

# FORTEAN TIMES

strange phenomena - curiosities - prodigies - portents - mysteries



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# FORTEAN TIMES

A Contemporary Record  
of Strange Phenomena

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FORTEAN TIMES is a non profitmaking quarterly miscellany of news, notes and references on current and historical strange phenomena, related subjects and philosophies. Formerly 'The News'. Affiliated to the International Fortean Organisation (INFO), and the Society for the Investigation of The Unknown (SITU), and other Fortean journals in continuing the work of Charles Fort (1874-1932).

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## AUTUMN 1977

### FT REVIEW SUPPLEMENT

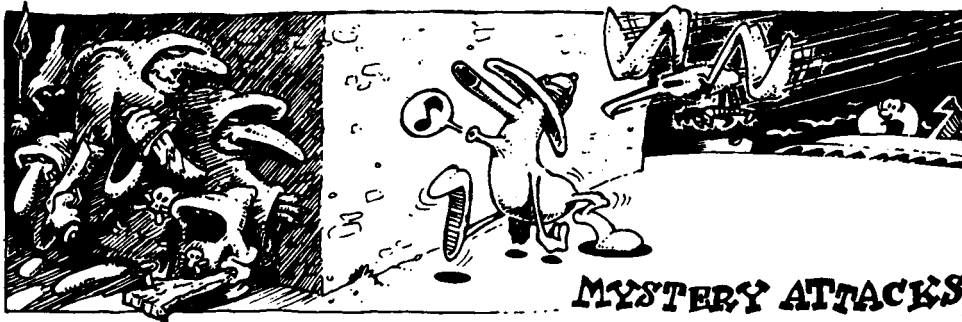
The number of books of interest to us seems to increase yearly, and because of the 40 page limitation (with our present printing budget) we have regretted not being able to give more room and greater attention to reviews, as the books and readers deserve. We feel we may have the answer by issuing a Review Supplement with the main journal. We hope costs can be reduced by taking ads from book companies etc - and it will be limited to subscribers only (to give yet another incentive for subscribing; like the index for 1975 (The News 8-13), ready at long last.) We'll run the FT Review Supplement as an experiment until the end of 1978. Please let us know what you think about this step.

### FORTEAN PICTURE LIBRARY

Another plan we have on the boil is the establishment of a library of Fortean illustrative material, primarily for posterity and the writer/researcher. We will build up its 'stock' from our own files and act as its main aquisition facility. Naturally we cannot compete with the commercial ventures who can buy material for fabulous sums, but we do hope that copyright-owners and researchers (who come across likely stuff) will

be more sympathetic to us, because we care about the material's preservation, study and use. Clearly such a picture library of strange phenomenal illustrations has some commercial value too, and just as FT has been approached for use of some of its photos, we expect the Fortean Picture Library (FPL, as we'll call it, to license the use of its materials and charge fees. These will be used to cover costs and pay the retaining copyright-owner on a percentage arrangement, unless they have donated the copyright to FPL. We are at present drawing up information sheets for copyright-owners, and potential users. Ultimately this will become a useful resource to which writers and publishers will have recourse - but we are fully aware that most Fortean researchers are quite penniless, so non-commercial use (including small Fortean journals etc) will be catered for as a Special Case. We are beginning to accumulate material right now, though commercial operation per se may be some time away. Janet & Colin Bord, who run their own picture library on ancient sites and stones, will be handling the administration, processing and filing. Stay tuned for more details.

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### THE DARTMOOR PONY DEATHS

Last issue, p30, we told all we knew of the mysterious deaths of 15 ponies on a lonely part of Dartmoor. Their death still remains a mystery, but we thought you'd be interested to hear of yet another theory. The Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society have no faith in UFOs, exotic diseases, natural causes, or rowdies in a jeep - they believe the animals ate bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), which can cause brittle bones. Someone else has suggested lightning - certainly there are cases where groups of animals have been struck, and have decomposed faster than usual - but we have no idea yet whether there was a local electrical storm. Perhaps someone could follow this tack up. Western Morning News (Devon edn) 19 July 1977 (Cr: David Sutton). Notes on two other mass deaths have come to light...

### HORSES DIE AT DUGWAY

An AP report from Utah said that in the first week of July 1976, wild horses were dropping dead in great numbers on a hot, mile-high mountain range in the western Utah salt desert. At least 40 had died, and an 'unknown number' were near death, on the western slopes of the Cedar Mountain range. The report says that nearby is the Dugway chemical-warfare proving ground, and Skull Valley, where about 4,500 sheep died mysteriously in 1968. It is still denied to this day by Dugway officials that nerve-gas was responsible for the sheep-slaughter. Military officials are also strongly denying that any operation at the base could or has caused the horse deaths. Meanwhile the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Utah Agriculture Dept are testing 'every element in the wild horse herd's environment' in the search for a cause. The BLM are especially peeved, having just completed a water project for the large herd, and are looking at the possibility that land disturbance contaminated water at Orr Springs, where many of the horses were found in a dusty

gully. Kansas City Star 8 July 1976 (Cr: William Grimstad). The BLM reported in August, and the Utah Ag.Dept. gave their judgement in September - the horses suffered heat exhaustion and dehydration followed by water intoxication as they drank greedily when they came to water. The Dugway officials agree with both reports. However I have a note from the Des Moines, Iowa, Sunday Register 25 July 1976, that the BLM was at that early date, blaming their death on shock - whatever they meant by that! (Cr: John Michell). The official verdict does not satisfy the naturalists. Ron Hall, 'a government wild horse expert' who discovered the mass deaths, and who plainly said he'd never seen anything like it before, is finally quoted insisting that a pond was built as early as May 13th and was used by the herd frequently. 'When I arrived July 5 there was plenty of water, and there were plenty of tracks around the pond.' He is convinced something happened there, and finds it difficult to believe that the young and strongest horses would have died like this from dehydration. Arizona Daily Star 21 Aug; Washington Post 3 Sept 1976 - and X's Res Bureaux Bulletins 5-7. Readers will be quick to note that the allegation of military experiments with chemical warfare substances was lodged during the American Legion sickness that same July (see FT20/10-13). The Arizona paper (above) also reported the belief of the Humane Society of Utah, and the American Horse Protection Association, that a rare African horse disease could produce the same syndrome, including the blood-froth found on the dead horses' nostrils. We learn that no tests were made by the BLM as they saw 'no reason to believe it was a cause of death'. (!!!)

### MASS ELK DEATH

About the same time as the tragedy at Dugway, a herd of 61 elk, including 10 bulls, died in a way which suggested they

all fell to the foot of a cliff in mountains near Telluride, Colorado. About a year later a hunter, Jack Pera, found scattered heaps of bodies at the base of a 60ft cliff. After examining their injuries, Colorado Wildlife officials think they fell to their death, but they are puzzled. One said: 'Occasionally a deer or elk might slip and fall to its death. But 61? It's just unheard of.' Well he's heard of it now. The officers said there was only one elk path up the ridge which could easily be cut off. One said that 'elk rarely stampede when faced by bears, mountain lions or coyotes, because they usually know a way out.' The only theory which hasn't been knocked out is that perhaps they simply could not see where they were going - and perhaps lightning panicked them. It was believed they died around July or August 1976; Pera found them early July 1977. Alamosa, Colorado, Valley Courier 6 July; Dallas, Texas, Morning News, 10 July 1977 (Cr: TR Adams)

#### MORE UK HORSE ATTACKS

Last issue, p27, we told of a boy's donkey foal found hanged in a tree at Ash, Surrey. We are sad to report another mindless act of foal-hanging, this time at Cefn, Hengoed, near Swansea. The foal, belonging to a girl who lived in Lansbury Avenue, was found in a nearby tree with its legs bound. Police and villagers mounted a search - we don't know if the culprit/s were found. London Evening Standard 12 August 1977.

After three stables were broken into in 10 days, and several horses injured, police in the Isle of Wight were said to be hunting a 'sadist'. No further details. Daily Mail 5 September 1977.

In the night of 21 September, a savage attack was made on three pedigree foals in their field at Blackwood, Gwent, South Wales. Out of 12 foals in the field, owned by breeder Peter English, only the 3 best were hacked. They were young and, luckily, will survive. One theory, based on this detail of selection, is that some rival breeder may have made a grudge attack with an axe. Police were looking into the matter but apparently had little to go on. No further details. Daily Mirror 22 September 1977. (Cr: Nigel Pennick.)

A mystery knifeman slashed the throats of three horses grazing in a field at Dagenham, Essex. Police, fearing 'his' next victim may be human, 'hunted' - we guess, inconclusively. Sunday Express 2 October 1977.

Did you notice the series of 3s in these stories?

#### RABBITS

Police in Coventry were already investigating the savage killing of rabbits from 15 homes in the Radford area, when on Monday 7 Feb this year, Mrs Olena Konopacka, a rabbit breeder, of Catesby Road, found 30 of her animals mutilated and dumped in a heap. It is thought that one or more people tore open the hutches and set their dogs on the rabbits - but (there's always a but) Mrs Konopacka says she and her 2 dogs were inside the house all the time. The dogs had not barked, and neither she nor her neighbour had heard anything in the night. Police say that the killings were in homes along Villa, Foster and Middlemarch roads, and that in some places the rabbits have been heard squealing between 11am and 6pm. (Either the police have their am/pms mixed up, or the killer, and possibly his dog, or possibly bands of killers and their dogs, have been roaming Radford in broad daylight, with nobody noticing a thing!) Coventry Evening Telegraph 10 Feb 1977. The same paper for 22 Feb reported more killings - 2 that day in Burnaby Rd; 1 in Capmartin Rd on the 19th, and its mate in the same cage the next night; and again nearby that same night, the 20th. Police said that in all more than 60 had died - 'some seem to have been thrown or crushed, others look as though they have been killed by a dog'. The Stephens of Three Spires Avenue put their rabbits to bed and retired themselves about 11pm, on the night of the 24th. Their dog barked about 11.30pm but they heard nothing suspicious and went to bed. In the morning they found bits of 15 of their New Zealand whites all over the lawn. The doors seem to have been ripped from the hutches, the wire-net pens torn open - the bigger bunnies had been battered and strangled. No one heard much noise! On the night of the 25th more pets were killed and injured in Sunningdale Ave. Coventry Eve. Telegraph 26 Feb. These latest attacks were more bizarre - skin had been partly stripped from one body and there were teeth marks on its neck. The tail of the other rabbit had been cut off. The paper for 11 March 1977 carried a police confession of their bafflement in the case which had occurred sporadically since Christmas 1976, and covered the Radford, Holbrooks and Coundon suburbs of Coventry with dead rabbits. All the killings took place at night (ah!) without alerting the households. There were no forensic leads (no mention of things like foot or paw prints); and no consistency





### FAIRLY CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

In Phenomena John Michell and I deal with several aspects of teleportation mysteries. Perhaps one of the most interesting, and enduring, motifs is that people who seem to have vanished from one place to reappear in another often blame the involuntary transit on mysterious entities, described according to various times and traditions as demons, fairies, spirits, witches, and today, UFO-beings. We have to say once more that this notion of abduction by mysterious beings is no superstition from the Dark Ages; it is the form of a psychodrama that is very much alive today to judge from the following tales. Our own feeling is that these tales contain two important data ; the mystery of teleportation (sometimes with a weird timelapse), and the more variable element (possibly due to cultural conditionings) of the nature of the abducting entities. Our first story is

#### FIVE DAY'S BEARD IN 15 MINUTES

On 17th May 1977, the story broke in Santiago, Chile, that a Chilean army corporal, on patrol duty on the remote northern desert border with Bolivia, vanished in front of his six men, and reappeared in their midst 15 minutes later, disorientated and incoherent. This was said to have happened at about 4.15am on 25 April, when the patrol noticed two bright lights descending on them from the sky. According to later testimony, they saw one drop behind some foothills, its glow remaining visible. The other came down within 500 yards of their camp, putting out a violet light with two points of intense red. Corporal Armando Valdes ordered his men to pick up their weapons, then advanced toward the light a little way, and disappeared. Then the light vanished too.

Later the patrol told their story to a schoolteacher in Arica, the largest town in the area, who taped them and contacted a local newspaper. (Some reports say the man was Pedro Araneda, a university professor.) Araneda was greatly impressed by the men's sincerity in believing what they had seen. They said they had called out for the corporal for several minutes, then, suddenly 15 minutes later, at 4.30pm, he was among them as mysteriously as he had disappeared. He gasped "Muchachos," and fainted. His comrades noticed that he had about five days' growth of beard, and that the date on his calendar watch had advanced five days. The watch itself stopped about the time he reappeared. As he regained consciousness Valdes said: 'You do not know who we are, nor where we come from. But I tell you that we will soon return.' Valdes, apparently, has no recollection of his abduction or utterances. That's the last we heard. Compiled from: Age (Australia) 19 May 1977 (Cr: B Ratcliffe); AP reports in 23 May 1977 newspapers (Cr: Larry Arnold & Ion Will); Sunday Express 29 May 1977 (Cr: AJ Bell, Don Robbins).

