according to Rev. Leonard Bayer, whose church it is, it appears, 'without fail', about 9pm each night. 'It's quite distinct with long hair, beard and all. Sometimes a cross is visible and other times the Virgin Mary or an angel appears alongside Christ,' he said. It fades before dawn each day, and according to the National Enquirer, 19 Aug 1975, it is no hoax or trick of street lighting. It was even filmed successfully for TV.



THIS IMAGE of Christ, with long hair and beard, glows on pink stucco wall at 9 o'clock every night.

The image appears to glow, and measures 4ft by 2ft, and is 7ft up the wall. The chancellor of the archdiocese of Santa Fe came over to see it but said it would be some time before any decision would be made on the image's authenticity. Meantime Rev Bayer seems to be relishing the fame that has come to his small church in a small village. With the neighbours saying things like 'I went there and saw the image of Jesus holding a cross in his arms', the Rev was grinning at the prospect of full pews in the months ahead. Does anyone know how the story developed?

A FACE AT THE WINDOW

Sometime last summer the image of a face appeared on a window pane of a schoolroom of an Episcopal church (presumably) in Denver, Colorado, and it was believed by parishioners to be the face of Christ. ((Why must every bearded long-tressed face be that of Christ when we have no evidence of what the Man looked like? Or is it another case of strange but natural phenomena mimicking art?)) The rector, Rev H David Wilson, called in a glass expert to examine the 16" by 14" pane.

According to the Milwaukee Journal 24 April 76 (Cr: Mark A Hall), the expert came to the conclusion the face had been painted on the glass 'some time ago', and scrubbed it off with steel-wool. This however failed to remove the image and left faint traces. Rev

Wilson had another view: 'It's sort of an impression in the window but it's not an optical illusion. It is very much in the window. We feel it is a sign that what we're doing in the church is right.'

FACE-GAWPERS ANGER BISHOP

The Catholic bishop of Nimes, Msgr Pierre Rouge, has closed the church in the French village of Suave after the image of a face appeared on a wall of the nave sometime early in April. He said that crowds 'came to see a spurious miracle rather than to worship.' The parish priest, Augustin Rieusset, was equally pragmatic, saying the apparition was created by the imagination of overly zealous persons. The effect of daylight on the plaster wall creates the impression of a face at certain moments, but it is nothing but an optical illusion.' Ah, but sight too is an optical illusion, n'est ce pas?

Just how much the priest was saying on orders from above we don't know, but the reaction in Suave was opposite to the credulity of the clergy in the cases above. The priest went on to add that if you looked closely '...it could also be a flower or any other object, which disappears as soon as the sun goes down.' Interestingly, we note that the AP story of the Suave face is dated 24 April, the same as the Denver story above; so that a face was developing in France at the same time as an expert was demolishing one in the USA. St Louis (MO) Post-Dispatch 25 April 76 (Cr: Mark A Hall.) Also in this period a BVM was sighted in Beirut (see p24) and the case below developed...

BAPPLEMENT IN BENONI

On Good Friday this year (16 April) Stratis Voustas saw a collection of religious symbols in a windowpane of the Greek Orthodox Church at Benoni, in South Africa. He is the son of the architect who built the church, Paul Voustas, only two years previously. Voustas senior said: 'The image is formed by bluish watermarks in the amber frosted glass...if watermarks appear in glass they are usually noticeable in the first couple of months.' A spokesman for the firm that supplied the glass says the symbols are definitely there but doesn't think they could be watermarks, as the odds against the formation of such a complex meaningful set of designs must be quite fantastic. 'They could have arisen in the manufacturing process or through weathering, but it's strange they should manifest themselves in this particular manner.' Later other scientists said it was caused by 'a chemical reaction attacking the soda of the glass, and the alkaline solution reacted with the surface.' The Pretoria News, from whom we take the drawing below, points out that the scientists

fail completely to account for the strong design of the discolouration.



The image of the crucifixion of Christ which appeared in a glass window of the St Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church in Benoni.

The head of the Greek Church in the Transvaal, Archbishop Paul Langris, made the trip and was suitably impressed. It was, he said, a message to South Africa from God. The faithful responded by identifying the following images in the see-through icon:

'The sign of a cross; the Holy Trinity; two pelicans, symbols of the soul of Christ ((ref to the legend that they pierce their own breasts to feed their young on their blood during a food shortage)); the flame of life; the lance used to pierce Christ's side; a letter 'B' ((alleged to stand for Balileus, Greek for King)); the forms of two women kneeling in prayer at the foot of the cross; a halo behind the head of Christ on the cross.'

Interestingly it is said the image is visible only at certain times of the day, from noon to sunset, and can only be viewed in natural light from the outside of the church. A similar detail is mentioned in several of our stories above.

Could it have been a portent of the latest troubles in South Africa? Pains reflected in a pane. Or... No! Oh very well. In April this year Viking 1 was beginning its final approach to Mars for its landing on 20 July. Pictures released by NASA have shown several interesting images; one taken of Mars during the approach is said to show a face in the Martian features ((We would like to see this - can anyone supply the reference or a copy?)), and one taken of the surface after landing shows the letter 'B' (see FT 17/9). Story compiled from South African Sunday Times, 23 May 76, Prétoiria News, 16 Oct 76 (Cr both: Chris Holtzhausen).



Editorial/ cont from p2...

By the time you read this, Dark They were & Golden Eyed, will have moved to their spacious new premises, 9-12 St Anne's Court, London W1. This is just off Wardour St, and near their old shop in Berwick St. It has to be seen to be believed, and must make Dark the largest comix, SF, and all-round wierd-book shop in Europe! Stan says that there will be more room to display small mags like TLH and FT. Go and see - tell'em FT sent you!

PLUG DEPT

The final details of my book on Fortean phenomena with John Michell are now known. Its title is Phenomena: A Book of Wonders, and will be published by Thames & Hudson this Spring in a large paperback format at £4.50. It contains 58 categories of illustrated phenomena, and (in all modesty) will become a front-line reference work. We've certainly put a lot of effort into it, and we hope you will think it's been worth it.



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THE DISAPPEARANCE OF DAVID LANG

Privately many researchers in these fields have expressed their grave concern over the amount of misinformation currently in circulation. It multiplies the numbers of deadends and red herrings in the way of any piece of research, and there is nothing more tedious than to spend much valuable time on a project, checking your information back to its original sources, only to find the whole thing is based on a lie, a hoax or an error of scholarship. I don't exclude myself from errors in scholarship - hell! we've all blithely quoted writers we thought were authorities, without checking or qualifying the information. But it must not be allowed to pass unchallenged. As Porteans, we must question all authoritative statements - and if we cannot check it out ourselves, the only truly scholarly and scientific thing to do is to treat it as a hypothesis, one possibility or interpretation. We must find our own balance between caution, enthusiasm, belief and scepticism.

As our own small contribution to putting matters right, we conceived this column, which is open to anyone who has investigated any piece of Portean data and found that the popular accounts jibe with the facts (as far as they can be established). The only proviso is that the information must help clear away doubts and misconceptions and errors in the field, and should be as accurate as possible. It is not intended as a pillory to villify the perpetrators of the error, however much some of them may need it. None of us are free enough to cast such stones. Let's have arguments and debate, and differences of opinions by all means, but let's all uphold the quest. (Cynics will be mildly amused at our new toast: 'To the truth, wherever it may lie!')

The best known account appears in Frank Edwards' Stranger than Science (1959), in which it is the first item. Briefly, Edwards tells that Lang, who had a farm a few miles from Gallatin, Tennessee, stepped from the porch and crossed a field in front of the house on 23 September 1880, and vanished in full view of his wife and children. Two other witnesses were Judge August Peck and a companion driving a buggy up the adjacent lane towards the house. Lang had seen the Judge and waved to him, turned back to the house and promptly disappeared. Subsequent searches failed to find Lang, a hole or any clue to where or how he might have vanished.

What made this story particularly interesting to Porteans was its sequel, when Lang's two children were crossing the same field, as Edwards tells it, 'one still warm evening in April 1881, about seven months after he had vanished. The children noticed that at the spot where he had last been seen, there was a circle of stunted yellow grass some fifteen feet in diameter. On that evening as they stood beside the circle, 11-year-old Sarah called to their father; and to their astonishment, the youngsters heard his voice...calling faintly for help...over and over...until it faded away, for ever.'

Edwards gives no references or indications as to where he might have picked up this evocative story. The only previous mention of the story known to me (your Ed.) is in Strange Mysteries of Time and Space by Harold T Wilkins, published, not without significance, the year before STS, in 1958. Wilkins' story, though, does not name the judge, and identifies the judge's companion as Lang's brother-in-law. Other differences appear in Wilkins' version of the sequel, here (pp180-2 in my Ace paperback edition) dated August 1881, ie nearly a year later.

The peculiar circle of grass is said to be 20ft wide and 'high and rank' and that 'All around the circle had been cropped by sheep, or grazed by cattle; but no cow, or sheep, or horse would venture into the circle, not even a cricket or grasshopper. They would approach it, but shied away in fear...'

According to Wilkins the girl called to Lang four times, and as they were about to walk away, heard a faraway voice calling for help. 'The startled mother was told. She went to the spot in the field and called, and her husband answered. They went back for several days; but each day the voice grew fainter, and at last was heard no more.'

Wilkins claims to have summarised the account from various contemporary newspapers but does not name them.

Robert Forrest had the bright idea of checking with the public records of the local libraries in that region of Tennessee and had the following reply (dated 3 June 1976) from Herschel G Payne of the Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County, who was familiar with the story and had even investigated it. Our thanks to them both for permission to quote directly from this correspondence.

'Fortunately...I do have quite a bit of background research on it. The story is supposedly only a fabrication which was told by one Joe Mulhatten, a travelling salesman who was in these parts during the 1880s. There were, at that time, lying contests in which men vied for the title of "biggest liar" and Joe Mulhatten was a champion. The story of David Lang was his best. Throughout my research I have talked and corresponded with the top newspaper men and literary people in this area who have written on this subject and they guarantee me there is no such thing as documentation to be found.'

"I personally have checked census records and other material in our collection and there is nothing to indicate that David Lang or Judge Peck were ever in this vicinity. I have talked with the Librarian of the Gallatin Public Library and she in turn has contacted knowledgeable persons there who also attest to the story's fictitiousness. The Sumner County historian, whom I also contacted, says there is absolutely no verification and no pictures of the farm to be found. Even with all the above information from the most reliable sources I did not "accept or believe" that the story was not possible and even drove up to Sumner County to check it out for myself. The farm was supposedly located on what is now called "The Old Cottontown Road". I had a beautiful drive - nothing more!'

So there you have it - on available evidence both Wilkins and Edwards embroider-

ed a story that won a lying contest, and by omission of sources and lack of investigation and the proper qualifications it passed into popular acceptance as a factual event. One remaining mystery for purists to clear up is just how the Lang story was picked up again so long after the early 1880s?

My only observations come from the folklorists' approach of disregarding the impossibility or not of the elements of the story to note its continuity with tradition. I note with interest the association of the peculiar circle with the vanishing, the return to the same spot on something like an anniversary of the event, and the hearing of a faint calling as if from far away in some other dimension - these are the classic elements of stories of kidnappings from fairy circles. Perhaps the story passed so easily into popular acceptance because it was hauntingly familiar, either of childhood fairytales, or of some real or archetypal event in the collective unconscious, or even perhaps all of these. Fictional or not, the event does have what I like to call 'phenomenal reality' (intermediary between the soft, psychological realities, and the hard, factual realities), and thus may be an ingredient in the shaping of the world since its 'invention'.

Postscript -- Those irreverent creatures the library angels seem to be overworking on my behalf lately. A few days after I had typed the above section I finally collected from Steve Moore a number of backcopies of the US edition of Fate, donated to FT by Bram Stokes, of Dark They Were & Golden Eyed. In one of these, dated December 1956, was an article in an occasional series on 'Mind over Space' by the great psychic scholar Nandor Fodor, on the subject of human teleportation - and the first case he mentions is that of David Lang. Some details differ from those given above: the girl is called Emma; the field was for horses; and the faint voice was heard 'the following Spring', and Lang's wife admitted hearing her husband's calling before the children came to tell her on this occasion.

As another link in the chain, we note that Fodor himself is quoting from an article several years earlier in the same magazine; 'How lost was my father' by Stuart Palmer, in Fate, July 1953. As this is unavailable to us we can add nothing more. Perhaps one of you might like to take this up and work back from Stuart Palmer? If so, please let us know how you get on.

*** Next time - the famous case in 1897 of an airship that kidnapped a calf from Alexander Hamilton's farm at LeRoy, Kansas - with new material unearthed by Jerome Clark and Robert J Schadewald.



DIARY OF A MAD PLANET

What follows is an experiment in correlating the Fortean data accumulated here this year. It is incomplete and inconclusive because I don't have the time or the facilities, or of course anything like the full information, for a full analysis.

Several commentators in this calamitous period referred to the work of Gilbert White, who recorded much strange phenomena during the extreme weather of the late 18th C. In the Fall of 1781 he chronicled the progress of a severe drought in southern England; and during another spell of hot dry weather in 1783, he told of huge swarms of flies that maddened livestock; of meat rotting within a day, and expensive dairy products. A volcanic mountain grew out of the sea off Norway; there were quakes in Calabria; and "strange meteors" - in fact the year was "full of horrible phenomena."

The same could be said of 1976. Data kept coming of quakes, volcanoes, monsters, monsoons, strange deaths, sudden swarms of insects that disappeared as suddenly. The reports seemed full of superlatives: 'worst', 'hottest', 'strongest', 'driest', 'wettest',

'longest', etc. Fortean times indeed!

I thought of simply doing a listing of quakes - then someone pointed out the torrential rain that seemed to follow each one, and someone else mentioned lunar periodicities. Gradually the listing absorbed other data in an attempt to reconstruct the different kinds of phenomena that happened on particular days, or other relationships. I have listed the events under the date they happened as reconstructed from news reports varying from the evening of the same day to some weeks afterward. Those events marked with (*) will be given in full in a future issue.

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?

This question was shrieked by more than one journalist as daily the papers reported more quakes from more countries around the globe this hectic August. After the grave damage to northern Italy by a quake on the 6th May had begun to slip from people's minds, a huge quake hit Tangshan on 28 July, to be followed by so much geological and meteorological violence that when Biblical

prophecies of the end of the world appeared in the papers no one blinked or laughed them off. Experts were thrown into confusion. There was talk of a new Ice Age, of the planet's tilt having altered, of shrinking ice caps, of sunspots and solar winds, of UFOs firing rays at earth from space, anything. Some experts said the series of events was explained by coincidence.

In the Portean view nothing happens in isolation, and all these events form an interconnected pattern in universal continuity. William Golding, writing in a book review in the Guardian, 30 Sept, brilliantly caught the Portean vision (in a style reminiscent of Port's): 'Those who think of the world as a lifeless lump would do well to watch out. Only the other day something irritated her and with a moue, it may be, she wrecked cities from China to the Philippines and blew out the side of a mountain in Ecuador.' I guess we've pretty much taken her for granted of late and her 'See if I care,' pouts have shown us firmly just who needs who.

Before plunging into the list, I'd like to offer the following summaries and notes.

We are told that there are something like 30,000 tremors each year throughout the world, of which only 5-6000 are ever felt by people living in the vicinity; again, of which only 25 or so are severe enough to cause destruction and death on the large scale. Perhaps the toll this year is not geologically unusual, but it certainly seems so, and not just because the press spotlight was focussed on it. The Tangshan quake of 28 July was the strongest recorded in the 12yrs since the destruction of Anchorage, Alaska, was followed by an unusual number of quakes greater than 6 Richter. (It was a 6.5 Richter quake that did so much damage in the Udine area of N Italy, occurring under a heavily populated region). We learn from the US Severe Storm Forecast Center that the first six months of this year saw a record number of tornadoes (773 against the 26-yr average of 440 for the same period) - Los Angeles Times, 4 July 76 (Cr: W Grimstad). Just look at our list for the other superlatives.

THE DROUGHT

At the time of this writing it seems hard to believe that only a few months ago most parts of Britain were having the worst drought for 200 years, and some parts for 250 years. Parliament was granting powers to local water authorities to cut off public supplies; and in south Wales, the worst hit area (with only 5 days supply in the reservoirs, at 22 Aug) the shut-off was for 17 hours a day. Remote and elevated villages and towns had to fetch water from standpipes

or wait for a mobile water tanker; car washing and water wasting became heinous crimes; and there was a huge exodus of livestock to the relatively greener pastures of north Wales and Scotland. Brown became the predominant colour of the English countryside as all kinds of plants and trees died of thirst. The watertable was so low that rivers and streams dried up, stood still and even flow-backwards because of leakage by millions of gallons a day into the surrounding land. In many estuaries the flow of freshwater was too weak to keep back the tides and salt water wiped out river-life and bankside vegetation for huge stretches as it flowed far inland.

Britain was on the verge of having a water police when, on 27 August, a light rain fell over parts of the South. It's some measure of the national thirst that this normally innocuous event became headline news. The change was as dramatic as it was sudden, for the September that followed went on record as the wettest for 50 years.

Full effects of the drought will not be known for some time, as, for example, the death from thirst and fire of large areas of woodlands, heaths and moors, will upset the complex ecology of various regions. In many cases rare plants, insects and birds, residents of these areas, were killed off in the disaster or made homeless at precisely the wrong time of their life-cycles. The drought will undoubtedly have repercussions too in the supply of dairy products and various crops this winter and next year.

THE RAIN-MAKERS

The drought brought out a good selection of rainmakers in August. The one who most seemed to know what he was doing was Guru Jagat Singh Ji, hired by the Sikh community in Southall, London, who arrived on the 27th with a 20-man orchestra to begin a week's prayer for rain. How the press laughed at his confident promise of rain within 4 days. Yet the very next day, in the peak dry period, it rained. In some parts of southern England it rained for 3 days. Pity the Guru couldn't stop rain - like the Malaysian witchdoctor who kept a golfcourse dry while parts of the city around it were deluged (see 27 March) - for back in his Punjab great rains caused extensive misery (see 10, 12, 20 & 24 Aug).

On 9th Aug a man did a nude rain-dance and was prosecuted for indecent exposure - but at his trial it was said it rained within 24 hours. On the 26th, the Archbishop of Canterbury turned down appeals for a national day of prayer for rain - so the Guru got the credit.

But the unintentional rain-making prize must go to Denis Howell, Minister of Sport, appointed to organize the drought effort. For an account of the rains that began 3 days

after his appointment, and which fell during his tours to various parts of the country on at least 12 occasions see Daily Mirror for 30 Sept.

EXPERTS, THEORIES & PROPHETS

I cannot recall a period in recent years to rival this one for sheer bullshit and banboozlement from the so-called experts. I was going to list the errors in predictions, the contradictory opinions of different specialists, and the facile explaining-away of both errors and events, but what the hell! We've better things to do with the space. It could be considered great fun really - just don't let them tell me I'm not being scientific about the Unknown. Hail Bris!

We note that several scales were used to gauge the strength of quakes (Richter, the lesser known Rossi-Porel, and Mercalli, and several quite meaningless to us laymen, like the obscure Soviet scale). So, in the absence of comparative information, we include only the Richter measurements where known. As early as the Yunnan quakes (see 29 May) reports began to mention a belief among the Chinese populace of a change of dynasty - the mood having been set by the huge Kirin meteorite on 8 March, the same day the head of Comet West began its split into 4 parts. The belief was revived in the huge series of quakes in central and NE China after 28 July. Mao was dying, of course, but he outlasted that series of portents, finally dying on 9 Sept, one of the few relatively peaceful days in the 2 devastating months that followed the Tangshan quake (28th July).

There is much we could add on the subject of quake prediction, and the behaviour of animals prior to a quake, but we'll have to leave this to a future article.

We cannot allow, however, the frightening pronouncements (on 16 Aug) of the French volcanologist, Pierre Brousse, to pass. He said (from his observation post at Fort St Charles !) that the volcano, La Soufriere, on Guadeloupe, would explode within a few hours with the force of (2 to 17 - in various reports) atom bombs. It never did! This build up was said to be 'inexorable' and 'past the point of no return'. Brousse later revised his time for the explosion; and admitted that he had tried to instill a sense of urgency into the lazy island. Nearly 2 weeks later, farmers were pleading to be allowed back to evacuated areas; and on 30 Aug a sudden but minor eruption took a party of scientists camped near the summit completely by surprise.

In contrast to Brousse's exaggeration, we have a statement from a London Weather Center official (Sunday Times, 4 Jan) that: 'We don't want to over emphasize in case nothing happens.' This was the basis of a row

over whether the weathermen could have given better warnings, sooner, of the 100mph plus gales that caused considerable damage to much of western Europe on the 3rd January.

Complaints against the weathermen were world-wide. In England they consistently failed to anticipate each change in the situation in their forecasts for the month ahead. See the Daily Mirror, 16 June & 12 July, for red-faced apologies for rain that never came as they said it would; and London Evening News, 29 Sept, in which they again apologise for saying the drought would continue to get worse through that month, when in fact, in a dramatic reversal, it turned out to be the wettest, in parts, for 50 yrs. I kept expecting someone to prosecute the Met. Office under the Trades Descriptions Act!

COINCIDENCES

We also have several fine coincidences in this period. Many involved the accident-prone 'Operation Teamwork', the first large-scale NATO exercise for some years.

On 6 Sept, a Russian pilot defected to Japan in a top-secret jet-fighter, the MiG-25 'Foxbat'. The big grin on faces at the Pentagon soon dropped, when, only a few days later (17th), a USAF jet-fighter, the F-14 'Tomcat', packed with secret surveillance equipment, rolled off the deck of a carrier off the north coast of Scotland and sank to the seabed. Similar names, similar planes, similar top-level embarrassment!

This double-loss of secret aircraft was preceded by two other accidents. On 4 Aug, a Soviet long-range surveillance plane, the TU-95 'Bear', crashed into the sea off Nova Scotia -- and on 28 Aug, 2 USAF cargo planes, the C141 'Starlifter', crashed within 4 hrs of each other, one at an airport in Greenland, and the other close to Thorney, Cambs, near Peterborough. A spokesman at their base, Maguire, NJ, said part failure and sabotage were ruled out. He said that it was the first time they'd ever lost a C141, and to lose 2 together was an 'unbelievable coincidence' - Daily Telegraph 30 Aug.

For a listing of some of the other NATO calamities, including the loss of 'HMS Fittleton' after a collision at sea on 20 Sept, see Daily Mirror 21 & 22 Sept.

Air accidents seemed to increase. On the same day that Yugoslavia suffered a quake (10 Sept), a Yugoslav DC-9 collided with a British Airways Trident, near Zagreb, killing 177 in the 'worst air collision in history.' And a few weeks later, on 25 Sept, there were 6 separate plane crashes in the USA, 4 of them within 4 hours.

There were two mysterious fire-deaths in Bath, Somerset (17 & 20 Aug); the name Herne

cropped up several times (5 June & 22 Sept); and a mystery kangaroo was sighted at Golden, Colorado (17 Aug), a place named frequently in the reports of quakes as the base of the US Geological Survey where they measured the effects of quakes in all parts of the globe. Some quakes seemed synchronous too, not just the series (see eg 16 & 21 Aug). On 1 Sept, one rocked the Kanto plain in Japan. It happened on 'Disaster Prevention Day' which commemorates a devastating quake in the same place in 1923 which killed 100,000. There were even days (eg 17 Aug) when it seemed as if the whole range of Fortean phenomena were being played out.