#### MALAYSIAN FOREST ELVES

A slightly more sinister version of a similar scenario developed in Johore state, Malaysia, in May this year, where in two separate cases a mother of three and a schoolboy have disappeared. The woman, Saoma binti Bujang, has not been seen since 5th May, in her village of Kuala Paya, near Segamat. Curiously, her husband, Mohamed Akhir, said that he himself had been 'carried away' by the forest elves in 1960, and found by relatives a week later in a debilitated condition that lasted five years. On 5 May 1977, however, he arrived home to find all the doors and windows locked

from the inside and his wife missing. Villagers were said to believe that the 'invisible people' had come looking for Mohamed again, and failing to find him took his wife instead. Bomohs, Malayan shamans, said his wife was still there - but a search failed to discover her - she was as effectively invisible as her abductors.

In the second case, Azmi Othman, 9, and who had not been seen since he set out on a short familiar journey to visit his grandparents at Teluk Rimba, near Muar on Sunday, is still missing despite extensive searches. His mother consulted bomohs who said he was still alive but as a captive of the forest elves. These notes are from New Straits Times (Malaysia) 27 May 1977 (Cr: Ion A Will).

The same paper for 22 August 1977 shows us another side to the forest elves which will be more familiar to modern saucer buffs. Here we learn that villages in the Batu Pahat area of Johore have been pestered by a forest elf (Orang Bunian) in the guise of a woman in black (WIB?), who obstructs doorways and vanishes like a ghost. WW Skeat's work on Malay Magic (1965) says nothing much is known about the 'Orang Bunian', but he classes them with the fairies and elves, adding that, if anything, they are benign and a little stupid!

#### A DWARF & SOME LITTLE MEN...

FSR 23:2 (Aug 1977) mentions the appearance of an 'extraterrestrial dwarf' in Italy, in its 'World Round-up' section. Quoting from the ABC (Seville) 11 Sept 1976, it mentions that this black-dressed, 1m20cm high creature, with two fissures in (or for) its face, has caused considerable alarm among the inhabitants of the La Spezia region in a mountainous part of NW Italy. In the grand tradition of ghosts, it glided rather than walked, and there are tantalizing references to witnesses suffering 'magnetic distortions' (whatever those may be) by the things presence. We merely note (again) that elements from the experience of UFOs are echoes of earlier traditions, and still manifesting today.

The same goes for the following case brought to light by John Michell, in which an 8-yr-old boy, NP (name & address known to us) and his friend share a vision, which according to NP's mother 'left him quite confused and frightened.' She adds that he is not in the habit of making things up and is fairly certain that they did see something. Here, in his own words, is his account:

'On June the 18th, 1977, I was out with my friend, when we went to Crick-

lade ((Wilts)) water cress beds. Suddenly my friend called to me, "Come here! There's a red thing in the bush the same size as me," but I didn't see it. So we walked on to the old hut and had a look around and walked along the side of the cress beds. Then we saw some people in red and yellow one-piece suits with air tanks on their backs running about the hut. We were scared because they had red eyes and they were wearing helmets. They ran very quickly with their knees up high. We were so scared we climbed up a fallen-down tree which led to the road and ran home.' NP's mother tried to get him to draw them but it was difficult and she felt that it might agitate him to press him.

#### REVELERS IN A FOG PATCH

At about 1,30am on (probably) 9 August 1977, Pc David Swift decided to investigate a peculiar bank of fog on playing fields near Stonebridge Avenue, East Hull - he thought it might be smoke. As he walked across the field towards it he could make out three figures which seemed to be dancing, each with an arm raised as though around a non-existent Maypole. 'One figure was a man in a sleeveless jerkin and tightfitting trousers... the other two were women wearing bonnets, shawls and white coloured dresses.' Pc Swift said: 'I thought they were a lot of drunks playing around, so I walked out into the field. But when I got about 50ft away from them everything went. No one was there.' The sudden vanishing took the former Army man by surprise. He ran for his car and dazedly drove up and down a nearby road until the shock wore off, then reported it to his sergeant. He told the reporter that he'd be back there again on duty that night (10th), but we've heard nothing more. Hull Daily Mail 10 August 1977 (Cr: Derick Shelton & Nigel Watson)

MUFOB editor John Rimmer rightly places this story in relationship to the tales of fairy-rings. Not only do fairies vanish away when interrupted at their revels, but to step into the ring was to risk becoming trapped forever in dance, invisible to everyone. The Welsh fairy tradition provides a good number of stories of people foolish enough to venture into fairy circles. We give one story in Phenomena, in 'Taken Away & Brought Back'; others can be found in chapter 4 of Wirt Sikes' British Goblins (1880, rep 1973). One of these is even encountered in an unexpected mist! But usually the victim can be rescued on the anniversary of his disappearance unaware that outside the circle a whole year, not mere seconds, had passed. Like

the Malayan cases, the victims were still on the spot, but invisible, or inaccessible to everyday reality. Another thread in these cases is the eerie motion of the entities - the irresistible gyrations of the fairies, the high-stepping folk in spacesuit-like attire seen by young NP, Pc Swift's misty revellers, and one of the Malayan WIBs who was seen standing board-stiff (like Nosferatu rising from his coffin!) outside a house after poltergeist-like rappings awoke the occupant - a motion, or lack of it, that puts the witness's hair on end. We have often met the same reaction to the motions of sea monsters and poltergeists! A third theme is the time-lapse (or time-acceleration) during the abduction.

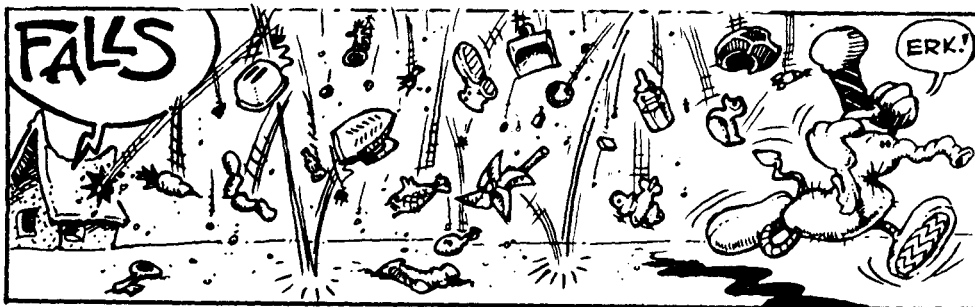
Interestingly, in reviewing Rogo's Haunted Universe (see the Review Supplement) we find he revives the case of 'Manila's Disappearing Boy' from Fate August 1965. In the 1950s, the boy, Cornelio Closs, caused a sensation by repeatedly vanishing from locked rooms or out on the street, often before many witnesses. These mysterious transport-

ations, he said, happened when his childhood companion, a phantom girl dressed in white, would touch his hand. He knew nothing more, except dream-like sensations, until he came to himself at a different location.

This touches on the many amnesia cases where whole chunks of people's lives go missing, often leaving them confused and frightened. We have a heap of these, as they seem to overlap with the phenomena of 'Appearances' and 'Disappearances', and will give them another day.

#### TOUT ENCORE!

Finally, a throwaway! According to the News of the World 25 September 1977, a farmer at Tout, France, couldn't believe his eyes when a UFO landed in his field in broad daylight (or should that be broad delight?). He said that a man and woman, both naked, leapt from the UFO and made love three times before clambering back and zipping off into the sky. He tried to get nearer but was hurled back by the 'blast'. Gendarmes were said to be grinning as they 'filed' the report. Make of that what you will!



It's some time since we had a section on ice chunks dropping from our skies, and 1977 seems to have developed an unusual number. But first we'll give a few notes that have not been mentioned in our previous excursions into the subject (see The News 3/8f; 6/10,11,14.)

#### SHIRLEY, SURREY - 1972.

Although we had a note of this fall, on 23 January (News 6/10) previously, Janet Bord has handed to us some correspondence on the incident that she had with various officials. The ice block was said to have been about 4ft square, and made a 2ft deep dent in the garden of Peter Wakeford, in Lime Tree Grove, Shirley, just missing his house. This additional information is from Daily Telegraph 24 January 1972.

Janet wrote to the Air Registration Board (who had previously stated the official view on icefalls said to come

from airplanes - that because of modern de-icing equipment the problem should be insignificant; that waste-tank discharges over populated areas is prohibited generally; and that it is virtually impossible (mainly on economic and organizational grounds at present) to identify which aircraft were over certain areas at certain times) - who passed her query onto an official of the Department of Trade & Industry. He replied that his department's interest was confined to the problem as it affects the safety of air traffic. They collected a sample of the Shirley ice and had it analysed in the labs of the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough. They said it had the characteristics of ice which forms on the external surfaces of aircraft - but the implication is that this origin could not be definitely proved. Nor, with all the resources of

cont on p17/



Part 2 of an article, specially extracted for us, by Larry Arnold, from his forthcoming book ABLAZE! The Case for, and cases of, Spontaneous Human Combustion.

# FIRE LEYNES

by LARRY E ARNOLD



Leaving Birmingham to cope alone for the moment with its burning mystery of twice-yearly fires, we travel southeast to Britain's capital city. The destination awaits our arrival, as it had for half a decade awaited an arrival far less welcomed by those who hosted the sinister visitor.

"Each year, around Easter", writes Frank Edwards (28,p196), "fire keeps an appointment with the family of Graham Stringer, who lives in a modest home in the Peckham district of London".

The uninvited guest arrived about 3 weeks before Easter in 1958 when the baby's rocking chair and toy basket were found smoking, leaving the Fire Brigade with a mystery. Good Friday of that year left the Stringers with a less-than-spiritual memory, for again fire erupted spontaneously - this time the flames ate a hole in a pile of infant clothing.

In 1959 the phantom flames came out of hiding to strike at Mr Stringer's shoes - and just as he was putting his feet into them. He literally had a hot foot that morning - two of 'em!

As the last week of Lent was being observed in 1960, the String-

ers were confronted with another form of rebirth: the Peckham fire arose again, erupting in a pile of laundry that Mrs Stringer had just sorted. In less than a minute the combustion was complete, the garments purged of dirt - but as ashes they were unwearable. Soon afterwards "luminous smoke" swirled through Stringer's darkroom. The firemen came and "went away baffled". A priest came and performed an exorcism, then simply left...

1961 was quiet, fire-wise; but 1962 heralded combusting furniture in the living room. Scotland Yard suspected the obvious, until learning the Stringers had no fire insurance - and couldn't get any either!

Is there any truth after all in the ancient belief that the fires of Hades roged in subterranean recesses of the underworld, where sinister forces quite apart from magma were unleashed to haunt and destroy the lives of men above? In Kentucky a few years back, the ground was said to be afire and no one could explain why.

Might it be the Stringer house sat on a telleyne whose fiery vengeance was released or withheld not by religious observations but by a peculiar combination of terrestrial

and/or cosmic lines of force which had to mix just right - like salt-petre, sulphur and charcoal must be, to yield an explosion - before combustion would manifest?

Had Stringer known as much about energies as the ancients, he would have insured his property heavily against fire; in fact, he probably wouldn't have lived in that house at all. Conversely, if insuring agents knew about fiery points of power, no sum of money would have purchased protection for this fire-prone piece of property.

Edwards also mentions the death on 4 Jan 1939 of Peter Seaton's 11-month-old child in Peckham Rye (28, p185). Quoting the London Daily Telegraph he states that a "fire of unknown type and origin killed the baby and seared the wall...but did no damage at all outside that one room". Though Edwards saw the similarity between this event and many he (and we) have chronicled under the description of SHC, he saw no connection between this episode and the one which began 19 years later in Stringer's Peckham home. It would be interesting to discover the proximity with which the Seatons and Strigers lived, wouldn't it?

Speaking of the nearness with which unusual combustions strike, we note the auto incineration of Messrs Beattie and Turner in their trucks outside Upton-by-Chester. Only 3 days separated their near-duplicate demises by inexplicable flames. Or how about the poor chap burned beyond recognition, whose charred body was pulled from an auto near Hessle, Yorkshire, in early 1949 - at a spot said "to be very near" the location where motorist G A Shepherdson burned to death "with startling suddenness" 11 years earlier?

Localisations...

Elsewhere, something equally frightening and far more sinister than drunken drivers and mechanical malfunctions stalks the motoring trackways. Police can find no culprit, only the evidence for his - or its - presence. Windshields are shattered along "Britain's Mystery Mile" in March 1951, southwest of London; on 16 June 1952 the phantom marauder finally leaves the highway, to attack shop windows in the nearby town of Esher (18, p129-31).

We sense a migrating power point, leaving the transience of a pastoral roadway for the concrete-and-glass

of immobile shrines; an aerleyne whose energy pattern rivalled the celebrated glass-breaking voice of Enrico Caruso.

In the U.S., Indiana and Illinois also hosted a 'phantom sniper' in June 1952. Phenomenological proximities in time...

An aerleyne is created to balance its counterpart in Britain. They both move on, their mystery lying forgotten in a newspaper's archival toms. In the middle of some farmer's field there is no glass to be broken. But near Muncie, Indiana, there is talk of constructing a jughandle to skirt the accident-prone zone. Imagine: half a roundabout nestled in the midst of an otherwise straight and level road!(29). An environmental design, made necessary to avoid an apparently stationary ley centre whose power warps human judgment and causes crashes. Explain that to a civil engineer!

Oh what the heck, no highway department in the world would believe such nonsense. That unseen forces should govern the design of roads is absurd! That outside Hessle and Upton-by-Chester, smack in the middle of some roads, are invisible power points which affect human or automobile combustibility - adversely.