There's no doubt about it, from March to September, we've had a hell of a Fortean time.

THE LISTING

1 Jan

2 children at Harlingen, Texas, see 'horrible-looking' black 'bird' with red eyes, this morning. Tracks found later. Four days earlier (28 Dec 75) Big Bird is seen by two San Benito policemen; and another San Benito encountered what he thinks is the creature the night before (31 Dec 75).

Dr Berthold Schwarz, driving near Great Notch, New Jersey, sees an enormous long-necked 'luminous' white bird gliding in the night sky. *(resident)*

3 Jan

'Worst storms & gales in UK for 30 yrs'. Flooding on both UK coasts; 23 dead; 100s injured; est £700 million damages. Also felt on European coast from Holland to France. Its severity caught weathermen by surprise.

7 Jan

A red-eyed 'something from another planet' attacks a trailer in Brownsville, Texas, at 8.30pm.

14 Jan

A 'massive shock' rattles the Kermadec Islands, approx 600 miles NNW of New Zealand.

Man in Raymondville, Texas, attacked by man-sized red-eyed bat-like creature; 10.30pm.

19 Jan

105 mph cyclone batters coast of Queensland, Australia.

21 Jan

Man attacked by large red-eyed bat-like creature in backyard at Eagle Pass, Texas; 12.45am (poss. hoax).

26 Jan

Huge quantities of Brown-tailed moth cocoons at Havering, E London. Large scale attempt by Council to destroy (see 3 June).

3 Feb

Violent quake at San Martin, Guatemala (over 8 Richter).

4 Feb

Another strong quake at San Martin, Guatemala.

Approximate time of 'Mary F's sighting and photos of Morgawr in Helford estuary, Cornwall (see PT 15/15-17; 16/17-19, 21).

5 Feb

Minor tremors continue at San Martin.

6 Feb

Another strong quake at San Martin. Dead toll of last few days put at about 10,000.

7 Feb

'Millions' of seaweed flies invade naval base at Portland, Dorset. (*)

18 Feb

Tremor in the early hours in Pife and Midlothian, Scotland. Global Seismology Unit blame a sound-barrier breaking plane.

19 Feb

Quake in Cuba.

15-yr-old Philip Watts vanishes from Colwyn Bay, N Wales, to turn up in a London underpass a few hours later and 220 miles away, with fatal head injuries. Curious case; will be reported in detail in future PT. (*)

20 Feb

Tremor shakes house in Faulkner St, Liverpool. Rock adjustment blamed.

24 Feb

3 teachers see giant bird in sky SW of San Antonio, Texas (poss. hoax).

25 Feb

a 'yellow rain' in Hongkong; during 5th warmest Feb on HK records (*).

27 Feb

Apx dating of Bigfoot sighting at Cincinnati, Ohio (see PT 17/22).

5 March

Plague of millions of rats in Senegal, 'displacing or affecting 150,000 people'; thriving despite poisons and flamethrowers.

8 March

Massive stone meteorite breaks into over 100 fragments to fall in region of Kirin City (Chi-lin), China; 3.02pm (see PT 17/9). Comet West begins to split, first into 2, then 4 parts by 12 March (photos & details in Sky & Telescope June 76).

14 March

Big-footprints found in Alcorn County, Mississippi, over next few weeks (see PT 17/22)

Vast numbers of cockroaches invade office building of Sutton Community Health

Office, S London. (*).

Many girls in South African TV company in Natal, convulse, dance, stare, make weird noises over last week. Believed possessed by devils. (*).

(Apx date) A wild boar, supposedly extinct in Scotland since 18th C, is killed by vehicle on estate of Earl of Cawdor, near Nairn. (*).

19 March

Chimps in Tarzana, California, pelt 24 policemen with sticks and cabbage stalks (*).

21 March

Fall of 'contents of airliner's toilet' over Bridgwater, Somerset (see PT 15/17).

24 March

Bigfoot makes noises & leaves carcass in early hours, in Mill Valley, California (see PT 17/22).

25 March

Quake at Hopkinsville, Kentucky (during showing of film 'Earthquake').

Mysterious fire death of man at Paddington police station; early am (see PT 16/4).

27 March

A witchdoctor hired to keep rain off the Malaysian Open golf tournament in Kuala Lumpur. He is successful as other parts of the city are deluged with 'torrential rain' (*).

3 April

Glowing green light seen from Bentwaters near Ipswich, Suffolk; supposed meteor burn-up. (*).

7 April

Mystery kangaroo sighted in Rock Island, Illinois (*).

9 April

Severe tremor at Stoke on Trent (see PT 16/6-7).

Quake; Ecuador; 18 dead.

15 girls at school at Sand Flat, near Memphis, Mississippi, taken to hospital after writhing and collapsing over last few days; voodoo, food poisoning & drugs suggested, but no evidence found. (*).

Bluefish in frenzy attack bathers at Pompano Beach, Florida (*).

13 April

Severe tremor at Stoke - now coming at 12 per week.

14 April

2 policemen see large 'unidentified object' with 2 fins rushing through waters of Loch Ness. (*).

16 April

A woman refugee from Beirut tells that

on this day, Easter Friday, 'the clouds came down low and turned red and stayed that colour well into the night. She later learned that a vision of the Virgin Mary had been seen.' (see p 24 THIS ISSUE).

Image of crucifix and other Christian symbols discovered in a church window at Benoni, South Africa. (Detailed on p 4 this issue).

17 April

2 girls see the Owlman at Mawnan, Cornwall.

21 April

Vast numbers of caterpillars swarm over courthouse at Bentong, Malaya, interrupting proceedings. (*).

24 April

Bishop closes church in French village of Suave because crowds coming only to gawp at a 'miraculous apparition' of a face on one of its walls over last 2 weeks. (see p 4 THIS ISSUE).

26 April

15 red-haired giants attack a hunters' camp in Peruvian jungle, killing several men & abducting 3 women (*).

29 April

Tremor in Riverside Rd, Trent Vale, two days after Jack Ashley promises Government aid in investigating '90 tremors in the last 10 months' at Stoke. Recent activity began 3 weeks ago after a lull of 6 months - Express & Star 30 April 76.

Annular eclipse of sun - account in N.Scientist 6 May 76.

1 May

Blood of St Januarius fails to liquify over next six days (see PT 16/5ff).

3 witches swim nude in Helford estuary to summon Morgawr, but it didn't turn up (see PT 16/18-19).

Sometime between 1 and 7 May a 'big blue dome-shaped object with a revolving red light on top' hovers above rooftops at Braunstone, Leics. The object was described as 'disturbing' and was first seen over an army camp at Woodhouse moving towards Leicester - (Radio Leicester 8 May).

2 farming brothers in Helou, Normandy, see a TV film about rural witchcraft and imagine someone is bewitching them in the same way. They went out and murdered Jean Camus whom they said was responsible for their misfortunes. (*).

2 May

Last in a series of mysterious 'arson' attacks in village of Winnersh, Berks, kills an old lady. (*).

4 May

2 men claim to have seen two monsters in the Helford estuary; 10.15am (see FT 16/19).

Apx date of sighting of an Owlman-type creature at Lamorna, Cornwall (see FT 17/17).

6 May

Destructive quake at Udine, N Italy, at 9.02pm - (6.5 Richter). NB: this happened on 6th May, not 7th May as stated on FT 16/6. Over 1000 dead, 7500 injured, 150,000 homeless in 24 villages.

Warmest UK May for five years - beginning of exceptionally long hot summer.

Grey snow fell in Oestland district of South Norway, 'recently' - Weekly News 6 May 76. (*).

7 May

Multiple fall of chunks of ice near Timberville, Virginia (see full report by Paul Willis in INPO Journal 19 & 20.) (*).

8 May

Severe hailstorm over S London (Eltham, Shooters Hill, Plumstead, Woolich & Charlton) at 6.50pm. Some hail over 1½" dia (see FT 16/13).

9 May

High temperatures (and some violent thunder and lightning storms) over central England.

Sunday Mirror tells of 'phantom sniper' attacks over last few weeks in which 'unknown madman' hurls bricks and stones through windscreens of cars on road between Yarnton and Cassington, Oxon. (*).

11 May

Undersea tremor hurls a tidal wave onto villages on W coast of Columbia.

12 May

Small tremors have been intermittent at Udine since major quake on 6th May.

13 May

'Biggest yet' tremor at Trent Vale, Stoke, in early morning, 'preceded by a loud bang' - Daily Telegraph 20 May 76. Partial eclipse of moon.

14 May

In Udine region, N Italy, 'torrential rain, light snow, rock and land slips' make refugees' and rescuers' lives more miserable. 12hrs continuous rain. 69 tremors since 6th May.

Fall of large lumps of ice - one size of football - hit two houses in Reading, Berks, early morning (*).

15 May

Quake; Peru.

Deer kills son of Sultan of Perak (*).

16 May

Quake: Vancouver region of BC and Washington states (5-5.3 Richter) at 1.37am. No casualties - minor damage.

Tremors in N Italy/Yugoslav border continue.

Dr Frazer Trippllett, of Mississippi Allergy Clinic, warns of millions of fire-ants marching across several southern US states - animal attacked, crops ruined, 1200 cases of treatment for bites and at least two deaths. (*).

Wolf bites boy at Edinburgh Zoo (*).

17 May

Quake in Soviet Uzbekistan (Gazli, Tashkent, Samarkand and Boknara), 7.2 Richter. Landslide kills 5 in Totos, Peru.

Underground train driver attacked by rabbit at Blake Hall, outer London (*).

18 May

Weak tremors in Uzbekistan - 10000 homeless.

3 tremors in N Italy - '76 since 6 May'. Volcano on Sakurajima Island, Kyushu, Japan, erupts.

19 May

More tremors at Stoke - major one preceded by loud bang' (D Telegraph 20 May). 'Strong quake' on Burma/China border.

20 May

Weird storms over southern England - 'thick blanket of hail' over Sproughton, Suffolk - lightning blacks out villages S of Leicester.

'Typhoon Olga' hits Manila, Philippines; 19 dead, 19 missing, 20,000 flee to shelters. NE provinces of Philippines also badly hit.

21 May

Typhoon Olga continues to batter Philippines.

Typhoon Pamela hits Guam, 1300 miles SE of Philippines.

22 May

Bigfoot kidnap hoax, Bluff Creek, California (see FT 17/21).

More sightings of Morgawr in Helford estuary, Cornwall (*).

23 May

Mistle thrushes attack people in Ossett, near Leeds, Yorks (see FT 17/3).

29 May

2 'severe' quakes in Yunnan province, South China.