#### HAUNTING FLAMES IN THE HACKLER HOUSEHOLD.

Firemen are like policemen in that they generally tend to deny the unusual, both in fact and in theory. This is not to castigate those who help safeguard our properties and our lives, but merely shows them to be human. As Fort would point out on occasion, Physics, Astronomy, Biology and Medicine (to be sure!) all have established boundaries beyond which it is respectable never to tread. Let us not digress too far, however...

The Earth Spirit, telleynes and aerleyne, power points and zone phenomena. Stories of strange fires - or fires that would be strange, if stories of similar fires weren't so embarrassingly common.

Indiana, again; near Odon, this time. Pre-1941. A full-page ad in Collier's Magazine (19 April 1941) is bought by the Traveller's Insurance Company to extol the benefits of purchasing fire protection coverage (You never know where you can find a lead, do you!).

At 8:00am fire erupted near an upstairs window. The Odon Fire Dept. answered the alarm and since the Hackler farmhouse had never been wired for electricity and no fire was in the kitchen range, the "cause was a mystery". Left with an enigma, the firemen themselves left - but not for long.

They soon responded to a second alarm, this time to extinguish a burning mattress. This time they lingered around, just in case. The 'case' came; then again, and again. By 11:00am nine fires had blazed forth: "Some were so strange as to tax the belief of the most credulous persons who visited the place". Overalls hanging on the wall ignited; a wall calendar went up "in a quick puff of smoke"; a bedspread inflamed before the eyes of several neighbours; a book was found, burning on the inside (its covers undamaged). Fifteen hours after the first alarm, 28 fires had broken out. Sounds much like some cases Fort catalogued, yes?

"Various explanations have been advanced", the ad stated, "some as weird as the happenings themselves. Some people believe the Hackler farm was the centre of a strong magnetic field where static electricity prevailed. Others have suggested that gases from an old well had permeated the building, finally bursting into flame by spontaneous combustion. These and other solutions appear none too plausible", said the Travellers. Yet we note the insurance investigators failed, as did the firemen, to find the cause.

Static electricity is discountable, yes; but not so easily discounted is a strong localised field of energy vitalised by subterranean or cosmic forces whose combining vibrational-frequencies struck the 'chord' of fire outside Odon, Indiana one day in the early 1940s. Whatever, the insurance company concluded its example this way: "The story remains even to fire officials a most baffling mystery".

FROM THE HIGHLANDS TO SUSSEX:  
"BEWARE THE LEYNE OF FIRE!"

More mysteries follow - and maybe a solution as well.

Having reviewed this material before sending the mss. to our editor, we are struck anew with the fantastic voyage that lies before you. We insert this paragraph to

forewarn, for undoubtedly charges of "Impossible!" and "Absurd!" will be leveled at what will now be developed. There is one consolation: the same has been said about SHC. Well, what has been shown wrong once...

The phrase 'line of fire' is usually associated with the battlefield. Its re-ordered form, 'fire-line', evokes a demarcation to prevent the advance of a crackling holocaust of lands aflame. We now propose a third meaning to these words, which captures both the combustion and destruction aspects and relates them linearly. Using our Fortean lexicon, a fire-leyne is a specific type of telleyne or aerleyne whose energy flow is conducive to generating combustion in objects sited upon its pathway.

Until now we have merely hinted at a relationship between lines of force and spontaneous combustions. It has been an exercise on paper only. Would the theory hold under the rigours of practical scrutiny?

To the drawing board, and more paper. Cartography, this time.

Since more ley work has transpired in Great Britain than anywhere else to date, we reach for maps of the British Isles. What secrets lie among the town names that greet our glance?

"The index of SHC cases, dear Watson, and a pen!" Three charts, a good gazeteer, and several hours of intense concentration produce a cartographic countryside filled with dots designating the places where strange fires baffled the townsfolk in their day.

"Now the straight-edge, quickly!" We begin in a maze of dots. Any 2 points establish a line. We look for a line with more than 2 dots. Are there any? Yes! Many lines connect 3 sites. Are we locating a new ley system, one marked not by churches and tumuli and monoliths but by enigmatic fires which in turn are caused by their superimposition on this particular energy pattern? But Alfred Watkins wanted "'four-point' evidence, below which number coincidence might creep in". (6, p 25).

The parameters tighten. Would our hours before the charts now be reduced to an exercise in futility? "Wait a moment...let's check this again". Yes! A four-point fire-leyne is found! And another! Why, some lines might have 5, 6 or more myst-

erious fires sited upon them!

Once again we think we know how Watkins felt that day in June 1921...

We pause to reflect a moment. Events so similar yet so incredibly bizarre and uncommon that Science says they don't - can't - exist, do exist. Furthermore, many are found in alignment to one another over scores, maybe hundreds of miles. If one were to calculate the odds against exceedingly rare events happening over centuries while occurring in a linear arrangement...

Enough of this unsubstantiated wonderment! The evidence, please.

The evidence appears in Fig 1, scaled from the original 1:1250000 BTA map produced by a leading British cartographic firm. Dots, however, mean little. On the other hand, to discuss here each case associated with a dot would be both laborious and impractical (The reader must await our book, or do his own research).

We shall compromise this nothingness versus totalness by focusing on one major alignment: Proposed Fire-leyne 1. Some incidents are quite involved, so the reader is asked to forgive our sketchy details while remembering that through all that follows appears to run a common thread, arrow-straight and scorchingly hot.

POINT 1: John Anderson, 50-year-old drunkard, suffered divine retribution for succumbing to "the demon of Intemperance by flaming up as does the vile liquor which permeated his body" (30, p54-6). His fiery fate came one half mile east of Nairn, on the Moray Firth in Scotland when, on 29 May 1852, his body was suddenly "so blackened and burned by the fire, that it was doubtful if it could be lifted without falling pieces". Anderson forms the northern terminus of the fire-leyne in question - or, as Watkins' jargon would phrase it, "the beacon point" of a south-southeast trackway.

A beacon point, shining with the spontaneous light of a blazing corpse...

POINT 2: The trackway crosses the Firth of Forth, passes through Blyth and Whitley Bay, and intersects dead-centre with Kingston upon Hull, Humberside.

Kingston has 4 projected fire-leyne through it. A fire-leyne centre, one might say. Elizabeth

Clark could not say, however. "She was unable to give an articulate account of the manner in which she received her dreadful injuries", stated the Hull Daily Mail (6 Jan 1905) in reference to the severe burns that covered her body (31).

Investigators were baffled, so they proposed this scenario: "it is surmised she got out of bed, and in striking a match, set her nightdress on fire. This must have burned away, and then the unfortunate woman must have got into bed again. How long she had been in this state it is impossible to say". Striking how Conventionism rationalises, isn't it? Her stoicism must put the Spartan warriors and the Greek sect to shame! Hm...perhaps Clark could not explain her situation because it baffled her as much as her fellow pensioners! We suspect no-one in Hull knew that humans, and their clothing, could spontaneously combust; that this victim appears linked to a similar event in Scotland 489kms away and 52 years in the past (One is reminded that at Hull, 7 April 1938, G A Shepherdson died in his mysteriously burning truck).

POINT 3: Louth, in the midst of the Lincolnshire Wolds, received a bevy of oddly burned patients at its hospital in early 1905. Ashton Clodd, 75, was struck down at the end of January. Fort (1, p122) quotes a source saying the deceased fell into a grate, though no-one can testify to seeing hot coals therein. Ashton - a name of esoteric significance? - is certainly not the only person to burn up in a fireplace that held no embers!

The fire-leyne goes right past Louth. Actually, on our map it tracks 1.6km west of Louth; then too, Clodd's home might have been 1.6km west of Louth proper, and directly atop the fiery trackway in question. We just don't know for sure. We do know that initially we had misplaced this case elsewhere in England, and it wasn't until we followed the ruler and saw Louth sitting in Lincolnshire that we realised our error. Watkins and others have experienced similar 'confirmations' (7, p46 & 184).

What could be more convincing? "Another case - if you can find one" replies the die-hard skeptic. Done!

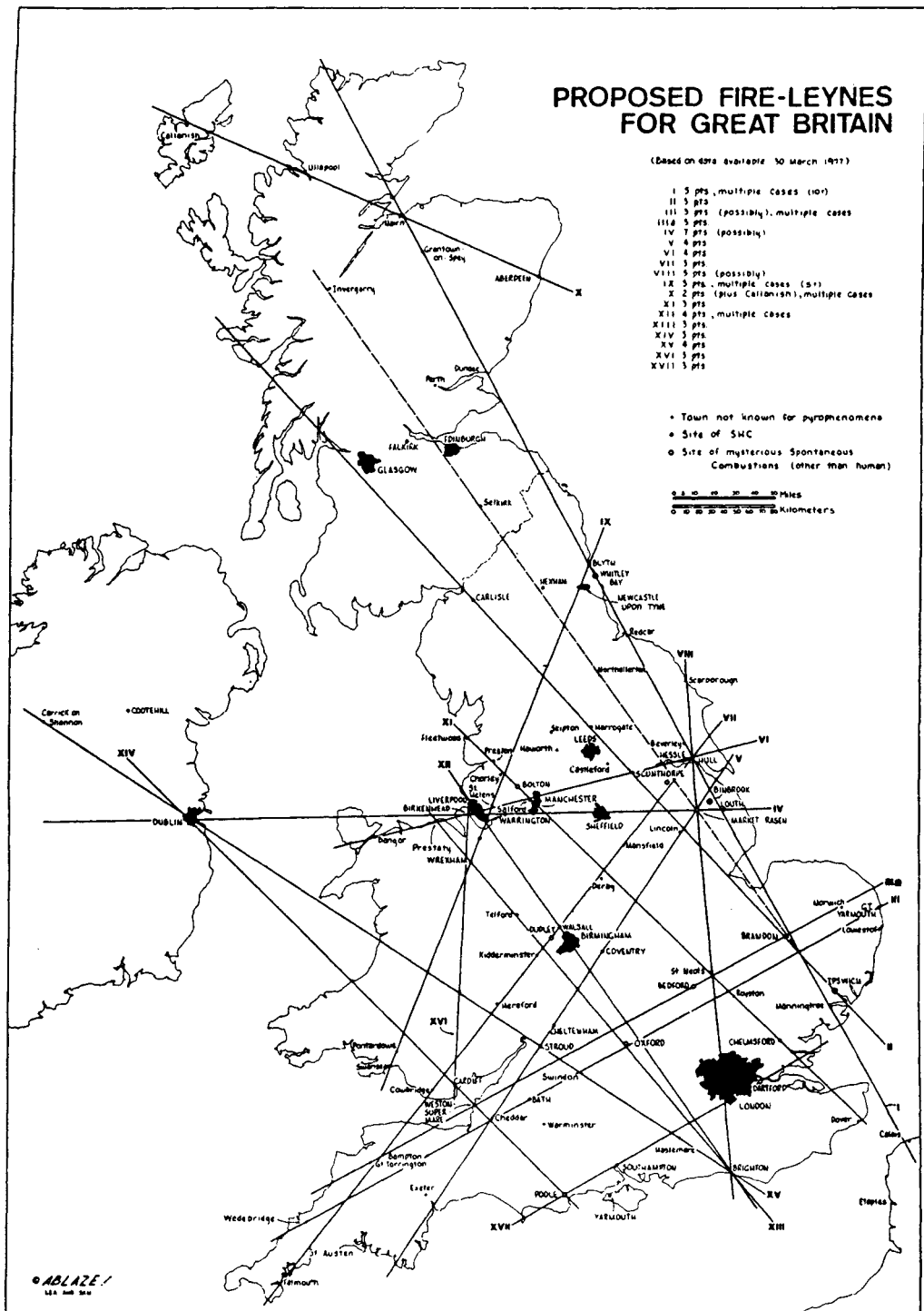
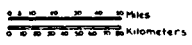
POINT 4: The coastal town of Blyth in southeastern Northumberland harbours more than boats: it

# PROPOSED FIRE-LEYNES FOR GREAT BRITAIN

(Based on data available 30 March 1977)

- I 5 pts., multiple cases (10)
- II 5 pts.
- III 3 pts. (possibly), multiple cases
- IIIa 5 pts.
- IV 7 pts. (possibly)
- V 4 pts.
- VI 4 pts.
- VII 3 pts.
- VIII 5 pts. (possibly)
- IX 5 pts., multiple cases (5)
- X 2 pts. (plus Celtic/Irish), multiple cases
- XI 3 pts.
- XII 4 pts., multiple cases
- XIII 3 pts.
- XIV 3 pts.
- XV 4 pts.
- XVI 3 pts.
- XVII 3 pts.

- Town not known for pyromenomena
- Site of SMC
- Site of mysterious Spontaneous Combustions (other than human)



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1977

hosts baffling blazes. And Blyth is anchored upon the fire-leyne that extends from Nairn, 314kms to the north-northwest.

Barbara Bell, first. On 23 Feb 1905 smoke was seen issuing from beneath the 77-year-old widow's door. Her daughter rushed across the street to find "the place full of smoke". Creeping on her hands and knees, she groped across the floor until she bumped into her mother who was "quite dead then" (this instance is incredibly like a recent case of SHC, or perhaps Spontaneous Disruption, in America). The deputy coroner pronounced the body was "fearfully charred".