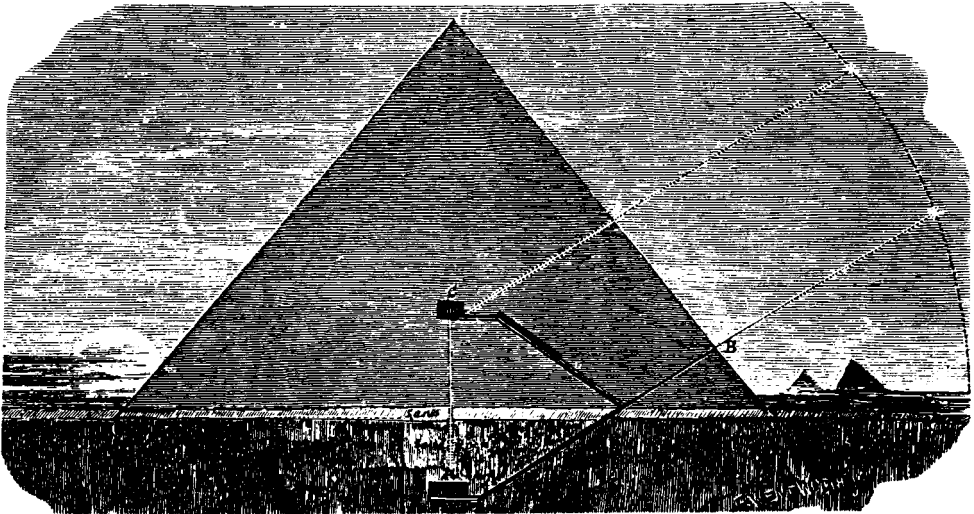
Day after Dr Robert Rines announces a new expedition to Loch Ness, sonar on the research ship Cornwall today picks up 2 moving objects 46 and 20 ft long. (*).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

This article was conceived partly in answer to statements in previous issues of PT/The News, and partly as a "light hearted interest arouser" to introduce those interested

in Robert Forrest's plan to circulate a dossier on the numerous Great Pyramid theories. We hope this will succeed in stimulating much discussion and comment.

That Damned Pyramid by R Forrest



There is a theory about UFOs which says that, whatever they are, they have a curious habit of being moulded according to the contemporary psychology of their observers. In the nineteenth century they were 'dirigibles' (with or without propellers). Here in the twentieth century they are atomic powered saucers.

As a collector of curious ideas about the Great Pyramid, I have come to formulate a similar theory regarding that monument: viz that theories about its origin and significance are somehow a function of contemporary psychology.

In the nineteenth century pyramidology had an intensely Biblical flavour. The pyramid was the Bible in stone. Here in the twentieth century the Great Pyramid has been adopted by the 'Megalithic Mystery' schools as well as by Space Age theorists.

What prompted me to write this little piece was Stuart Greenwood's article in The News 15 (1), where the idea was tentatively put forward that Stonehenge and the Great Pyramid have an approximate great circle relationship (omitted - see ref). One of my reactions to this piece was that if the Megalithic Builders had intended to indicate such a reciprocal relationship, they would have made a rather better job of it.

But it was the illustration which Mr Greenwood's observations gave to my idea of psychological pyramidology which struck me most of all, because it bears a strong resemblance, in principle at least, to John and Morton Edgar's 'Bethlehem Indicator' (2).

The passages of the Great Pyramid are inclined at $26^{\circ}18'$ to the horizontal. According to the Edgars, a rhumb line (a line of constant bearing) from the Great Pyramid on a bearing of $E 26^{\circ}18' N$ (see fig.2.) passes directly through Bethlehem.

In the Bible-in-stone era, this result was welcomed by devout Christian and Pyramidological minds as another miracle incorporated prophetically into the Great Pyramid by the divinely inspired Ancient Architects.

But Pyramid fashions change.

Mr Greenwood, using the great circle instead of a rhumb line, and a face slope angle ($51^{\circ}51'$) instead of the passage angle, finds an admittedly hazy suggestion for the Megalithic Mystery school.

Elsewhere (3) Mr MW Saunders is performing his own brand of numerical acrobatics to link the same face slope angle with an ExtraTerrestrial theory...

It's an odd old world, of course, but the picture of a band of ExtraTerrestrials

rigging up the pyramid with one eye on Mars, another eye on Bethlehem and a third eye (no problem for ETs) on Stonehenge is, well, a bit strained.

In any case, in 1923 appeared Conar MacDari's book, Irish Wisdom, with evidence that the Great Pyramid was really built by a band of Irish priests. A fascinating book that one...

* * * * *

A few weeks after the appearance of The News 15, I had a letter from Anthony Bell pointing out that a great circle through the Great Pyramid and oriented towards W 51°51' N (see fig.3.) passed through London and (nearly) Dublin. It was in checking out this claim that I did an experiment which had an amusing and not altogether un-symbolic outcome.

I decided to follow that W 51°51' N great circle, and reasoned that a point on it, strongly indicated by the Pyramid, was where the circle crossed the 51°51' latitude parallel (4). Assuming a spherical earth, I calculated the longitude co-ordinate of the point in question - it was 1°10' W of Greenwich.

To discover what choice secret of Megalithic/ET wisdom I had uncovered, I transferred the co-ordinates (latitude 51° 51' and longitude 1°10' W) on a 1:50,000 OS map. It turned out to be the Oxfordshire village of Merton with its most prominent architectural structure - a sewage works!

Whether the Cosmic Joker manufactured this coincidence as a comment upon pyramid speculation in general, or my own hypothesis in particular, I have no idea.

Robert Forrest. July 1976.

Notes:

- 1) Greenwood, Stuart W - 'The Giza-Stonehenge Connection'; The News 15/14-15.
- 2) Edgar, J&M - The Great Pyramid Passages and Chambers (2nd edn) vol 1, p236. See also Adam Rutherford's Pyramidology, vol 2, p343. For a debunk of the 'Bethlehem Indicator', see W Kingsland's Great Pyramid in Fact & Theory, vol 1, pp47-9.
- 3) Saunders, MW - Destiny Mars (2nd edn), available from Downs Books, Caterham, Surrey. I have put together some critical notes on this interesting case of Pyramid speculation; copies free on request from me at 68 Chesham Rd, Bury, Lancs...but please enclose postage.
- 4) A feasible assumption in view of Mr Greenwood's article 'Pyramid Slope and Northern Latitudes' in The News 9/12-13.

Fig2.

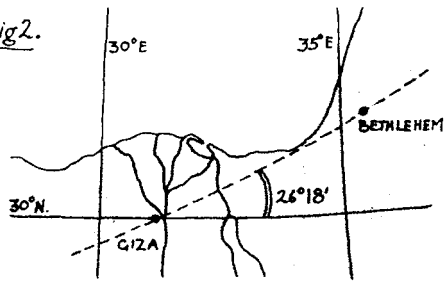
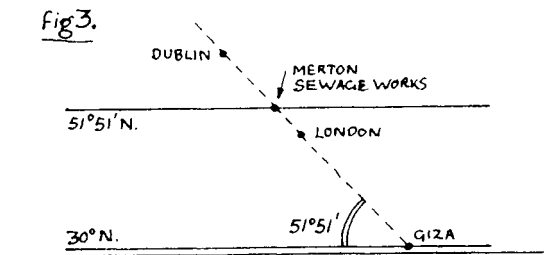


Fig3.



-- Robert Forrest - July 1976 --

GREAT PYRAMID - POSTAL FOLIO

Pyramidologists, like the buffs of many other Fortean topics, tend to work in isolation, breaking cover only occasionally to wrestle others over some obscure point. It is a complex field, full of individual interpretations, some conflicting and others complementary, and based on a wide range of systems (numerology, mythology, anthropology, ET-ology, occultism, cultural diffusionism, etc). Our aim in supporting Robert Forrest's plan for a 'postal folio' is to provide a specific forum in which the serious students can discuss, compare notes, share knowledge and comment on the various theories of the origin and purpose of the GP.

Rob writes: "Anyone who would like to be in on it should write to me (68 Chesham Rd, Bury, Lancs) and I will put them on the mailing list. Obviously we are after people who will actively participate, rather than 'sightseers'. The folio will centre on the GP, though contributors may wish to raise other points. It does not matter how bizarre or orthodox the theory presented - contributors will not necessarily be expected to spout new theories or even learned tomes on existing theories - the main purpose is to contribute to the discussion." Whether this contribution is an article, theory, critique, criticism, notes or any other observations is up to you, but they should be relevant.

3 June

Tremor at Stoke; wardrobe falls on girl; '17th in latest series' of shocks.

'Strong quake' in Soloman Islands, S Pacific; (6.5 Richter).

'Worst cyclone in 40 years' hits Bombay coast at 125mph. Fishing community complains they are not warned by weathermen.

Huge numbers of Brown-tail moth caterpillars hatching around Thamesmead, Kent, causing rashes on all who handle them. This plague seems separate from one at Havering, on northern bank of Thames (see 26 Jan).(*)

4 June

Bombay cyclone moves NE to Gujarat coast. Monsoon rains in Bangladesh bring heavy floods.

5 June

Glowing orange object in sky over Herne Bay, Kent. One witness (apx 12pm) insisted it was not a flying object, but 'like a big balloon coming down...' No trace of it - Hearne Bay Press 11 June 76).(*)

6 June

Minor quake in Japan.

Many reports of a large fireball seen in England from W Yorks to E Anglia and Kent, moving in a straight line NW to SE to finally explode over the sea off Anglia & Kent. (See report in Essex UFO Group journal Sept 76).(*)

7 June

Quake at Acapulco, Mexico (6 Richter). Rooks attack house at Newlyn, Cornwall over next 1½ weeks (see FT 17/4,8).

Heavy rains cause extensive floods in Serbia - some dead - towns cut off.

8 June

3 tremors in Udine area.

Heat wave continues in W Europe. London has hottest June day for 6 years (84F) and 88F was recorded at Heathrow Airport.

9 June

Team studying Trent Vale tremors set off own control explosion 'within 330ft of centre of natural tremors' at Clayton.

Hiker claims to see band of 'gypsies' emerge from UFO near Echo Lake, Colorado; gone next morning. Mentioned in letter from Jerry Clark to yr Ed. Case under investigation by Len Stringfield.

11 June

Strong tremor in Friuli area of N Italy, followed by 3 lesser ones.

Huge swarms of ladybirds reported on Somerset coast, near Watchet.

100 children and 6 teachers from primary school at Gravesend, Kent, admitted to hospital; suspected food poisoning; nothing discovered. (*)

15 June

New series of tremors begins at Stoke, to continue over next few days. One was 'severe'.

16 June

'Phantom sniper' fires dart at woman in Hartsdale, NY, at 12.30am. First of several attacks (*).

17 June

'Strong' tremors in N Italy; late night.

18 June

'4th tremor in 4 days' at Stoke, to the surprise of geophysicists who 'thought the pressure had eased.' (D Express 19 June 76).

20 June

'Brilliant pink' light came down near Melton Mowbray, Leics, at 11pm. It was about the 'size of a football' and trailing 'smoke' (*).

21 June

Quake at Medan, Indonesia.

22 June

Axeman runs amok in central Johannesburg hacking 4 down before shot by police.

23 June

'Phantom sniper' fires dart at woman in Greenburgh, NY.

Man who helped traditional Midsummer's Eve bonfire on top of St Agnes Beacon, Cornwall, collapses and dies during lighting ceremony (West Briton 1 July 76).

24 June

'White/green' UFO speeds at 'Mach 1' at North Bay, Canada, near NORAD base.

25 June

Heatwave continues in UK; 91F in London (fraction under hottest ever in 1940); 100F recorded at AA station, Romford, Essex.

26 June

Quake in Indonesian province of Irian Jaya (formerly New Guinea) in remote mountain region (7.1 Richter).

While Britain swelters, torrential rains in Japan. One place had 33½ inches in 3 days causing landslips & floods.

Cook on cruise ship 'Ellinis' docked at Southampton found to be carrier of Paratyphoid B, after mystery illnesses on board.

28 June

Complications in Irian Jaya as huge landslips follow the quake, cutting off and burying whole villages. Est. over 9000 dead; and in Bali, 70,000 homeless.

30 June

Letter to Daily Mirror today tells of huge swarms of ladybirds in West Country recently. (*)

1 July
Quake; Orange Free State.

2 July
2 mile long carpet of ladybirds at Westward Ho!, Devon. (*).

3 July
Mawnan Owlman seen by 2 girls (see PT 17/17), late tonight.
Shellfish bites woman in Weymouth (*).

4 July
Two more girls see Owlman at Mawnan (see PT 17/18).
Doc Shiels, wife & kids see Morgawr from Grebe Beach (*).

5 July
Woman sees 'puma' on Surrey/Hants border (*).

6 July
Ogopogo sighted on (presumably) Lake Okanagan, Canada. (*).

7 July
50 wild horses dead and an 'unknown number' dying on Cedar Mountain, near Dugway, Utah. Nerve gas blamed, but later verdict was death from shock (!) (*).
Black bear attacks girl in Yukon (*).
Beginning of series of sightings of large 'sea-horse-like' monster, chasing boats near Cape Sable Island, Nova Scotia (throughout July - *).

8 July
Luminous UFO changing 'red to bright green' seen in Fly Hills, BC, Canada.
2 Fishermen sight Morgawr 25 miles off The Lizard, Cornwall; and a youth says he saw three small monsters off Grebe Beach (*).

9 July
Schoolchildren and teachers at Redruth, Cornwall see a white spinning 'flying saucer' cross the sky emitting flashes (*).
After weeks of cold & rain, Iceland has a freak heatwave.

11 July
Mines at Stoke reopen after a 2 week holiday in which there were no tremors. This is proof, scientists say, the tremors are linked to mining operations.
Many thousands of starving emus marching across drought-stricken Western Australia 'like a moving sea' in search of water and food.

13 July
2 mechanics testing a boat on Loch Ness say they were surrounded by 5 monsters for 15 minutes (*).

14 July
'3rd quake in 3 weeks' at Bali (5.6-6 Richter); over 250 dead, 2300 injured and

70,000 homeless.

Fall of 'hot ash' and 'white stuff' from strange 'black cloud' accompanied by sulphurous fumes, at St Catherines, Ontario. (*).
'Greenish' UFO reported at CFB Portage La Prairie, Canada.

15 July
Thousands of rabbits invade Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston - yes folks! just up the road from here.

16 July
Quake at Tashkent.

17 July
Millions of ladybirds disrupt life in Scunthorpe, Cleethorpes and Humberside coast. Huge clouds of ladybirds also drive holidaymakers from beaches at Deal, Kent.
Sighting of 'eel-like' creature on Lake Okanagan, Canada. (*).

18 July
Quake at Santiago, Chile.
Ladybird plague along E Anglian coast. (These ladybird swarms will be detailed in a future PT).

20 July
Viking 1 lands on Mars.
The worst drought in 200 years begins to bite in UK - however sudden brief storms happen over SE England; floods in S London; 1 1/2" rain in 90 minutes at Eastleigh, Hants, (see p 9. this issue).

21 July
'Hundreds of thousands' of moth caterpillars swarm over a factory in Hartlepool, Co Durham, blocking out light on many windows. Earlier they had completely stripped a privet hedge in 2 hrs and demolished a rose garden. (*).

(Apx date) Woman sees 'puma' in backgarden in Odiham, Hants (*).
Bigfoot seen near Rainbow Dam, Montana, by 4 men (*).

22 July
Scientists in Canary Islands see giant transparent sphere above road at 10.30pm. 2 humanoid figures inside, with glowing eyes (*).

Bats have been attacking a flat near Wimbledon Common, S London (*).
Swarms of ladybirds cause a mass walkout by steel-men at Hessle, near Hull. (*).
Fleas drive out policemen from station-house at Pewsey, Wilts. (*).
Rain of straw over city of Lincoln.
'Phantom sniper' fires dart at woman in Yonkers, NY, at 10.30pm. Police say 17 women have been hit by darts since Feb. (*).
Sighting of 'large reptile' in Lake Okanagan, Canada.

24 July

American Legion Convention (21-24 July) at Bellvue Stratford Hotel, Philadelphia - later 28 die and 138 hospitalized from a mystery illness (*).

Aetherian group, lead by Dr George King, charge a prayer-battery on top Holdstone Down, Devon. King warns of quakes, war and pestilence to come on 23 Oct (D Mirror 19 July)

25 July

6 'shiny blobs' fly across sky at Garforth, near Leeds. Witness also saw meteorites, but these were 'different' (*).

27 July

Swarms of ladybirds attack bathers on beaches on S coast of England. (*).

Swarms of Midges biting women in Lochgoilhead, Argyll. (*).

Rain of straw over Scunthorpe, Lincs (to be detailed in future FT). (*).

'Rustlers' kill and skin 13 sheep near Newcastle upon Tyne (*).

'Violent cloudburst' douses Olympic flame in Montreal, 11 days after opening.

28 July

2 major quakes at Tangshan, 100 miles E of Peking in Hopei province of China, at 4am. The 2 shocks within 2 minutes registered 8.2 Richter, the strongest anywhere since the destruction of Anchorage, Alaska, in 1964. Later est of dead: 100,000. Observers spoke of explosions on the skyline and electrical discharges from the ground (!). Followed by torrential rain - air 'hot and humid'. British Embassy staff in Peking were woken by barking of staff pet retriever seconds before the tremor.

Major shock in Montana (7.9 Richter).

Woman sees Bigfoot near Great Falls, Montana (*).

29 July

Tremors in South Fiji.

Tremors on Panama/Columbia border.

'Strong' tremors in the Caucasus.

Official alert in Peking of a 'heavy quake due within hours'.

Ladybirds invade factory at Killingholme, Lincs, driving out the workers. Other swarms of ladybirds attack bathers at Mablethorpe, Lincs. (*).

20 wild boars swim river and rampage in small East German village of Calvoerde (*).

2 milkmen sight a lion at Tollerton, Notts, at 6am (see p 25 this issue).

30 July

Series of 'aftershocks' in Tangshan.

Swarms of ladybirds in Derbyshire... and the Derbyshire village of Ashton-on-Trent suffers a plague of crickets. (*).

31 July

More tremors in Tangshan..

In Big Thompson Canyon area of Colorado, a freak torrential rain (10" in 4 hrs) causes sudden flood - 15ft wall of water. 129 dead, 84 missing - (extensive report in National Enquirer 21 Sept 76).

Huge plague of scorpions in Kashan, Persia. (*).

Huge Jellyfish invade beaches on S & W coast of England. (*).

1 Aug.

Tremor at East Barstow, California .

More tremors in Tangshan (15 in 3 days) and another 'official' alert in Peking for an imminent quake.

Sunday Times today tells of outbreaks of Bubonic Plague in California, Arizona, New Mexico & Colorado.

Doctor sees lion near his home in Normanton, Notts (see p 25 this issue).

2 Aug

Tremor in New Hebrides (6.9 Richter).

Tremor in Nevada.

'Official' warnings in Peking region of 'imminent' quake. Refs to '125 aftershocks' since 28 July of between 4 and 6 Richter.

Huge plague of crickets continues at Ashton-on-Trent, Derbys.

Woman arriving at Toronto International Airport, from London, collapses. Rare Lassa fever suspected. (*).

4 Aug

Celebration of Pakistan's 29th anniversary cancelled due to continuous rain over last 2 weeks; severe floods; 50,000 homes destroyed.

Complaint in Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph today of swarms of warble flies attacking cattle around Louth & Alford in East Lincs. (*).

5 Aug

Tremor in Nicaragua.

6 Aug

Tremor E of Honshu, Japan (4.8 Richter).

High hysteria in Logan, Ohio; fear of animal mutilators; increased gun sales; police warn against vigilantes and breaches of the peace.

7 Aug

NE coast of China (Gulf of Po Hai) lashed by torrential rainstorms and floods. This is the recent quake zone and homeless in Tangshan region forced to abandon their tents and take shelter in the city.

Bats continue to attack home near Wimbledon Common, London (see 22 July). (*).

Twin kills his brother in a 'rage' after curious masquerade attempt; Dieppe, France (*).

A rare white elephant, a Hindu 'good omen' sighted near Katmandu (*).

8 Aug

6 'aftershocks' around Tangshan, of more than 5 Richter (2 were over 6 Richter).

Tremor in Guatemala.

'Phantom sniper' hunted by police in Milton Keynes, Bucks, after firing at people in a car park. (*)

9 Aug

A 'powerful aftershock' rattles Peking for about an hour.

Tremor in Tungus region, Siberia (5.5 R).

Tremor E of Galapagos Islands off Ecuador (5 Richter); also fell in Nicaragua.

Typhoon Billie hits Japan; torrential rains, floods; 41 dead, 16 missing, 1333 homes damaged.

Hurricane Belle hits Virginia & NY.

Keith Davies does a 'witchdoctor dance' at Kidderminster, Worcs, to end the drought. He was later fined £10 for indecent exposure. Prosecuting police Inspector admitted it had rained within 24 hrs.

Swordfish attacks boat off Massachusetts.

Man encounters lion in Thorganby, Yorks (see p 26 this issue).

Baby dies in fire of unknown origin, in Middlesborough (*).

10 Aug

'Official' alert in Peking for another 'imminent' quake. Fresh tremors in Tangshan. Tremors in Columbia and Ecuador (5.5 R). 2 Tremors SW of Zagreb, Yugoslavia.

Hurricane Belle spreads out to New York, and Connecticut and New Jersey; 110mph winds drop to 50mph in Connecticut River Valley after blacking out Bridgeport area; 1000s abandon homes.

Week-long deluge of rain affect 5281 villages in 19 districts of Lahore, Pakistan, as Indus and tributaries overflow.

Typhoon Billie hits Taiwan at 115mph; floods; Keelung port blacked out.

Police in Barking, London, hunt a phantom marksman who has hit 5 women (in single shots) over last few weeks, wounding them. No readily apparent connexion with similar phantom sniper MC 45 miles away on the 9th Aug. (*)

Announcement of discovery of 2 'perfect preserved bodies' interred before the eruption at Pompeii in 79 AD.

11 Aug

Tremor in Riverside/San Diego area of California; 8.30am; (4.3 Richter).

Volcano of Mt Sangay, in Ecuador's Andes erupts. 6 men scientific team only few feet from top (later rescued; 2 dead).

Lone sailor, 30 miles NNW of Scilly

Islands, sees Morgawr for 20 minutes (*).

A monkey discovered wild in fields near Gainsborough, Lincs (*).

12 Aug

Tremors in Galapagos ridge.

Tremors in Solomon Islands.

Tremor in California.

Torrential rain in 3 Korean provinces over next three days.

Floods in Jammu province, Kashmir; 67 dead, 3000 homes damaged.

13 Aug

An 'air-quake' at Radstock, Midsomer Norton, Chilcompton and Chewton Mendip in Somerset; 10am; 'crackling in the sky' (*).

Tornado hits Largo, Florida; 1 dead, 7 injured, much damage.

30,000 evacuated from area around 5000ft volcano, La Soufriere, on Basse Terre Island Guadeloupe; lava moving down slopes; clouds of hot ash; 'activity growing'.

UFO like large ball of fire seen over London, Ontario, for 20 mins at 10.30pm.

14 Aug

Vast floods follow deluges in Korea; 16" rain in 3 days; 34 dead, 32 missing. Gulls attack woman in Berwick.

Apx 100 teenage bandsman marching in Walden, NY, collapse with mystery nausea and cramp. (*)

Police take away a rapidly-growing mystery plant found in garden in Reading, Berks (*).

15 Aug

Peking lifts 'quake alert'... 'no strong quake will occur in near future'.

'Swarm of mild quakes' SE of Berkeley, California.

16 Aug

Massive quake near Mienyang, 250 miles N of Chunking (Ssu-ch'uan province), 800 miles from Tangshan; 7.2 Richter; 2.07pm.

2 hrs later, quake in Moro Gulf, 550 miles S of Manila; 7.8 Richter; followed by 24ft tidal wave which smashes island of Mindanao. Followed by 6 'aftershocks'.

Another quake in the Moluccas, between New Guinea and Halmahera Island, 600 miles SE of Philippines (8.1 Richter).

Gouts of hot ash & sulphurous fumes with quake-like tremors from La Soufriere. Experts say full-scale A-bomb-like explosion will happen 'within 12 hrs'; 70,000 evacuated. (See p 10 this issue).