How?, the inquest jury wanted to know. After superficial examination of the disconcerting facts, they ruled "Accidental Death" because "it was quite clear that the poor woman had accidentally come in contact with the (grate) fire". (32)

When Conventionalism says anything is "quite clear", we suspect there's glare on the glass. Like the myopic glare that precluded them from remembering how the first witness on the scene saw no fire in the grate, or how medical theory could not explain the nature of her burns. Nevertheless, a conclusion which opposes every one of the reported facts is accepted, unquestioningly. SHC would have fitted all the facts, but SHC is unacceptable, unquestionably...

With one affront to Conventionality appeased, the citizens of Blyth found themselves facing another bizarre blaze not long afterwards. This time it's Charles Scholl, whose case we have never seen mentioned by other authors on SHC (including Fort). A German seaman in his mid-50s, he had just returned home from a voyage on 30 March 1908. Only on a ghost ship could he ever sail again...

Bunked at his Park Road lodging, he was to be awakened next morning by the landlady. To her shock, she discovered his "bed was in flames", recorded the Blyth News & Wansbeck Telegraph (33), "whilst upon the burning bed still lay Scholl". The doctor could only confirm the deceased was "badly scorched about the hands, feet and body". The fire brigade had no worries, except to explain the origin of the fatal blaze. "How the fire originated is unknown", said the newspaper in an

effort at promoting truth in journalism.

Perhaps more surprising than these perplexing combustions themselves is that, rare as they are, two of them occurred so close together in the same small town. One expects to find a mass of bizarre incidents in large metropolitan areas over the centuries, yes. But in Blyth, England, within 38 months two deaths by spontaneous combustion? Incredible! Yet there's more...

POINT 5: If one stood where Anderson burned in Scotland and fired towards Hull a magic flaming arrow that ignored all influences save the curvature of the terrain, it would pass (as noted) over Blyth and then, some 10.5km further on, zing over Whitley Bay and maybe shower a few mythical sparks upon this coastal town. The fire that struck the Dewar sisters in this community, however, was all too mystifyingly real.

Just a few days before tragedy would strike Scholl in neighbouring Blyth, an event of similar yet different nature came between these two spinster sisters. On 22 March 1908 Wilhelmina Dewar was, like so many others who live along this unseen line-of-combustion, struck down by mysterious flames; her charred body was found lying upon a bed which showed no trace of fire!

The case is extremely complex, and is pursued with general accuracy by Fort (34, p90-2). Suffice here to mention the inquest's verdict: "The Coroner, in summing up, said they were in the same position as at the opening of the inquest. They could not tell how the accident happened" (35). The verdict was death from shock and accidental burns.

This solves nothing. How were the burns generated? What was the accident? We're tired of reading "Accidental Death". Everything is an accident if you don't know what forces are involved. Accidental Death is a confession of ignorance, purely and simply. We think the nature of the "accident" involved an encounter - quite possibly twice in the same day - between Wilhelmina and a fiery line of force through Whitley Bay.

And like its sister city to the north, Whitley Bay's involvement with enigmatic fires doesn't end with one incident...

Joan and Mary Hart, says Allen Eckert in his popular 1964 article on SHC, were also involved in stra-

nge flames "at Whitley Bay, Blythe, England". He dates the case 31 March 1908(36,p105). Mary, an invalid, was found burning as she sat in a parlor rocking chair; she was taken upstairs to bed, where Joan later found her "reduced to ashes" on an unscorched bedsheet.

Now that sounds extraordinary, but there are documentable cases which parallel it. However, in this instance, only 9 days after the Dewar combustion, when one would be inclined to yell "Proof!" of the fire-leyne theory, we hesitate. There are problems, you see. First, there is no shire in England called Blythe; secondly, Whitley Bay is not a suburb of Blyth but a separately incorporated community; thirdly, the parallels to the Dewar case are just too similar for comfort without documentation - which Eckert doesn't provide; fourthly, there's the disturbing train of developments that entrenches the Hart case into the SHC literature: Eric Norman mentions it briefly in 1969, with embellishment (37,p108), Brad Steiger picks it up in 1971 (38,p22), then Ivan Sanderson quotes it in 1972(39,p275) by using Eckert as his source. We can find no mention predating Eckert's article, including a scan of the British Museum's holdings of The Blyth News & Wansbeck Telegraph for the period in question. Lastly, as our intrepid editor pointed out, Fort himself didn't mention it. Now Fort's seemingly omnipresent eyes missed a few Fortean clips (which we're sure just simply delights him), but in this instance we suspect, though not guaranteeing, that Eckert got wind of some sketchy details related to the Dewar case and changed some names - to protect the innocent, as policemen say, or an author's lack of scholarship? As Fort said once, until someone supplies us with clips of the incident, "all I can say...is that it is possible-impossible"(1,p70).

Thus while relegating the Hart case to indeterminacy, we aren't done with Whitley Bay. Another occurrence is found; we have handled the original clipping. We like this one. It's a bit different; gives us a change of pace.

In that mysterious year of 1938, when things and humans were combusting all around Great Britain (it's too bad Fort transitioned before this, or he could have written 4 more books just on these 12 months),

a man was walking through Whitley Bay when a lady shouted "You are on fire". Lo! The hat on his head was smoking. "Presumably some boys" were letting off firecrackers and one landed on the Trilby hat, says The Newcastle Journal (40). Or, maybe a fiery meteor struck his chapeau, which saved its owner from a nasty scorching...

Presumably careless lads are to blame, but there's no mention of exploding firecrackers seen or heard. Neither are irresponsible boys arrested - police can't capture what isn't seen or heard. "Accidentally" the hat ignites - from what? Maybe boys were playing with fireworks, in London or Anchorage, and one got away!

In Whitley Bay a hat smoulders. Different, yes. Yet not all that different. If clothing upon Rose Howes can ignite in Barre, Massachusetts on 16 July 1960 and transform her into a living torch (37,109) then why can't a hat attempt the same feat somewhere else in time and space? A letter from Adolph Heuer Jr, in the files of SITU, remarks on the time a wet chore coat burst into flames before his eyes. "It has always puzzled me as to how wet cloth can 'burn'. After all," he notes, "you can use wet cloth to put some fires out!"(41).

The threads of evidence we call clues to SHC are now found in fabrics, too! Coats and clothing that flame spontaneously. In Whitley Bay a hat ignites, spontaneously? Through Whitley Bay passes, undetected except by its results, a fire-leyne.

Michael Harrison, in his Fire From Heaven, makes a cogent observation when speaking of the Fire: "The fact that it should have killed both Wilhelmina Dewar and Barbara Bell within seven miles and three years of each other is a matter for remark and for possible future investigation".(42,p113).

The "fact" is all the more tantalizing when one realises that at least five other cases of unusual, enigmatic fires occurred in towns along a 547km (339 miles) straight line from Nairn to Louth! Watkins would surely have viewed such a discovery with excitement. Furthermore, 3 cases happen within the first two months of 1905, and 2 more (possibly 3, maybe 4) are compressed into the one month of March 1908.

Now a ley purist might point

out that drawing lines upon a 1:1,250,000 map is too imprecise to claim such astounding alignments. Please note, if one is dealing with megalith-associated ley-lines we will promptly agree (to a point at least). Conversely, as we have shown to be the case with high-voltage electrical lines, the energy pathway involved in our proposed fire-leynes may not be pencil-thin, so that much demanding accuracy is not prerequisite. We hope the reader is a bit lenient, and patient, with us at this stage because, as incredible as it may seem, the Nairn-Blyth-Whitley Bay-Hull-Louth alignment might include still more...

**POSSIBLE POINT 6:** Paging through The Blyth News & Wansbeck Telegraph for 6 March 1908, an event that took place 3 days earlier catches our eye. Elizabeth Nicholson, 40, of Whitfield, Northumberland, was found wrapped in flames in a shed. It may be suicide; it may be spontaneous combustion; it may be carelessness. You'll have to get the reference (43) and decide yourself.

**POSSIBLE POINT 7:** Another fire in Northumberland, perhaps along its coast, that baffles two fire experts. It occurred in "a working men's club...in an industrial town". The blaze is thought to have 2 seats (that is, separate points of origin): the investigators find this "rare enough" to write about in detail (44).

Fires broke out simultaneously in two areas near the floor of the club, and there was no physical way to connect the 2 fire seats. A disconcerting situation, especially when suspicions of arson were quickly ruled out. An elaborate hypothesis is then constructed. In essence, smouldering cigarettes in one room inflamed, whereupon a column of hot air rose up a partition and caused paint on the other side to "flash-over", whereupon flaming gases and burning particles were convected along the other room's ceiling, down the far wall and into the window curtains which subsequently ignited and, in turn, burned through a duct cover allowing the fire to spread to the upper floor and roof. Whew!

There's only one problem, which the investigators note with apparent embarrassment: "a rather surprising" circumstance is that the ceiling and the exposed insulation in the second

room show "no signs of intense heating" (44,p196). In other words, the surprising fact is that what was observed doesn't fit what is proposed. Fort would not find this so surprising...

We think of when we yell across a chasm: our voice is real, the echo is heard, but what connects them is ethereal and cannot be seen. Two fires and nothing to connect them. Is one the echoing or mimicking of the other? Great heat, isolated seats of fire, initial damage is localised, the combustion of fire-retarded materials, a "rare" situation, and perplexed authorities: the very circumstances associated with the type of pyrophenomena heretofore discussed.

With due respect to these gentlemen, we humbly propose 2 alternatives: both will deal with paranormal combustions, of course.

**Alternative 1:** The unidentified club sits upon the previously described fire-leyne, whose activation one night singled out 2 objects on the floor of the establishment through which it passed and over-energised their atomic structures, causing great thermal activity which culminated in spontaneous combustion. Or, if this is found too improbable, we're willing to let one fire be caused by smouldering cigarettes...

**Alternative 2:** The tavern hosted a very short-lived poltergeist attack. Perhaps an angry imbiber left behind his wish that the place would burn down; a disgruntled patron sought revenge for a short-shot whiskey by creating physical flames out of his fiery anger; a discarnate drunk, seeking but unable to make his presence known to the club's clientele, tried a more visible method of attracting attention. Again, there is support for each suggestion in our files on spontaneous combustion...

Then there are the curtain burning episodes of weird fires, in which only curtains are consumed (45,p182;46,p324-5). Hmm...burning curtains in a Northumberland tavern.

Uncanny blazes that baffle the investigators, and are largely ignored by every category of specialisation within today's Dogma. If these fires lie outside the limits imposed by Science upon itself, then it is reasonable to expect the explanations to be alien from those same



restrictions. Ley lines and fire-  
leynes certainly qualify as worthy  
solutions then, don't they?

But there's another discovery  
we'd like to mention before wrapping  
up this examination. The reader is  
surely aware of the purported Bermu-  
da Triangle, which is said to pro-  
duce apports and disappearances of  
men and machines. We have found a  
different kind of Triangle: it's in  
England, and it burns things. We  
call it, not without consideration  
for its distant cousin, the Binbrook  
Triangle...

Larry E Arnold, 1977.

(Continued next issue)

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(Continued: see also part one)

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#### Icefalls cont...

the RAE and DTI, could they establish  
'positive identification' of an aircraft  
in the area - which gives you some idea  
of the problem, and why insurance compan-  
ies won't touch ice-bomb clauses. The DTI  
letter also confirmed that the crater  
was about 4ft square in soft ground, and  
that the ice had broken up enough to  
prevent reconstruction of its thickness.

We have said before, and probably not  
for the last time, that the plane-icefall  
is an unsatisfactory and largely illusory  
explanation. It takes no account at all  
of the many falls of ice (and indeed  
from many other objects and substances)  
from the sky before the advent of planes.  
And furthermore, the only authoritative  
study of the subject that we know of -  
'The Ice-fall Problem' by James E McDon-  
ald (Inst. Atmos. Physics, Arizona U), in  
Weatherwise June 1960, pp110-114,132 -  
which correlated icefall data with air  
traffic movements and meteorological  
data (for 30 incidents in the 1950s in  
the USA), found no significant correl-  
ation between these elements (eg that  
a plane might be in the area but the  
meteorological conditions made ice ac-

cumulation quite improbable). McDonald  
could only plead for more research into  
the subject.

#### ADDLESTONE, SURREY - 1972.

We have the briefest note from a CP  
wire, that presumably a few days before  
the story's date, 28 September, lumps  
of ice were found in a garden in Addle-  
stone. They were green! It was assumed  
that they had fallen from an aircraft,  
probably from a toilet discharge. See  
Fort's Books for details of pre-aero-age  
falls of coloured ice! (Cr: W Ritchie  
Benedict.)

#### FULHAM, LONDON - 1975.

On 24 January, shoppers in the Fulham  
Road heard a loud crash, then had to  
run for cover as bricks and rubble  
rained down on them. Police found the  
roof of Mrs McKnight's home, in Fulham  
Court, smashed by a block of ice, the  
debris being hurled into the street  
below. No one was hurt but at least one  
car was damaged. Fulham Chronicle 31  
January 1975 (Cr: Dave Baldock.)

cont over/

#### THORPE CONSTANTINE, STAFFS - 1975.

Eric Cooper, 58, was walking his dog on a private road at Lonkill Farm, near Thorpe Constantine, when a 6lb chunk of ice whizzed from the sky to embed itself in the ground within yards of him. We presume this happened the day before our clipping, ie on 19 December. Eric said first he heard 'a terrible whizzing noise' and saw a white object flashing by at high speed. It was about 6ft in diameter and almost circular. As it came down at an angle, he saw three pieces break off, the largest landing near him making a hole a foot deep, the others landing about 50 yards away. The paper comments on the site being below the London-Manchester air corridor, but Eric doesn't mention seeing anything like a plane in the sky. (That doesn't mean there wasn't, of course!). The Civil Aviation Authority investigating the incident suggested that from the description of the size of the chunk, it might be 'a weather phenomenon' rather than a fall from a plane. Birmingham Evening Mail 20 December 1975 (Cr: David Sutton.)