Image of 'Christ crucified' found on asbestos wall of henhouse in Hampshire (see p 3 this issue). **APX DATE.**

'Noiseless silver' UFO with white lights seen over New Hamburg, Ontario.

Ken Rogers writes to yr Ed: 'Where have all the ladybirds gone?' Where indeed! (*).

17 Aug

Philippine damage put at over 3000 dead, 2000 missing, 30,000 homeless. Later figures estimate 6000 dead & missing.

Quake in Central Japan, 60 miles SW of Tokyo.

La Soufriere, on Guadeloupe, giving '1000 tremors in 24 hrs'; ash completely covered' abandoned town of St Claude; geyser of fire lights night sky from 500yd gash in its flank.

'Giant wave' sweeps over Mayaro Beach, near Port of Spain, Trinidad; 5 dead.

Bats invade house at Corsham, Wilts. (*).

Giant plant discovered at Shalford, Surrey (*).

Old man dies of burns in Bath, Somerset, after found in blazing armchair; cause of fire unknown. (*).

A kangaroo evades police at Golden, Colorado (*).

18 Aug

Tremors in Izu peninsula, Japan.

Tremors in Brisbane, Australia.

Tremor in N Italy.

19 Aug

2 quakes within seconds at Denizli, Turkey; 4.6 Richter.

Severe storms on Adriatic coast causing floods and landslides.

Horde of wild cats invade waste ground near Heathrow Airport. (*).

20 Aug

'Minor' quake at Tocopilla, Chile.

'2 aftershocks' at Denizli, Turkey.

'Scores' of tremors on La Soufriere.

'2 mild' tremors in Manila.

Severe floods in Pakistan after further 2 weeks of torrential rain; 200,000 homeless in Punjab; and in Sind province, Indus overflows damaging 85,000 homes.

Death of girl in mystery fire in basement, Bath, Somerset; apx 6-7am (*).

21 Aug

Quake; N of Cheng-tu City (Ssu-ch'uan province); 6.5 Richter; late night.

2 quakes; at Urfa on N Turkey border with Syria; and at Siirt, also N Turkey.

2 'strong' tremors at Cotabato, S Philippines; 7am; followed by 'aftershocks'.

Tremors in Alaska.

Strong tremor near Iquique city, Chile.

22 Aug

Farmers ask to go back to La Soufriere

to harvest threatened fields; request denied despite failure of predicted eruption. Other warnings given for Cyclone Emmy about to hit the island.

Man sets fire to himself (fatally) at police station, Pontefract, Yorks.

Official figs on drought; UK rainfall down 25-33%.

Anglican clergy at Exeter Cathedral resort to 17th C prayer for rain.

23 Aug

'Major quake' between Ssu-ch'uan and Kansu provinces in W China; 6.7 Richter; 3.30am; 'aftershocks' in Cheng-tu region.

Shortly after that a quake rocks Philippines; '6th since 16th Aug'; 6 Richter.

'Strong tremor' in Guadeloupe.

7 'minor' tremors in Turkey.

Tremor in Yokohama region, Japan.

'Mild' tremor in Athens, Greece.

'Aftershock' in Alaska.

Casting of petrified woman from Pompeii landed in London for exhibition at Royal Academy on 20 Nov.

24 Aug

Tremor in Florence, Italy.

Anniversary of destruction of Pompeii in AD 79.

Typhoon Ellen gives Hongkong 'worst deluge in 50 yrs'; 19" in just over a day; floods, landslips, black-outs, traffic chaos.

'Worst monsoon in 20 yrs' hits Punjab; 180 dead; floods affect 2,500 villages, & 170,000 homes damaged; crops wiped out.

Bigfoot seen near Whitehall, NY (*).

25 Aug

2 red & blue flickering UFOs seen at Walkerton, Ontario.

2 policemen sight Bigfoot near Whitehall, NY (*).

26 Aug

Sikh community in Southall, London, hire a guru (Jagat Singh Ji) to end the drought. No rain mentioned in official forecasts.

Thames Water Authority announce that 15 million gallons per day is leaking from the Thames near Oxford, because of low water-table. 'To all intents the great river has now stopped flowing.' Millions of gallons being pumped from Teddington lock to replenish reservoirs at Thames head.

'Clusters' of multicoloured UFOs near Sioux Falls, S Dakota. 'In recent weeks' a woman driver is followed by glowing 'saucer'; and 2 boys see 'tall figure in shiny blue uniform' (*).

'More than 30' ducks dead from unknown causes in several S London parks. (*).

27 Aug

First rain in some parts of England for at least 2 parched months. A light drizzle at Heathrow Airport causes round of applause and 'great excitement'.

A sailor sights Morgawr in Carrick Roads off Restronguet Point, Cornwall, '3 times in 10 minutes' (*).

Mystery animal (later identified from tracks as puma) kills geese at Eaglesham, Renfrewshire, near Glasgow (*).

28 Aug

Hailstorm of 'hurricane force' in Mexico City; 12 dead, dozens injured, 10,000 evacuated; black-outs. In some districts so much ice fell it was '4ft deep in the streets' and caused flooding when melted.

Body of nude man found in empty house on fire in Rotherhithe, London; clothes neatly folded beside body (*).

Number of sparrows drop dead in Bath, Somerset; cause unknown (*).

Woman in Glenfarg, Perthshire, discovers a 'lynx' in her garden (*).

2 USAF C141 cargo planes crash within 4 hrs; one in Greenland, one near Peterborough, in Cambs. 'Unbelievable coincidence' (see p 10 this issue).

29 Aug

Small Bigfoot seen near Kelly AF Base, San Antonio, Texas. Refs to sightings of larger creatures, & animals killed, in previous week (*).

30 Aug

'Sharp' quake in Cotobato, Philippines. La Soufriere erupts after 2 explosions slightly injuring 12 scientists on summit. 'Scientists do not expect it to erupt again'.

Pheasant attacks postmen in Devon (*).

31 Aug

Quake at Simitli-Berovo area of Yugoslav/Bulgarian border.

Incredible proliferation of duckweed on UK canals and rivers throughout August; described as an 'explosion'.

1 Sept

On 'Disaster Prevention Day' in Japan, the Central Meteorological Agency detects two minor tremors, one on the Kanto Plain, and the other off-shore near Tokyo.

For the first time this century there was no rainfall throughout August, in Brisbane, Australia.

Milkman at East Grinstead, Sussex, sees a bright white and yellow light speeding across the sky (*).

Millions of maggots in Rosebank Rd, Hanwell, Middlesex; and a plague of fleas at Thanet and E Kent coast. (*).

2 Sept

Taal, a volcano 60 miles S of Manila, begins a series of eruptions that continue for next three days.

For 2nd time in 2 days, a mystery illness hits the employees of Robertshaw Control Co in Grove City, Ohio. (*).

3 Sept

Colony of Colorado beetles found in a potato field at Minster-in-Thanet, Kent.

4 Sept

Hurricane Francis hits the Azores at 75mph - the '2nd hurricane in several days'. Viking 2 lands on Mars (appx).

'Puma' sighted near Nuneaton, Warks (*).

5 Sept

Taal, in Philippines, erupts again with molten rock.

Sunday Times warns of huge increase in feral mink population of Britain, from Devon to Cumbria - urges introduction of a trapping programme and a mink bounty.

Weird gourd-like plant thriving at Canterbury baffles gardeners (*).

6 Sept

Taal again hurls rocks into the sky.

Soviet pilot defects to Japan with top-secret MiG-25 'Foxbat' (see p 10 this issue).

8 Sept

Swarms of poisonous adders invade The Humps, a beauty spot near Canterbury. (*).

A sceptic sights Morgawr for 3 mins off Gyllyngvase Beach, Cornwall, now 'believes' (*).

9 Sept

Mao tse-tung dies.

10 Sept

Quake at Skopje, S Yugoslavia, late pm. Taal rumbles and lights the night sky with incandescent gas.

SW Japan flooded by 24" rain in 2 days. Numerous reports of Sasquatch over this last week at Kimberly, BC, Canada. (*).

'Worst air collision in history' near Zagreb kills 177, as British Airways Trident hits Yugoslav DC-9.

11 Sept

2 Quakes in Friuli region, near Udine, N Italy, 4 mins apart; 5.1 & 5.4 Richter.

100mph typhoon nears SW Japan, already flooded with 12" rain in parts.

Appx date of Italian groups sighting and photo of a monkey-like being, 4ft high, in leather overall and white helmet descending from a landed Flying Saucer. Italian police say they are taking it seriously. (*).

5000-gallon petrol tanker overturns & explodes destroying center of Bedfordshire village of Westoning; despite extensive

damage only 3 slightly injured.

12 Sept

A freak 5ft wave floods through Yorks market town of Stokesley, as River Leven swells from 24 continuous hours of rain. River Ouse at York rises 10ft; floods. The long severe drought comes to an end with heavy rain all over Britain.

2 holidaymakers see Morgawr on Grebe Beach, Cornwall, at 8.30am. First land sighting (*).

13 Sept

Heavy UK rainfall continues creating bizarre anomaly as during extensive flooding some areas are still under water restriction and the use of standpipes.

15 Sept

21 tremors between early morning and lunchtime in 5th successive day of tremors' in Friuli region, N Italy - 2 were greater than the 6 May quake. Fortunately most people were still in 119 tent cities.

Coldest night in Paris for 103 years.

'New genus' of giant sponge found off Californian coast. Despite being found growing on barrels of Plutonium waste, Robert Dyer, of Radiation Dept of US Environmental Protection Agency, does not blame radiation leaks. (*).

17 Sept

Cardinal Ursi, of Naples, urges people to pray that the blood of St Januarius will liquify on his feast day (19th) and avert disaster for another six months.

Huge swarm of wasps attack crowd at community festival in Florence, Italy.

USAF F-14 'Tomcat' lost in sea off north Scottish coast in NATO exercise (see p 10).

19 Sept

St Januarius's blood liquifies on schedule in Naples.

20 Sept

RN minesweeper 'Fittleton' sunk after collision during NATO exercise; 12 dead (see p 10 this issue).

21 Oct

'Puma' bounds across the Glasgow road at Blantyre, Lanarkshire (*).

22 Sept

Manila rocked by quake 90 miles SW under South China Sea.

Despite rain in other parts of England, drought continues in central & S Wales. The Severn flows at a fifth of normal rate, and losing water into surrounding land at 15 million gallons/day.

Soldier on night duty at Windsor Castle collapses after seeing statue 'move' (see

p 24 this issue).

2 separate haystack fires near Manassa, Texas - 8th & 9th in series of fires of mystery origins in Conejos County throughout Sept (*).

24 Sept

'Freak wave' during night swamps Cornish village of Polperro.

In hotel at Penmaenmawr, N Wales, a man shoots 5 people, sets fire to building and shoots himself. 2 other cases of suspected multiple murder and arson reported in the previous week (*).

25 Sept

6 air crashes in US; 4 of them in 4 hrs. (USAF KC135 tanker at Alpena, Mich.; 'Gulfstream' jet at Hot Springs, VA; a Cessna at Peoria, IL; 2 engined at Kent, Wash.; 2 engined at Steamboat Springs, Colo.; 2 single trainers at Beatrice, Nebraska.)

1 Oct

The 'wettest Sept for 50 years' in parts of England - so soon after the worst drought for 200 years.

A mystery contagion caused over 80 deaths near Juba, in Maridi area of Sudan in Sept. It appeared & vanished; that's all we know (*).

3 Oct

Block of flats in Southwark, London, invaded by millions of maggots from refuse chute. (*).

4 Oct

In Japan, trains unable to make a steep gradient because of plague of worms. (*).

A series of quakes begins in central Ecuador.

6 Oct

Major quake in Cotopaxi province of Ecuador; 10 killed, 100s homes destroyed over last 3 days.