#### TIMBERVILLE, VIRGINIA - 1976.

Most of our notes on icefalls are of single chunks, single ones that break up, or several lumps that come down at the same time - occasionally we hear of lumps that come down in the same place but at different times, the sort of item that had Fort back on his stationary-lands-above-the-earth tack. This happened when two blocks came down in the Virginian town of Timberville in the clear night of 7th March, with temperature in the mid-30s - later a third block was found about a mile away and assumed to have fallen with the first two.

That Sunday night, Wilbert Cullers and 2 others were watching TV, when at 8.45pm they were startled by a crash which shook the house. A lump of ice, 'about the size of a basketball', tore through a 2ft square thin metal roofing tile, and sheared a 4x2" roof strut, making two large holes in the plasterboard ceiling. Deputies from the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department arrived about 1 hour later and collected a 3 gallon bucketful of pieces of the murky ice. Sgt CR Hottinger described it as 'milky white, cold, and compressable in the hand.' A neighbour had been standing in his drive for about 3 minutes when he heard the impact ('like a muffled shotgun'). Then about 20 seconds later, he saw an object hit the roadway about 50yds away. He looked up and neither heard nor saw any plane. Hottinger described the object as broken pieces of ice 'like clear powder'.

A young girl living opposite had rushed out on hearing the first impact ('like a car crashed') and then heard a second noise. She said: 'I looked up and heard this whizzing sound come flying,' and saw the chunk of ice hit the edge of the road. The first neighbour is sure he heard no sound. The third block was found by a farmer about a mile away as he fed his chickens early the next day (Monday 8 March). He went back, read of the previous day's falls in his paper at breakfast, and became interested enough to go back and retrieve the 'fist-sized'



Wilbert Cullers examines part of the ice which came through his roof (Timberville)

chunk. It was just lying on the ground, curiously, with no fragments or dent below it. If it fell, it fell slowly or only a small distance!

I'll skip the analyses of the retrieved fragments. Sgt Hottinger's 'Offence' Report, and a letter from Dr RC Lehman, of the Physics Dept, East Mennonite College, Harrisonburg (which detailed tests and results) can be found in an article on the 'Timberville Ice Fall' by Paul Willis, in INFO Journal 19, p14ff. We collected our details from the Harrisonburg, Va, Daily News Record 8-10 March 1976 (Cr: Mark A Hall.)

It may be worth noting that the other main alternative theory by which icefalls are explained-away, is the notion that the stuff is debris from a passing comet's head. In the Timberville case it was touted equally with the plane-theory, but one person seems to have taken it seriously enough. In the Daily News Record 9 March, Dr Charles Tolbert, of University of Virginia, said cryptically: 'The comet on Monday morning could not have caused the ice. There's absolutely no way that any material from that comet could get anywhere near the earth.' Well apart from noting his belief in absolutes we hadn't heard of a comet ourselves, but it seems one was there. We can't say with any of the absolute certainty of Dr Tolbert whether the comet and the icefall were linked or not - it's enough to note the fact of their synchronous existence.

#### READING, BERKS - 1976

A lump of ice the 'size of a football' and many smaller pieces smashed through the roof of a house in Hartland Road, Reading, punching a hole through the bedroom ceiling below. At the same time another smashed on the roof of a nearby house in Exwick Square, hurling tiles and guttering into the garden. The time was between 8.30 and 9am 15 May. In both houses the families escaped without injuries, being shocked more by the sudden impact. At Exwick Sq, the Leavage family collected some of the pieces of cloudy ice and stored them in their freezer - there was enough to suggest a football-sized mass. At Hartland Rd, the Peppiatt family were all out at the time - neighbours, who put the incident nearer 8.30am, called Mr Peppiatt back from work. He reckons the damage to his roof and bedroom carpet (on which the mass melted with plaster and rubble to form a fine mess) would cost about £50. He found another piece of ice, about 6" diameter, in the garden and was keeping it in his fridge. Both families said they would wait until it was possible to establish the responsibility, then press

charges. It's our guess they'll wait a long time! Reading Evening Post 15 May 1976.

#### BELGIUM - 1976.

Henri Prémont sent us a clipping of the following letter, from a Mlle JJ Waterloos, from La Libre Belgique of 6 August 1976. The lady was playing tennis with a friend (unfortunately she doesn't say where) at 10.15am on 2nd August, when a mass of blue ice plummeted from the sky to shatter on the court. They guessed from the amount of ice that its original size must have been about that of a football. Apparently the meteorological office she contacted showed little interest, suggesting it fell from a plane. If any of our French or Belgian readers know more about this incident (or others) we'd be glad to hear from them.

#### ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX - 1977.

James Pluck, 77, suffering from chronic bronchitis, was just about to go back upstairs to bed after watching TV, at about 8.20pm on 2nd January. Suddenly a large piece of ice hit the roof of the house, at 402 High St, Ponders End, Enfield, smashing through the ceiling above his sickbed, hurling plaster, slates and rubble with jagged fragments of ice all over the front bedroom. Had he been in bed he would certainly have suffered injury, or worse! Mrs Clara Pluck, 75, who had a stroke only six months previously, thought there had been a gas-explosion. She stopped her husband, who was deaf (he heard nothing but must have felt the impact, as did the neighbours), and opened the bedroom door first to find the room wrecked. The ice-block was said to have measured (appx) 3ft long by 6-8" thick. Pieces could still be seen melting on their lawn two days later.

A spokesman for Heathrow airport said incidents are rare, and that he'd not heard of any since January 1976 (which is one that is not on our files - details anyone?). A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority curtly pointed out the 'impossibility' of proving the ice came from a particular plane, and - get this! - said it was 'up to the householder to get in touch with the airline concerned.' Since the CAA can't, or won't (the effect is the same) identify the airline, no one has a hope in hell of collecting any compensation. But this is academic as we don't think the phenomenon has much to do with planes anyway. I'm just amazed to see the spectacle of public authorities scrambling to clear themselves of hypothetical

Icefalls cont...

culpability, while no one gives a damn for the confused victims of an accident of nature. Wolverhampton, Staffs, Express & Star 3 January 1977 (Cr: Frank Adey); Enfield Gazette 6 January 1977 (Cr: Eric Charge).

Mrs Pluck's reference to gas-explosions sounded familiar - so we back-checked, and sure enough, this incident comes at the peak of the series of mystery explosions that were blamed on natural gas leakage, at the turn of the year (see FT20/3-5). One other observation we have is more hypothetical. We

remember that Fort established a second focus for poltergeist phenomena (after the main adolescent link), around the sick or dying...and that there is a major overlap area between falls of material and poltergeist phenomena (see likely sections of Phenomena).

NORRKOPING, SWEDEN - 1977.

Having taken a risk and used one of Frank Edwards' innumerable stories which lack enough references to check on, in the 'Missiles from the Upper Regions' section of Phenomena, I'm somewhat encouraged by a more modern and similar ►

# WORDS FROM THE WIZARD

by DOC SHIELS

During the past 23 months, involved as I have been...with the Loch Ness Monster, sea-serpents, UFOs, telepathy, telekinesis, the Owlman of Mawnan, the little people, wizardry, witchcraft, ownership of the Entire Universe, Mr Punch and Ken Campbell...I have learned a thing or two about...er...phenomena. Take note, friendly Fortean, while I spill a few beans, state facts and ask some questions. Remember I'm a wizard, but you don't have to believe everything I say. Let's concentrate on Nessie for now.

Right...here goes...straight in the deep end of the loch. Monster hunting by means of wizardry is far more genuinely scientific than, say, the Academy of Applied Science approach to the game. Wizards have always been pretty good with dragons; and dragons really do guard hoards of treasure.

From that little group of facts I'll jump to another. Did you know that telekinesis, in various forms, plays a very important part in monster spotting, raising, cosmic, hunting, filming and so on? Cameras often get fouled up because of this...and camera fouling is closely related to psychic metal-bending. Think about it. Cameras are magical devices, so are tape recorders.

The famous Loch Ness Hoodoo is a mixture of telekinesis, cosmic jokery, and psychic backlash. Most successful monster spotters are natural psychics, and those few who manage to obtain photographs of Nessie usually find themselves, or their cameras, on the receiving end of the backlash. Take a couple of the better known examples. Only one of Hugh Gray's 1933 photographs of Nessie came out. He actually snapped

EPSOM, SURREY - 1977.

John Barker, of 50 Albert Rd, Epsom, was just leaving for work on the morning of 29 July, when a block of ice crashed through his garage roof and damaged the back of his car. Its mass was estimated as 4 cubic feet - the largest piece, 1ft long and 2" thick, was found in a large pool of water. The Sun 1 July 1977; and the coincidentally named Surrey Comet 2 July 1977 (Cr: John Rimmer.)

\*\*\* We have accumulated quite a few notes on falls of frogs and other animals and hope to give you these next issue.

incident. In Strangest of All (Ace, 1962) p150, Edwards tells of the West German carpenter, skewered while on a roof, by a 6ft spear of ice from the sky! Well...

it seems that on 22 January 1977, a woman in Norrköping was leaving a block of flats as the roof was being cleared of ice and snow. She was hit by the falling icicle and died instantly. Not really an icefall of great mystery, but I thought you connoisseurs of the bizarre would appreciate that! Daily Telegraph 22 January 1977. (Cr: Mrs V Martin).

five, but four were blank. R K Wilson's classic 1934 portrait of the monster was snapped on All Fool's Day...and two of the surgeon's four shots were blank. Why? It's that old blank backlash!

An air of mystery surrounds so many of the Loch Ness photographs and films. Why should Nick Witchell think that the F C Adams 1934 photograph of Nessie was, in fact, taken by Dr James Lee? Why...in spite of all the details he gave to Ted Holiday...should Alastair Dallas now insist that the McRae film of the monster never existed? Why will not Dr Maurice Burton allow the Nessie film, shot by G E Taylor in 1938, to be shown?

You know, it's funny that Dr Burton's daughter, Jane, should have provided the cine camera with which Tim Dinsdale shot his amazing film of the beastie, in 1960... while Dr Burton was completing his book, The Elusive Monster, which attacks Nessie and her supporters quite heavily. Here's a nice little Fortean fact or two concerning Jane Burton and her camera...a Bolex H.16...I almost borrowed that very same camera a couple of years before Tim shot his film. I used to know Jane Burton quite well, I was at college with her for a while, and I actually handled the camera. In 1958 I visited Loch Ness for the first time (without a movie camera as it happens!), after reading Constance Whyte's More Than a Legend. I didn't see Nessie, but a sighting was reported, by Mr and Mrs Hugh Rowland, while I was there. The only camera I had with me, on that trip, was an old Rollei...the same one I used to capture Morgawr on film, in

1976. The last time I saw Jane was in 1959, in Cornwall, when she stayed at a cottage near Trencrom Hill...a part of Penwith famous for its witches. Well, it could all add up to something, I'm not sure what, exactly, but it's amusing to consider that I may, just possibly, have had some kind of influence on Jane Burton's camera!

Sky-clad witches make excellent monster bait...they attract newspaper men too. Luckily, I know a few witches.

But let's jump back to the backlash problem. Monster raising can cause illness. This happened to several members of my 'Monstermind' team, and I know it happened to such stalwart hunters as Tim Dinsdale and Ted Holiday. Why? The simple answer is that, in all things magical, you pay for what you get. The very best protection against this disturbing type of psychic backlash is humour. The protection, in turn, has to be paid for. So, although my humorous wizardry is successful, it is not taken too seriously by the monster hunting establishment. Imagine anyone refusing to take humour or magic seriously!

My 1977 photographs of Nessie have had some adventures, all part of the cosmic trickster's game. My original No. 1 colour slide went astray for days on end at the 'Daily Record' offices in Glasgow. Other photographs, from the same strip of film, vanished entirely after being inspected by the picture editor, Martin Gilfeather. My original No. 2 slide somehow escaped from its carefully sealed envelope somewhere between Cornwall and

Boston, Mass., USA. The only direct, negative, monochrome, glass copy-plate made from that slide (by David Benchley of Cornish Photo-news) was accidentally dropped and broken (by me!) just a few days ago. It's a disturbing fact that hardly any of the original negatives of the better known Loch Ness Monster photographs, taken since 1933, have survived. Nessie pix are supernaturally accident-prone!

I wonder if the same sort of psychic jinx is responsible for the rapid sinking of that full-scale model of the monster in 'The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes'...the film, I mean. Then there's the expensive bad luck which has dogged the making of David Frost's multi-million dollar epic 'Nessie'. And did I tell you about Distant Humps?

Let me give you a few personal opinions concerning the nature of Nessie. First of all, I think she is closely related to sea-serpents of the Morgawr type; and, if she is truly organic, she is not an amphibian, nor is she a mammal. She could be a fish...or some kind of invertebrate...or a plesiosaur. She certainly looks like a plesiosaur; and, if we accept paleontologist Adrian Desmond's ideas concerning the hot-blooded dinosaurs, many of the arguments against a family of plesiosaurian monsters in Loch Ness can be dismissed. I think Nessie is a dragon...a dragon that looks something like a plesiosaur...but what is a dragon?

The Irish 'horse eel' is a kind of dragon, so is the Highland Scottish 'water horse'. Is the dragon, then, a sort of horse? It all depends what you mean by 'horse'. Look at the Uffington White Horse...370 feet long, cut in the chalk of the hillside. A small, beaked head with horns...a long neck, body and tail...and what about those rear flippers? Yes, I think Nessie is a dragon. I also think it's quite possible that she may not, after all, be an organic entity, a solid, flesh and blood creature. There's nothing original about these thoughts, I know, but that doesn't matter. What does matter is the fact that dragons can be seen and photographed in Loch Ness.

Don't forget that the word 'monster' is derived from the Latin monstrum, a marvel or omen. How monstrously, marvellously ominous!

There's something very weird in that Loch.

The man who has probably come closest, without prejudice, to solving the great mystery of Loch Ness and its dragons is Ted Holiday. He hasn't arrived at any firm conclusions, as yet, but he has probed the enigma more deeply than any other researcher. Holiday's intelligent and stylish writings on the subject have been treated with scorn by some of the self-styled Nessie 'experts'. A typical example of this pompous, blinkered criticism is to be found in Peter Costello's 'In Search of Lake Monsters'. Costello seems irritated by the fact that Holiday's book on the Great Orm received excellent reviews...and not just from the 'Milwaukee Journal'! Because he has dared to suggest that Nessie could be, somehow, 'supernatural', Ted Holiday has had to put up with quite a lot of that very prejudiced style of criticism. It's just another form of backlash. Don't let it bother you, Ted!

Another man who has come close to cracking the Loch Ness puzzle is, of course, Tim Dinsdale. Personally, I think Tim is a wee bit too easily impressed by the respectable scientists involved in the monster hunt. "Respectable" is, perhaps, the key word here...Tim seems so very keen that Nessie should become respectable. Although he knows that weird, unexplainable, paranormal things happen at Loch Ness, Tim is careful not to say much about them in his books. Eventually, I'd like to see an account of Tim Dinsdale's more supernatural adventures. I'm sure Professor Challenger would approve. Stay psychic, Tim!

I think I'll round off these ramblings with a few predictions: important new movie film of the Loch Ness Monster will be shown to the public within the next twelve months. Nessie will be seen and possibly photographed by a well-known showbiz personality. A previously unpublished photograph of the beastie, taken years ago, will be released in 1978. A direct connection between the monster and psychic phenomena will be demonstrated.

I really wanted to say a lot more about those naked witches. Perhaps some other time...keep watching the waters!

Doc Shiels, Sept '77.

# FORTEAN FUNNIES

HUNT  
EMERSON  
+  
STEVE  
MOORE

MAYHAP MAD  
MELANICUS MAKES  
MERRY WITH  
MERE MORTALS  
ONCE MORE!

AND WHO IS THE VICTIM OF  
THIS UNCOMMON JEST?  
YOU GUESSED....

NICKA-NOK  
NCO  
TWENTY THREE  
SKIDOO!

HACK!  
THE  
POSTMAN!

THE  
BIG  
BOOK OF  
EVERYTHING

GREAT  
HEAVING HIPPOGRIPHS!  
A WHOLE BUNCHA  
DATA ON THE  
NUMBER 23!!

I MUST FIND  
THE SECRET  
OF THE  
MYSTIC 23!

MIXES  
FOR  
MAGIC!

EARTH  
SPIRIT  
700%

"5 IS THE CHINESE  
NUMBER FOR EARTH,  
AND THE CENTRE OF  
THE MAGIC SQUARE OF  
3! THUS, ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup>  
MAGICK INVADERS THE  
EARTH...  
COR!"

AND THE  
DATE TODAY  
IS... EGAD!

23<sup>RD</sup>

MEANWHILE, IN THE COSMIC JUG-SHOP...

LOOKS LIKE HE'S FOUND SOMETHING TO DO ON CHILLY NIGHTS!

\* BETTER THE COLD BLAST OF WINTER THAN THE HOT BREATH OF A PURSUING ELEPHANT

OLE UNCLE CHARLEY

OLE UNCLE CALO

JUST A NORMAL DAY - zho-humé

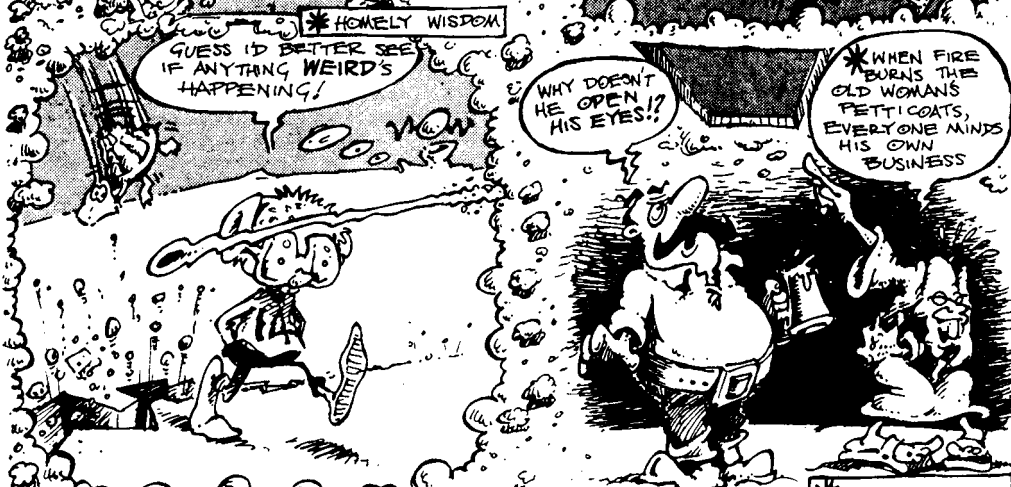


\* HOMELY WISDOM

GUESS I'D BETTER SEE IF ANYTHING WEIRD'S HAPPENING!

WHY DOESN'T HE OPEN HIS EYES!?

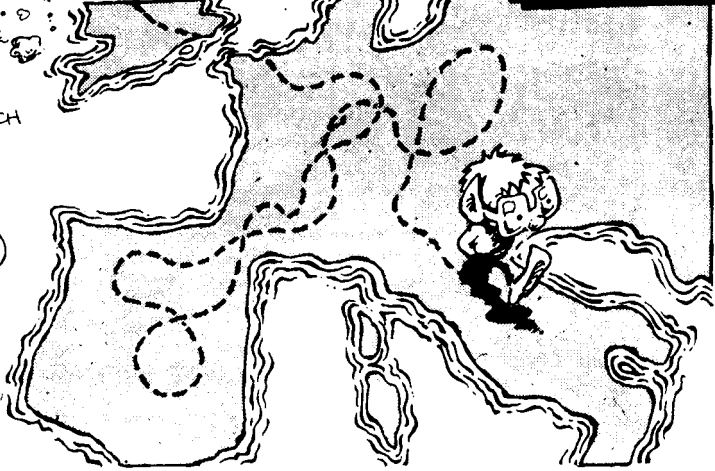
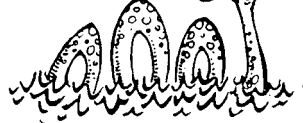
\* WHEN FIRE BURNS THE OLD WOMAN'S FETTI COATS, EVERYONE MINDS HIS OWN BUSINESS



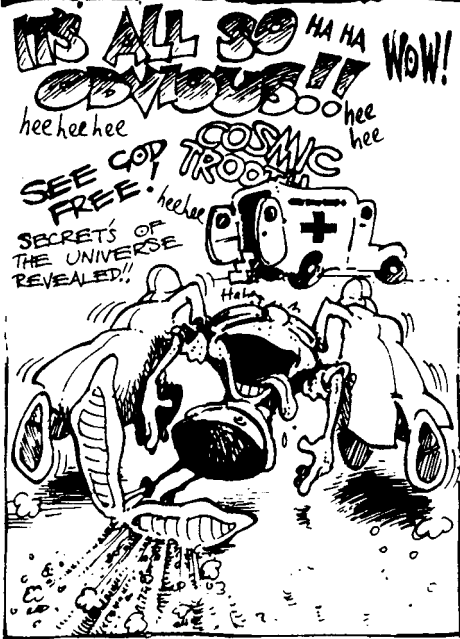
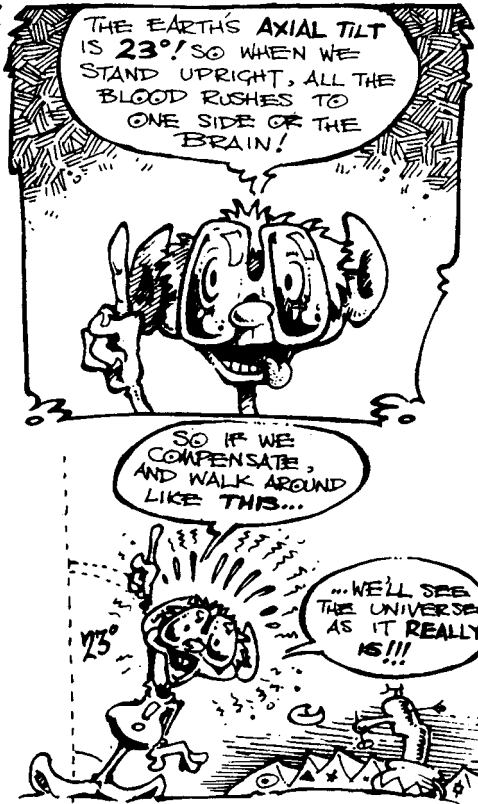
\* OBSCURE WISDOM

AND SO, FOR 23 DAYS, OUR HERO WANDERS IN SEARCH OF THE MEANING OF THE MYSTIC NUMBERS!

Despite a wildly inaccurate map, he eventually reaches Italy.









=forfeana  
Corrigenda=  
AA



#### FIRE FROM HEAVEN - A Critique

Recently Pan reprinted Michael Harrison's study of spontaneous combustion, Fire From Heaven, in paperback\*. Flicking through it to see what was new (it says 'revised edition'), I was somewhat surprised to see my name in the index. I turned to the pages referred to wondering if I had spontaneously combusted without knowing it, and had been wandering for some time as a shade - but no! It was an incorporation into the new edition of Harrison's reaction to my critique of the first edition (see FT16/24-26). Ignoring most of my comments for and against his data, ideas and style, he chose to pick up on my criticism of his theory that the three sites of Russell's famous 3-in-1 burning were linked by the initial letter and sound 'U' (Upton-by-Chester, SS Ulrich, and Ubbergen), and that (according to Harrison) at the times of their ignitions each man (in turn, George Turner, John Greeley, and Willem ten Bruik) formed apexes of a giant triangle, the last two being 'exactly' (Harrison states) 340 miles from Turner at Upton. Harrison shrugs off my doubts that the 'U' sound in each case was pronounced precisely the same (necessary for his vibration theory), and calls my suggestion of several other name/sound similarities (ie names of SHC victims & authorities, but people involved one way or the other in the SHC controversy) 'sarcastic'. Fair enough - he even gets his own back by including one of my spelling mistakes in the quote he uses. But I'm sorry that my suggestion that a more substantial connexion could have been made with each victim being at the control of a vehicle at the fatal time (Turner in his lorry, ten Bruik in his Volkswagen, and Greeley at the helm of the Ulrich) has been ignored entirely. Nevermind; the whole triple case does not exist in fact, and our arguments are quite academic.

Some time ago I tried to locate the SS Ulrich in the Lloyds Register for

1938. It was not there; nor in the year before or after; nor was there any ship of that name in that period. I was about to check out the other two stories of this triplet, when friend and colleague Robert Schadewald told me that it had been done, by Philip Klass in his book UFOs: Explained, ch 14 'UFOs as Brutal Killers' (pp134-7). Now the story as it is told in the later accounts insists that Greeley burnt at 1.14pm on 7 April 1938, Turner at 2.14pm, and ten Bruik at 3.15pm; and that adjusting for timezone differences showed that in fact they all occurred exactly at the same time! This is a glaring error - there are no time zone differences between the sea south of Ireland and the coast of Holland. Klass also could not find any record of the SS Ulrich, even enlisting the aid of the public information office at the US Maritime Administration HQ in Washington. He wrote to the police at Nijmegen, and was informed by a Mr F Perrick that the records for 1938 were lost in the war - in any case the foundation for the first Volkswagen factory was not laid by Hitler until May 1938, one month after ten Bruik is alleged to have been crisped in a Volkswagen. (VWs, Perrick said; were not on the roads publicly until 1947, 9 years later!) Klass also wrote to the police at Upton-by-Chester, who in turn enlisted the help of the Cheshire Observer backfiles. There was no record of a lorry fire in which George Turner died - the nearest they could find was at 5pm on 4 April when an Edgar Beattie's truck burst into flames as it hit a bridge. A named witness tried to rescue him, but the flames in the cab made it impossible. (So much for the detail of the unignited petrol beside the cindered Turner!) If the triple fire-death was an invention, whose?