8 Oct

'Strong' quake in N Japan & Tokyo area. A strong and 2 weak tremors shake Valandovo, 75 miles S of Skopje, Yugoslavia.

15 Oct

15,000 ton cargo ship, 'Slylia L. Ossa', reported missing, feared sunk, in Bermuda Triangle area (*).

23 Oct

'Lioness' spotted wandering around Upton district of Chester; none missing and police search finds nothing (*).

28 Oct

Soviet ship is circled by a mysterious 'white spot' in Arabian Sea. The 'Unknown mass, 60ft below the ship's keel' disappeared suddenly after half an hour. (*).

PARTIAL ANALYSIS OF 1976 & LUNAR PHASES

Date	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
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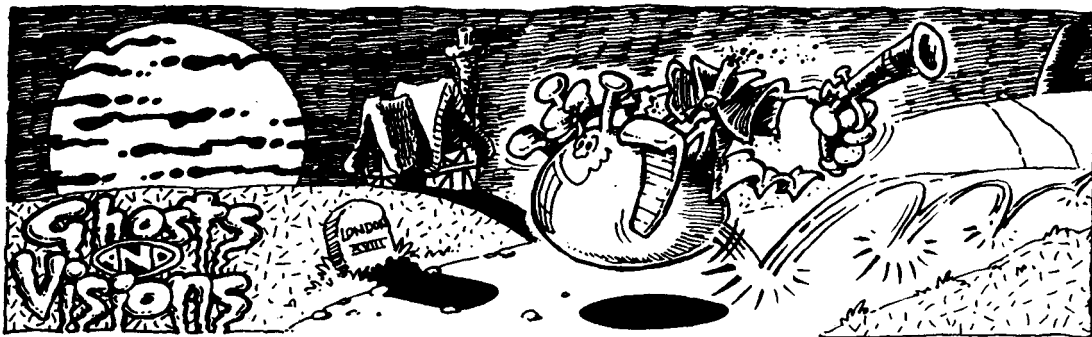
KEY : UNDERLINED LETTERS = MULTIPLE EVENTS.

Accidents (major & series).....a
 Animals (mystery & out-of-place).b
 Astronomical events.....c
 Attacks by animals.....d
 Attacks ('phantom snipers; (tc)...)e
 Bigfoot & other 'manimals'.....f
 Deaths (strange, & murders).....g
 Drought (heat, etc).....h
 Entities (inc Owlman, Bigbird)...i
 Falls.....j
 Fires (inc possible SHCs).....k
 Illness (mystery).....l
 Lights (inc UFOs).....m
 Monsters (lake & sea critters)...n
 Quakes & tremors.....o
 Rain, winds & waves & floods.....p
 Swarms, migrations & plagues.....q
 Various others.....r
 Visions (inc mystery images, etc)s
 Volcanoes.....t

I'd like to thank the following from whose clippings the list was compiled: GL Abbott, TR Adams, Jeremy Beadle, Anthony Bell, Mollie Cairncross, Tim Church, Jerry Clark, Richard Cotton, Robert Forrest, Mark Hall, Chris Holtzhausen, P Hope-Evans, Phil Ledger, Mrs V Martin, DO Mayes, John Michell, Steve Moore, P Rogerson, Roger Sandell, Paul Screeton, Doc Shiels, Anthony Smith, Nigel Watson, Ion Will, I, Andy York. Special thanks to X from whose Res Bureaux Bulletin

I've taken all the Canadian data; to Jerry Clark from whose article 'Unidentified Flapping Objects' in Oui, Oct 76, I've updated our info on the Texas Big Bird; to Doc Shiels for the constant flow of Cornish clippings; and to Ken Rogers and Ion Will who bombarded me with welcome bundles of clippings on the geo-meteorological chaos. Keep it up fellas!

** RJM Rickard - Oct 1976 **



BVM AT BEIRUT

The Scunthorpe Star, 14 May 76 (Cr: Nigel Watson) tells of the homecoming of a local girl who fled back to Britain with her two children from the civil war in the Lebanon; her husband remained there looking after their interests. Tucked away in the story of Janice Mekhdjian's eventful flight was this interesting paragraph:

'The most unusual thing she saw, apart from the fighting, was on Easter Friday (16 April - Ed). The clouds came down low and turned red and stayed that colour well into the night. She later learned that a vision of the Virgin Mary had been seen.' Does anyone know any more about this event?

BVM IN SICILY

The only other BVM sighting on file and untold says that about 30 people in the small village of Cefala Diana ((Oh those classical allusions)) claimed the Madonna had appeared to them every afternoon for a week in the window of a ruined castle nearby. The local priest refused to see the apparition with them. Daily Mirror, 2 June 1967 (Cr: Anthony Smith).

A MOVING EXPERIENCE AT WINDSOR

It appears that on the night of 22nd Sept a 19-year-old Coldstream Guardsman on duty overlooking a sunken garden in the grounds of Windsor Castle saw something which frightened him so much he collapsed. After he was discovered and recovered in hospital

he 'swore to hospital doctors that a statue of a horned man in chains suddenly came alive before his eyes.' Despite several mentions of the story in the press very few details are known because the Army have refused to make any more information available. The unnamed Guardsman was sent away for several days rest and attempts to get statements from the barracks near the castle have met with silence.

We wrote to the Guardsman via his commanding officer and received a reply from a Major EBL Armitage (1st Battalion CGs) who kindly informed us that he had passed the letter to the soldier who in turn asked the Major to reply for him. The soldier said 'that he wished to be allowed to forget this rather frightening incident.' The Major added that he hoped we 'will understand his feelings and will wish to respect his desire to say no more of the matter.' It is clear that despite the police dismissal of the occasional reports of ghosts in the Castle grounds as 'the imagination, loneliness and fear' of young Guardsmen', the Army at least was taking the man's frightened state seriously.

Much comment in the press centred on the famous Berkshire legends about a horned character called Herne the Hunter, a curious and complex blend of fact, fiction, myth and folklore (see Herne the Hunter by MJ Petry (William Smith, London St, Reading; 1972).

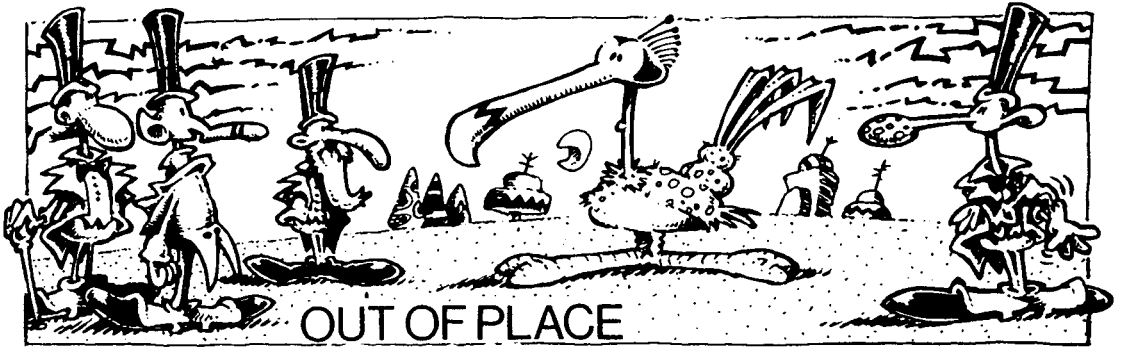
The press seemed to regard Herne as a strange ghost with phantom footsteps and phantom horses, and some of the subsequent correspondence in the Sunday Express told of other Guardsmen being frightened by phenomena of this kind in the past. The more ancient folklore links Herne with Cerunnos, the Celtic god associated nowadays with witchcraft; and to the horned leader of the Wild Hunt. These references should be easily available in any good book on English folklore and are too complex to go into here.

What interested me more was that I had just finished writing a section for the book with Michell on 'Images which come to life', covering the whole subject of statues and icons seen by many to come alive. Obviously the notion of the poor soldier being frightened by a ghost was less preposterous to many people than any literal interpretation of his statement that he had seen a statue become unexpectedly animated. You will have to wait for the book to see some of the precedents for the soldier's story because we've no room

here. Naturally I respect the man's wishes, and spare the Army's concern for his recovery, but I can't help regret that this rare opportunity to learn of a phenomenon that has repeated throughout history should so suddenly be withdrawn.

As a footnote it's worth mentioning that Windsor is not far from the barracks at Aldershot where Springheel Jack first played his pranks on lonely sentries in 1877. Also Fort mentions (Books p647; cf Daily Mail 6 March 1906) that on the 3rd March 1906 a sentry on night duty in the ornamental garden at Windsor Castle shot at something that frightened him. The man's account is not given but it was said to have been one of the stone elephants which had 'looked ghostly in the moonlight.'

(Cr on the modern accounts go to Steve Moore, Ian Thompson, Peter Roberts, Peter Rogerson & Chris Castle, for clippings from Sunday Express 22 Sept & 10 Oct 76; Daily Mirror & the Guardian 27 Sept 76.)



THE NOTTINGHAM LION SAGA

A story to rival the 'Surrey Iuna' began shortly after 6am, 29 July 76, when two milkmen were delivering to a bungalow opposite the entrance to Nottingham Airport on Tollerton Lane between Nottingham and Tollerton. Different accounts put it at 15 or 50 yards away from the men; they were in no doubt: 'We both saw together what certainly to us was a lion...its head down and its long tail had a bushy end. It was walking slowly away from us.' They watched it walk around the edge of a field, then called the police from the bungalow. By nightfall the police mounted a huge search, with dogs, guns, loud hailers, and a helicopter, in the Tollerton and West Bridgford areas. The police also said they had calls from people telling of the mysterious restlessness of their pets on the night of the 28/29th; and a local farmer, at Clipston, near Cotgrave,

reported 'strange pawprints' on his land. Nottingham Evening Post, 29 July 76 (Cr: Mollie N Cairncross, DO Maves); Leicester Mercury (Cr: R Cotton), Yorks Post (Cr: AJ Bell), London Evening News (Cr: K Rogers) all of the same date.

They found nothing. They checked zoos and private lion-owners within 100 miles but 'no one appears to have lost a lion.' They said they were taking at least 15 sightings seriously. The hunt hit a turning point in its second day when a sighting at Radcliffe-on-Trent turned out to be somebody's Great Dane. At the same time a sighting came in from Basingfield. One of the reports was from as far away as Norfolk by a couple who said they saw a lion in a lay-by at Lowdham but did not report it because they didn't think they'd be believed. Yet despite these sightings, the police were getting disappoint-

ed by the lack of anything positive. As in the 'Surrey Puma' cases (see INPO Journal 13 and The News 14) one of the puzzling elements was the lack of any sign of killed livestock, no pets missing etc, as there would be if a lion were conventionally on the loose. The milkmen were re-checked and both (David Crowther and David Bentley) were unshaken in their belief they had actually seen a lion. Nottingham Evening Post (Cr: Mollie N Cairncross, Janet & Colin Bord), Leicester Mercury (Cr: R Cotton, Ken Rogers), Derby Evening Telegraph (Cr: Ken Rogers), and the national dailies (Cr: Steve Moore, Ion Will, Ivan Bunn, Peter Hope-Evans, Judith Gee) all of 30 July 76.

On the third day of the hunt reports of sightings were still coming into West Bridgford police station, the nerve-centre of the operations. Eg: one caller heard something large crashing through Bunny Woods, and another heard something in a copse near Trent Lane church at East Bridgford. In fact the police were obliged to maintain the alert. Nottingham Evening Post 31 July 76 (Cr: Mollie Cairncross, DO Mayes).

Martin Lacey, a former Nottingham Zoo owner, enters the fray, saying all the noisy activity has driven the lion into hiding, and offers the use of his lion-hunting Rhodesian ridgeback hounds. Sunday Express 1 Aug 76 (Cr: Steve Moore, Mrs V Martin).