The story has always been credited to Eric Frank Russell, but in his first book Great World Mysteries (Dobson 1957) he gives the Dutch story (with ten Bruik unnamed), and the Turner case, quite

unconnected. Curiously, in an article Russell did for Pate (March 1955) on all the fire-deaths he found for the year 1938, these two cases are next to each other, though he admits that the ten Bruik case came to him as a translation from an unnamed Dutch paper. (In GW Mysteries, he dates this source as 1941.) I can only imagine that he did not think a mere month and year link between the two cases strong enough to mention in his book! By the time his close friend and colleague Vincent Gaddis brought out his celebrated pioneering study, Mysterious Fires and Lights (1967),

the triple-fire death story was fully fledged. The finger of blame for this invention hovers around the years just prior to Gaddis's book, and the only candidate to emerge so far is an article on SHC by Michael McDougall in the Newark, New Jersey, Sunday Star-Ledger 13 March 1966, the author of the 'three fingers of fire' quote.

I've dwelt on this case because it is an important one in the case of many modern writers trying to make a sensational case for SHC, and it shows the importance and necessity for any Fortean researcher to make the effort to get back to the original testimony. This is the only way that the many erroneous and invented incidents in circulation today can be discovered. Go to the primary sources and the deadwood, redherrings and confusing cross-arguments just vanish away. It is unfortunate that Harrison has fallen into error by relying on secondary sources (by taking cases at face value from Gaddis, say). This is the risk that faces us all if we don't check. Readers have to trust their authors, but an author should be careful whom he trusts blindly. In correspondence with some other first-class Fortean researchers, numerous errors have come to light in the works of Frank Edwards, John Macklin, EF Russell, Vincent Gaddis and some other more commercial writers. Now these authors did have some genuine interest in the subjects, and most of their material is soundly based. I prefer to believe that any errors or distortions arose because their own trust was betrayed under conditions which did not always allow them to check. Much of the errors which had sensational implications for the UFO field, say, were picked up and popularized by writers like Brad Steiger; the same goes for the Bermuda Triangle and Ancient Astronaut fields.

Harrison presents a different (and difficult) case. His book contains a wealth of serious and original material, in fact so much so that I can't under-

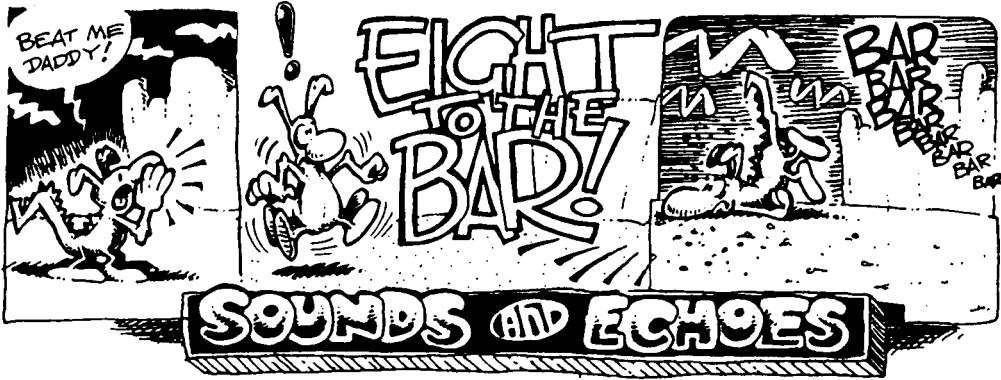
stand why he had to use sensational cases that he hadn't checked. (All the sources for the triple fire case could be found in the British Library, at Bloomsbury and Colindale, and in some books still available.) But there is another cause for concern. As I pointed out in my first critique, Harrison must have had a copy of the original source of the Phyllis Newcombe story in front of him to write most of the details he put in (in the first edition as 'note to p103' on p223, incorporated into (coincidentally) p103 in the paperback) yet here he is still insisting that the poor girl 'glowed with blue flames' as she danced, and was 'within minutes a blackened mass of ash', and that her boyfriend was 'fatally' burned trying to extinguish her with his hands. I tried to draw attention to the fact that according to the only testimony we have (the Daily Telegraph 20 Sept 1938, which Harrison uses) the girl survived to die in hospital about an hour later, not on the ballroom floor instantly. Nor is there any mention of the boyfriend attempts to help or hypothetical injuries. Harrison saw my criticism and saw fit not to correct his error. That disturbs me.

I have nothing against Harrison, nor indeed his arguments (and I was absorbed by the book, despite his verbose style), nor against the other authors I've mentioned (as their works served to attract me and many others to these studies). But here we are not necessarily concerned with earning respectability, but with the furtherance of serious and useful Fortean studies, so it is imperative to locate false cases upon which much valuable time has been wasted (as many researchers could tell you. Larry F Arnold, author of our current series of SHC articles, has devoted considerable library hours to these very problems, and apart from independently confirming my own findings (and those of Klass, in the triple fire case) points out a few more errors in Fire from Heaven. We give them here, not in a spirit of vendetta, but to help save some benighted researcher wasting half his life in vain pursuit up blind alleys. (Page numbers in brackets are from the current Pan paperback; others are from the hardback which has the same pagination for the USA edition).

17(15) In all his researches Larry has not come across the term 'Auto-Oxidation' that Harrison says is in current use in the USA in place of 'SHC'.

28(35) SHC and 'Preternatural Combustibility' are not the same! Dr Lester Adelson, a Cleveland pathologist who doesn't





### BOOM TIME

From the Press point of view, the controversy late last year over the mystery aerial booms heard all over southern England, is a dead duck. In one of the most brilliant displays we have seen for several years, of the public authorities and assorted scientists thinking aloud in public, the strange double-thump was finally pinned on the late evening flight of Concorde as it passed over the English Channel on its way out over the Atlantic to Washington. The reports from the period between August and December 1976 were summarized in FT 19/21f.

### MEANWHILE...

Back in England the Concorde controversy continued. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State concerned with aviation acknowledged in a letter to John Pardoe, MP for North Cornwall (published in Cornish & Devon Post 8 January 1977; Cr: Nigel Watson) that some of the mystery booms were indeed coincident with some British & French Concorde flights (they both use the same route from the Channel out); he also pointed out that their flight plan called for sub-sonic speeds over land, and that according to tests and calculations only the faintest of rumbles should reach listeners on the coast as the plane went supersonic over the Channel. Then the Bristol University 'Boomwatch' team, who had been on the problem now for about 5 months, pinned most of the blame for the 9pm series of noises on the incoming Air France flight. Daily Mail 25 January 1977 (Cr: Peter Hope-Evans) Sensing disaster, the Under Secretary of State (for evasion of responsibility?) says that now the aircraft is in service liability for damages lies with the airlines. Daily Mail 31 January 1977. Sure enough, within a month we begin to get a whiff of some claims - Torbay Towns Herald Express 25 February

1977 (Cr: Ian Lawes): that damage to 2 North Cornwall cottages is blamed on the 9pm booms...Dept of Environment investigating.

The booms have been heard as far West as Hastings, and as far North as Oxford and Reading. Two of our readers wrote saying that they heard them even further afield. John Hitchens, of Petworth, Sussex, has been hearing the noises since the Autumn of 1976, and friends in the area say they have heard them about 6 and 7pm, besides the main one at between 9.12-9.14pm (often through the 2ft stone walls of his house and the noise of his recordplayer. He mentions that, like the man from Porlock who has been hearing booms for the last 20 years (FT 19/22f), he too was brought up to hear the 'Big Guns' booming 'for the last 20-30 years'. John believes that this noise comes from the military ranges on the Portsmouth downs, about 30 miles to the SW. The 'Concorde' shudder is similar, but stronger.

Alan Price, on the other hand, has a house in Cardiff with good views towards Weston-super-Mare and the Somerset hills. He says that 'Three times in the last ten days I have heard a bump followed by the rattling of windows (at) 8.55pm.' He says this is quite distinguishable from blasting in the nearby quarries, which is usually early afternoon, though the effects on the windows are similar.

### ALL CLEAR...

The Bristol 'Boomwatch' finally announced their findings after sifting nearly 600 reports from witnesses. It was, they say, the refraction of sound waves caused by wind and temperature gradients in the upper stratosphere. The same effect, they boldly pronounce, allowed Samuel Pepys in London, in 1666, to hear an English vs Dutch battle in the Channel, whilst the residents of Dover and Deal heard nothing. Similarly, they

say it explains why shelling in France in the WW1 could be heard in Kent, while soldiers nearer the action heard nothing. Ingenious! We'll accept that it is one solution, but not conclusively the solution. That's being scientific!

Ingenious! What about the 10am, 6.30, 7 and 8pm booms; and the places where the noise was only heard about once a week; or why there should be such timing discrepancies (assuming witnesses had an accurate timecheck) so that it could be heard in Cardiff, say, up to 20 minutes before Devon and Cornwall? And what about the times the booms were heard when no Concorde was airborne? And why did not similar effects occur on the European leg of the other Concorde route, to Bahrain? And what (perhaps the biggest what of all) about the great mystery booms of pre-aviation (eg the 'Barisal Guns', the Mackimoodus of East Haddam in Connecticut, and many other aerial sounds recorded by Fort?

And what about this - mystery booms in the USA at the height of the series in England? One was particularly noted at 2pm, 27 December 1976, when a loud boom rattled windows in the Grand Rapids area of Michigan. Dick Wheaton, control tower chief at Kent County Airport, expressed the general opinion that it was not a ground explosion, but like a sonic boom in the air. Attempts to locate the offending aircraft failed, and being America, the usual mutterings about secret military projects could be heard. Grand Rapids Press 28 December 1976 (Cr: Dave Fideler.)

The Bristol report appeared in the national papers on 5 Feb 1977 (Cr: Mrs V Martin, P Hope-Evans), and that, you would have thought, was that...unless you're a Fortean.

Cambridge Evening News 19 March 1977: that near the famous Cambridgeshire site at Wandlebury, 'a rumbling sound like distant thunder' can be heard regularly each evening at 9.20pm, according to at least one man living nearby. He says pheasants start up seconds before the 'rippling thud' hits his house and rattles the windows. He thinks it's Concorde. A member of the Bristol team cautiously agrees, expressing surprise that it could be heard in Cambridgeshire. We express our surprise at the lack of reports from elsewhere, especially those

boom-ridden places - or is it that the reporting has largely stopped because news-editors are bored with the story, now that the scientists have spoken? Curiously, the warden at Wandlebury, Mr Bill Clarke, says he's never heard the noise! (Cr: JP Kain.)

Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph 9 June 1977: that bangs, loud enough to shake houses in Messingham Rd, Scunthorpe, have been reported occurring at irregular intervals. Cause unknown. (Cr: Nigel Watson.)

The phenomenon continues!

#### SOME OBSERVATIONS

If not Concorde, then what? We don't know, but as connoisseurs of explanations we could mention a few situations in which a rolling thunder or boom or aerial detonation has occurred with other phenomena (which may or may not be connected, naturally!).

On FT19/22, we observed (Steve Moore did, actually) that the Winchester and environs series of Close Encounters was happening in the area of the booms and during its main build-up. These events featured several ambushes of Mrs Joyce Bowles by pink-eyed silver-suited entities (see FT21/32). This period also saw many reports of aerial lights (some call them UFOs) in Southern England and in South Wales (where schoolchildren saw a flying machine and occupant - see FSR 23:1/5). Now we don't wish to flog a UFO hypothesis for the Boom's origins, but to stir memories of the many cases where aerial lights coincided with aerial detonations, and tremors. Odd aerial sounds, or rather booms that shake houses etc, have been reported in the mystery quake area of Stoke-on-Trent (see FT16/6f). We remember the weird event at Llandrillo on 23 January 1974, when there were mysterious aerial booms and rumblings that shook houses in North Wales. The evidence for a tremor was slight - and some reports of aerial lights supported a meteor hypothesis. What boggled everybody was the odds-on coincidence of a quake and a meteor at the same site and time. There's no connexion according to current scientific notions. (see The News 4/4; & 5/10f).

And while following up some of Fort's references for the 'revised Fort' planned by X and your editor, another example presents itself - the great Hereford quake of 17 December 1896, which according to much reliable testimony, was preceded firstly by a strange red glow in the sky like a flash of red flame, and secondly by a peculiar double concussion felt by witnesses to be in the air (as distinct from the quake shock which came through the ground). Whether the flash was a meteor or not (as many thought it was), authorities like Charles Davison were firm on there being no possible connexion between it and the quake - the timing was a monumental coincidence! Now here's the interesting bit: according to

authoritative records all evidence of the quake was minimal. Birmingham was shaken, yet nothing was recorded at the Observatory on their seismometers; no traces on the magnetograph at Stonyhurst; and nothing on the Greenwich reflecting (earth current) galvanometer. The next day, the Astronomer Royal said only two tiny marks could be found for that time, 5.30am. GP Yeats (author of Observations on the Earthquake of December 17, 1896), concluded the quake happened in the air not in the ground! Similar aerial effects happened during the great quake of 1884 in Essex, he said. Fort gives others: cannonading in the air during the quakes at Comrie, Scotland (Books p404) for example. But, and most damning, many accounts of artillery-like sounds in the skies of England, Wales, New Zealand, America in the 19th century - see New Lands ch15 (Books p403ff). There's more too, but we'll call it quits.