Just as the press were losing interest in the 'Nottingham Lion' the story receives a shot in the rump. John Chisholm, a doctor of Normanton-on-the-Wolds, near Tollerton, saw a large animal trying to break through some undergrowth to get to a stream on the evening of the 1st Aug while he was walking near his home. When he returned home he and his wife watched it leave the area from their upstairs window. Police said they were following up several other sightings in the same area. Nottingham Evening Post (Cr: Mollie Cairncross, DO Mayes), Leicester Mercury (Cr: R Cotton), London Evening News (Cr: Ken Rogers, Steve Moore) all of the 2nd Aug 76. Oh yes...it may be nothing, but we note with interest in the Evening Post account that police searching the A610 at Temple Lake, near Kimberley, found a large tortoise on the embankment. They were unable to trace any owner and so they adopted it.

The dailies for the next day (3rd) run the story of Dr Chisholm's sighting. Naturally in everybody's eyes the fact that he is a deputy coroner makes the sighting more impressive and believable. (Cr: Ken Rogers, Ion Will). The Nottingham Evening Post for the 3rd deals mainly with an intensification of police searches, and contains the official statement that they were 'now 98% certain

there was an animal in the area.' (Cr: Mollie Cairncross).

The Nottingham and Leicester papers continue to mention the police searches, but already Chief Inspector John Smith is publicly wishing 'it had been seen by any of my men.' He also asked farmers to make regular checks on their livestock. It's the sixth day and still no reports of any depredations. (Cr: Mollie Cairncross, R Cotton, DO Mayes).

By the 6th Aug the lack of results was telling on the police. They issued a statement saying they no longer believed there was a lion at large despite 65 reported sightings in the last 8 days.' They said they they proved to be mistakes, large dogs, and even a large brown paper bag. Oh how ole Charlie would have roared at that! It seems that no Fortean phenomena can continue without incurring efforts to kill off the mystery. Any one looking for a thesis theme could attempt to plot critical kill-off periods - I'd say between 1 and 2 weeks. Nottingham Eve. Post (Cr: Mollie Cairncross)

Scunthorpe Eve. Telegraph (Cr: Nigel Watson), London Eve. Standard (Cr: Ken Rogers), all of 6 Aug 76; and most of the dailies the next day (who really went wild over the paper bag theory) (Cr: Steve Moore, Ivan Bunn, Peter Hope-Evans); Sunday Times, 8 Aug 76 (Cr: Steve Moore, Ken Rogers).

So...it was never there and people were mistaken! A paper bag with a lion's tail and which walks around fields imitating our feline friends would be a marvel in its own right. So...despite officially non-existing, the police announce three more reports of it in the Plumtree and Normanton areas - Nottingham Eve. Post, 9 Aug 76 (Cr: M Cairncross). This is the last we heard of the 10-day illusion, to date - but doubtless the story will not end there just yet.

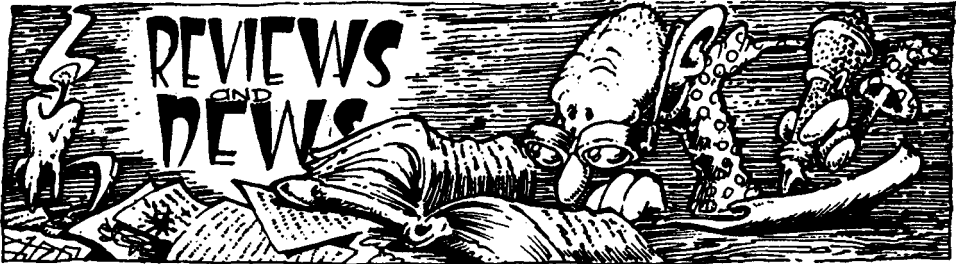
A YORKSHIRE LION

No sooner had the Nottingham mystery been killed off, it turns up over 70 miles away just south of York. On the night of the 9th Aug, Alan Pestall was on the way to his local, walking down the moonlight main street of the village of Thorganby, when a black shadow crossed in front of him, by the church. He thought it was a dog and spoke to it. 'Then I realised it had a cat's face and a long tail. It was about 3 to 4ft long and nearly 3ft high. Before I had a chance to run, it leapt over a fence and was away over the fields.' He kept walking slowly to the pub, believing if he hurried or turned it would attack him. Police took his story seriously and mounted a search on the 10th, but found no sign of a lion. A police spokesman said: 'We have no reason to connect this report with the recent sightings of a lion in Nott-

inghamshire.' If they had, they'd have to explain how it could move so quickly over 70 miles of industrial landscape without being seen. Teleporting phantoms are plainly inconceivable. Yorkshire Eve. Post, 10 Aug 76 (Cr: Anthony Bell); Dail Mail, 11 Aug 76 (Cr: R Cotton). Where will it pop up next, I wonder?

*** This has been an astonishing time for

the Fortean menagerie, not just in England, but some correspondents have mentioned the return of phantom kangaroos in Indiana and Illinois. More of this soon, hopefully next issue, when we'll also tell of the latest puma, lynx, wild boar, exotic snakes and other animals on the loose in the UK. We'll also have a very interesting article by Peter Roberts on the alien insect life in this country. There's so much to squeeze in.



The Secret Country by Janet & Colin Bord. (Paul Elek; £5.95; pp238; bib & 3 indexes copiously illustrated; hardback, 1976).

The secret country is, of course, in plain view all around us if we'd open our eyes. It is veiled by the mental and cultural barriers instilled in us by the world-view we were taught at school. In the Victorian apotheosis our ancestors were primitive savages from whose deplorable condition we raised ourselves smoothly, inexorably, by wit and natural selection. That view founders as more evidence comes to light that cultures rose and fell, and that we are just one of many peaks - as were the megalithic builders. It is so easy to judge on the basis of cities and amenities - they were no worse or worse-off than ourselves - just different! The studies of Michell, MacKie, Borst, Hawkins and Thom, et al, have shown they had a high degree of mathematical skill, all the more impressive for the lack of notational records. It is reasonable to suppose that they developed quite different mental abilities from those we have today, so that the things the archeologists look for (written records, pots, tools and trinkets, roads and cities, money, etc) are the very things they thought least of. With a shift in our own mentality the signs of that ancient culture become a little clearer. All around us are the eloquent stones and the fragmented traditions of folklore, myth and symbolic order, not to mention the unexplored reaches of racial memory.

Slowly, and in the face of hostility from an orthodoxy that should know better, some patient scholars are bringing the fragments together, inching their way toward a vision

of the living megalithic culture before the long dissolution and degeneration of its science, beliefs and traditions. In this welcome book the Bords continue the journey through the secret country, down folk-memory lane, that they begun in their Mysterious Britain.

The central theme in SC are the sites and stones in the ancient British landscape - but this is not just another of those books on old stones that seem to be springing up like overnight mushrooms. They form the linkage in this essential collection of folklore and anecdote (a surprising amount of it modern) about these stones and sites. It's certainly a book I've felt was needed for some time. I'm glad to say it's a damned good read; packed with interesting information quoted from rare and varied sources, richly illustrated with Colin's beautiful new photos of most of these locations; plus 3 indexes (general, geographical, and sites named in the text), and a bibliography. I enthusiastically recommend it.

As a Fortean I'm in search of continuity, and SC has plenty of it. The correspondence between folk tradition, the landscape with its strange monuments, and the world of unconscious imagery is striking - particularly as most of these links describe or hint at what we would today call Fortean phenomena.

For example, one of the most intriguing, and baffling, traditions of British folklore is the amazing wealth of stories about the founding of early churches which are later said to have been moved to the present site by the devil, fairies or magic, even tele-

portation; the original site being sacred to the earlier religions who used supernatural beings to frustrate the Christian invaders. This accords well with the ancient belief that the stones were alive, and were quite able to move by themselves thank you, if they were driven to it.

The living stones naturally were products of, and could control, the currents of terrestrial energy, and although this force was normally associated with fertility, its negative aspect was terrible. We hear of stones that heal and destroy; that warn and guard as well as any dog; that get revenge on their desecrators; that grow in size and multiply themselves; that occasionally get up and dance, or wander about, or fly through the air; or that could become immovable during any sacrilegious attempt to shift them. It is testimony to the power of these beliefs that they have survived into this cynical age through uncaring and hostile centuries.

The Bords give these subjects room, and in some cases a chapter, and their love of folklore shows in the fascinating stories that illustrate them, many of which have been hidden away too long. Nor do they forget our other friends from the Portean menagerie; faeries and ghosts, UFOs and lake monsters, and their time-lost cousins, the dragons that traditionally guarded the treasures in the earth, and slept under stones, coiled around the terrestrial pulse.

They correctly identify a curious anomaly presented by the notion of leys and their energy. The only (relatively) clear tradition of geomantic technology, the feng-shui of China, abhors straight lines, and indeed provides a few cosmetic measures to counter the evil 'winds' or 'arrows' generated by them (eg. spirit-walls, bends in paths, mirrors placed opposite windows, etc). So why the proliferation of straight alignments here in the West? Steve Moore (TLH 72 & 73) has suggested the idea of 'mirrored' forces, so that what was negative and destructive in the East becomes benign and constructive in the West. Perhaps it was just as negative in the West, muse the Bords, and that megalithic man, typically Western, sought a material solution in the technological control and manipulation of this energy using stone devices (basically a large-scale transistor circuit without wires!). Naturally this contained the seeds of its own destruction, and although it could have worked well initially, soon milked the land of vitality. It is a matter of record that fertility, ecology and climate over areas of western Europe declined and brought to an end the Bronze Age.

This book would make a nice Christmas

gift to those interested in the past, or the strange. Again I urge it upon you, and thank the Bords for a valuable compendium of obscure and wonderful data.

Visitors from Space by John A Keel.

(Panther; 75p; pp237; paperback). At long last John Keel's The Mothman Prophecies has been published in England, and at a price which puts it within easy reach. But why in Bog's name did Panther have to go and change its name? It's as inexplicable as the stuff in John's book.

VFS (I suppose I'll have to call it) is the account of the UFO-centered phenomena that led up to the collapse of the Silver Bridge that crosses the Ohio river between Ohio and West Virginia, at 5.04pm, 15 December 1967. It is a personal story because Keel was not only intimately involved in the events, but had many friends who were too, and frequently visited the area. The narrative is woven around factual events and filled in with the complex events experienced by Keel's many confidants, most of whom never told their stories to the media. The old journalist Keel comes powerfully to the fore; in style and fantastic events it reads like one hell of a novel.

But it's all true, says Keel, the strange, winged, almost headless giant with red eyes, that would observe people in lonely woods and through the windows of their homes, or drift through the sky without flapping its wings, and which was in some way connected with the UFOs; the CIA, FBI, mysterious phone-tappers, MIBs and the enigmatic Mr Apol (the book froths with conspiracies - it seems a miracle that John kept his head); the weird events, clues and prophecies in a nonsensical game that led to a grim conclusion on Silver Bridge. At one point Keel flashes 'descend' to a UFO in Morse with a flashlight, not thinking why it should ever understand; but it does! The UFO phenomenon, in its entirety, whatever it is, seems to deliberately mimic 'real-life' situations, and some of the stories are quite hair-raising. I wish I had more room to mention some of the many insights Keel brings to the UFO problem, but his greatest is his flexibility of thought and long experience of facing the terrors and paranoia in obsessive UFOlogy.

He broke out of this dark borderland of inexplicable reality and fantastically explicable surreality. This book is essential reading for all interested in strange phenomena (and, more cautiously, for those who dare to investigate them.)

*** Most regrettably we have to keep back many book and magazine reviews to next issue, which will have a large review section. Also flows, monsters, MAs, & mystery illnesses.***