#### MYSTERY BOOMS - 1974

Hamm, just discovered an unpublished boom-flap from 1974, in the files. It seems that shortly before 3.15am on 20 March 1974, a loud booming was heard in the air in the area surrounding San Francisco, California. Civil and military authorities said no planes of theirs could have caused it and there was no recorded seismological activity. San Francisco Examiner 20 March; San Francisco Chronicle 21 March 1974 (Cr: Loren Coleman.)

Then just 3 months later a series of phantom-tremors, house-rattlings and aerial booms jounced a 70 mile area around Los Angeles, from Camarillo to Whittier and the coast. Civil and military aircraft were once more cleared. Nor was there any evidence of quakes. A spokesman for the Caltech Seismological Laboratory said a similar phenomenon occurred in the same area in January 1930. This latter incident prompted the seismologist Charles Richter (the same), to postulate the notion of 'pseudoseisms', caused by distant sounds refracted from the stratosphere through air layers of different speeds and temperatures. (Look to your laurels, 'Boom-watch'). However, the theory presents the same difficulty as its modern counterpart, 'Concorde': the armed forces say there was no gunfire anywhere to refract! Par for the course! San Francisco Examiner 22 June 1974 (Cr: Loren Coleman.) These sounds were heard several times through 20 & 21 June 1974.

Four months later, on 23 October, a wide area around Grimsby, Cleethorpes, and surrounding villages in Lincolnshire,

were severely shaken by a 'heavy bang'. The local police switchboard was so jammed with callers trying to find out what had happened, that, they said, had there been 'a real emergency' the essential rescue services would have been badly hampered. Inquiries eliminated explosions on the ground & sonic booms from aircraft. It remains a mystery. One clue, for what it's worth, is that the boom was heard as far away as Binbrook, the site of several of Fort's more horrifying poltergeist/fires/SHC/animal-ripping stories. Curiously, the third part of Larry Arnold's 'Fire Leynes' will be concentrating on this very area next issue. In our case, the RAF station at Binbrook denied that any of their planes caused the noise. Story from Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph 25 October 1974 (Cr: Nigel Watson.)

And lastly, in our 1974 series, we learn that the Bedfordshire village of Caddington was rocked by noises 'like cannonfire or muffled thuds' which rattled windows and frightened children. They began about 6pm and sometimes continued until midnight - but we have no information about when this started or when it ceased that year. Certainly no one recalled it (in the press) during the 1977 'Concorde' boomflap. Perhaps one of our readers could check on this for us? Anyway it seems that inquiries into the sound's origin failed, and as there seemed no danger or damage, even the police inquiry dropped after a while. The Sun 4 November 1974 (Cr: Phil Ledger)

#### A PLANETARY POLTERGEIST?

Here's another hypothesis. We are struck by the similarity of outdoor aerial sounds with those heard in the air, walls and even furniture during so-called poltergeist infestations. Some day we must tell you about Calvados Castle (if you don't already know) which suffered such severe shakings and impacts against its walls that the terrified occupants could only imagine something the size of a battleship was out there invisibly battering. And yet there is an anomaly, typical of poltergeist cases, which occurs similarly in our mystery booms cases linked to supposed quakes - that despite the real shakings of houses etc, there is very little seismological evidence. An air-quake (or pseudoseism, if you will) could achieve this effect by transmitting some of its shock through buildings etc into the ground, faintly. We know of one case in the far East (can't find the reference right now) in which the terrified occupant fled his house which, by the severity of the blows upon

cont on p35/

...and now, on p32 (which is 23 backwards, of course, we are pleased to have Bob Wilson's account of his interest in the '23 phenomenon' he incorporated into the Illuminatus! trilogy. By way of introduction, we'd just like to throw in a couple of data that came our way recently. One mentions a devastating fire that wiped out the 23rd floor of the Red Road tower block, Glasgow, in which one boy died. It was said to be Europe's tallest block of flats. Daily Express 30 August 1977. Secondly, a story believed by many Indians to have been an omen of the downfall of Mrs Indira Gandhi. On 20th February 1977, her grandson, Rahul, hugged her as she was about to set out on her most critical election tour. Her favorite necklace snapped spilling beads on the floor - it was a 'rudraksha mala', given to her and consecrated by the modern saint Anandamayi Ma. Mrs Gandhi, says the Amrita Bazar Patrika 21 Sept 1977, 'knew it was not an accident'. She searched frantically, retrieved all but 4, and restrung them - but the mala was now reduced to 23 beads. Its power as a charm seems to have ended, or Mrs Gandhi's belief in its protection ended; same effect! She wore it, but finally put it away on 2nd March, since when her fortunes (& those of her powerful family) steadily declined, until losing the election ended her dreams of founding a dynasty. (Cr: Ion A Will.)

## THE 23 PHENOMENON



by ROBERT A WILSON

I first heard of the 23 enigma from William S Burroughs, the distinguished author of Naked Lunch, Nova Express, etc. According to Burroughs, he had known a certain Captain Clark, around 1960 in Tangier, who once bragged that he had been sailing 23 years without an accident. That very day, Clark's ship had an accident which killed him and everybody else aboard. Furthermore, while Burroughs was thinking about this crude example of the irony of the gods that evening, a bulletin on the radio announced the crash of an airliner in Florida, USA. The pilot was another Captain Clark and the flight was Flight 23.

Burroughs began collecting odd 23s after this gruesome synchronicity, and after 1965 I began collecting them also. Many of my weird 23s were incorporated into the trilogy, Illuminatus!, which I wrote

in collaboration with Robert J Shea in 1969-1971, and I will mention only a few of them here, to give the flavour of the thing to those benighted souls who haven't read Illuminatus yet:

In conception, Mom and Dad each contribute 23 chromosomes to the foetus. DNA, the carrier of the genetic information, has bonding irregularities every 23rd Angstrom. Aleister Crowley, in his Cabalistic Dictionary, defines 23 as the number of "life" or "a thread", hauntingly suggestive of the DNA life-script. On the other hand, 23 has many links with termination: in telegraphers' code, 23 means "bust" or "break the line", and Hexagram 23 in I Ching means "breaking apart". Sidney Carton is the 23rd man guillotined in the old stage productions of A Tale of Two Cities (A few lexicographers believe this is the origin of the mysterious slang exp-



ression "23 Skiddoo!"). \*

Some people are clusters of bloody synchronicities in 23. Burroughs discovered that the bootlegger "Dutch Schultz" (real name: Arthur Flegenheimer) had Vincent "Mad Dog" Coll assassinated on 23rd Street in New York when Coll was 23 years old. Schultz himself was assassinated on October 23rd. Looking further into the Dutch Schultz case, I found that Charlie Workman, the man convicted of shooting Schultz, served 23 years of a life sentence and was then paroled.

Prof. Hans Seisel of the University of Chicago passed the following along to Arthur Koestler, who published it in The Challenge of Chance. Seisel's grandparents had a 23 in their address, his mother had 23 both as street number and apartment number, Seisel himself once had 23 as both his home address and his law office address, etc. While visiting Monte Carlo, Seisel's mother read a novel, Die Liebe der Jeannie Ney, in which the heroine wins a great deal by betting on 23 at roulette. Mother tried betting on 23 and it came up on the second try.

Adolph Hitler was initiated into the Vril Society (which many consider a front for the Illuminati) in 1923. The Morgan Bank (which is regarded as the financial backer of the Illuminati by the John Birch Society) is at 23 Wall Street in Manhattan. When Illuminatus was turned into a play, it premiered in Liverpool on November 23rd (which is also Harpo Marx's birthday). Ken Campbell, producer of Illuminatus, later found, on page 223 of Jung's Memories, Dreams, Reflections, a weird dream about Liverpool, which Campbell says describes the street intersection of the theatre where Illuminatus opened (Jung, of course, was the first psychologist to study weird coincidences of this sort and to name them synchronicities). Campbell also claims Hitler lived briefly in Liverpool when he was 23 years old, but I haven't seen the reference for that personally.

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\* Eric Partridge's Dictionary of Catch Phrases (RKP 1977, p228) dates this theory back to Henry Miller's dramatization of 'Tale of Two Cities', in 1899. He also gives some other interesting theories. Cr: Peter Hope-Evans). - Ed.

Recently, I was invited to join an expedition to the Bermuda Triangle. I declined because of other commitments, but "the crew that never rests" (Sir Walter Scott's name for the Intelligence - or idiocies - who keep pestering us with this kind of phenomena) refused to let me off the hook that easily. A few days after the expedition left, I turned on the television and caught an advertisement for the new film, Airport 77. The advertisement began with an actor playing a control tower operator, shouting "Flight 23 is down in the Bermuda Triangle!"

A week later, Charles Berlitz, author of The Bermuda Triangle, claimed he had found a submerged pyramid "twice the size of the pyramid of Cheops" in the waters down there. You will find that monstrous edifice described in Illuminatus, and it is specifically said to be "twice the size of the pyramid of Cheops" - but Shea and I thought we were writing fiction when we composed that passage in 1971. In 1977, Berlitz claims it is real.

I now have almost as many weird 23s in my files as Fort once had records of rains of fish, and people are always sending me new ones.

Euclid's Geometry begins with 23 axioms.

As soon as I became seriously intrigued by collecting weird 23s, one of my best friends died, on December 23rd.

My two oldest daughters were born on August 23rd and February 23rd respectively.

According to Omar Garrison's Tantra: The Yoga of Sex, in addition to the well-known 28-day female sex cycle, there is also a male sex cycle of 23 days.

Burroughs, who tends to look at the dark side of things, sees 23 chiefly as the death number. In this connection, it is interesting that the 23rd Psalm is standard reading at funerals.

Heathcote Williams, editor of The Fanatic, met Burroughs when he (Williams) was 23 years old and living at an address with a 23 in it. When Burroughs told him, gloomily, "23 is the death number", Williams was impressed; but he was more impressed when he discovered for the first time that the building across the street from his house was a morgue.

Bonnie and Clyde, the most popular bank-robbers of the 1930s, lived out most American underground myths quite consciously, and were shot to death by the Texas Rangers on May 23rd, 1934. Their initials, B and C, have the Cabalistic values of 2-3.

W, the 23rd letter of the English alphabet, pops up continually in these matters. The physicist who collaborated with Carl Jung on the theory of synchronicity was Wolfgang Pauli. William Burroughs first called the 23 mystery to my attention. Dutch Schultz's assassin was Charlie Workman. Adam Weishaupt and/or George Washington, the two (or one) chief sources of 18th century Illuminism, also come to mind. Will Shakespeare was born and died on April 23rd.

(I have found some interesting 46s - 46 is 2 x 23 - but mostly regard them as irrelevant. Nonetheless, the 46th Psalm has a most peculiar structure. The 46th word from the beginning is shake and the 46th word from the end, counting back, is spear.)

Through various leads, I have become increasingly interested in Sir Francis Bacon as a possible ring-leader of the 17th Century Illuminati (Some evidence for this can be found in Francis Yates' excellent The Rosicrucian Enlightenment). Bacon, in accord with custom, was allowed to pick the day for his own elevation to knighthood by Elizabeth I. He picked July 23rd.

Dr John Lilly refers to "the crew that never rests" as Cosmic Coincidence Control Center and warns that they pay special attention to those who pay attention to them. I conclude this account with the most mind-boggling 23s to have intersected my own life.

On July 23rd, 1973, I had the impression that I was being contacted by some sort of advanced intellect from the system of the double-star Sirius; I have had odd psychic experiences of that sort for many years, and I always record them carefully, but refuse to take any of them literally, until or unless supporting evidence of an objective nature turns up. This particular experience, however, was especially staggering, both intellectually and emotionally, so I spent the rest of the day at the nearest large library researching

Sirius. I found, among other things, that July 23rd is very closely associated with that star.

On July 23rd, ancient Egyptian priests began a series of rituals to Sirius, which continued until September 8th. Since Sirius is known as the "Dog Star", being in the constellation Canis Major, the period July 23-September 8 became known as "the dog days".

My psychic "Contact" experience continued, off and on, for nearly two years, until October 1974, after which I forcibly terminated it by sheer stubborn willpower (I was getting tired of wondering whether I was specially selected for a Great Mission of interstellar import, or was just going crazy).

After two years of philosophic mulling on the subject (late 1974 - early 1976), I finally decided to tune in one more time to the Sirius-Earth transmissions, and try to produce something objective. On July 23rd, 1976, using a battery of yogic and shamanic techniques, I opened myself to another blast of Cosmic Wisdom and told the Transmitters that I wanted something objective this time around.

The next week, Time magazine published a full-page review of Robert KG Temple's The Sirius Mystery, which claims that contact between Earth and Sirius occurred around 4500BC in the Near East. The July 23rd festivals in Egypt were part of Temple's evidence, but I was more amused and impressed by his middle initials, K.G., since Kallisti Gold is the brand of very expensive marijuana smoked by the hero of Illuminatus.

The same week as that issue of Time, ie. still one week after my July 23rd experiment, Rolling Stone, a popular American Rock magazine, published a full-page advertisement for a German Rock group called Rameses. One of the group was named Winifred, which is the name of one of the four German Rock musicians who control the Illuminati in Illuminatus, and the advertisement included a large pyramid with an eye atop it, the symbol of the Illuminati.

Coincidence? Synchronicity? Higher Intelligence? Higher Idiocy?

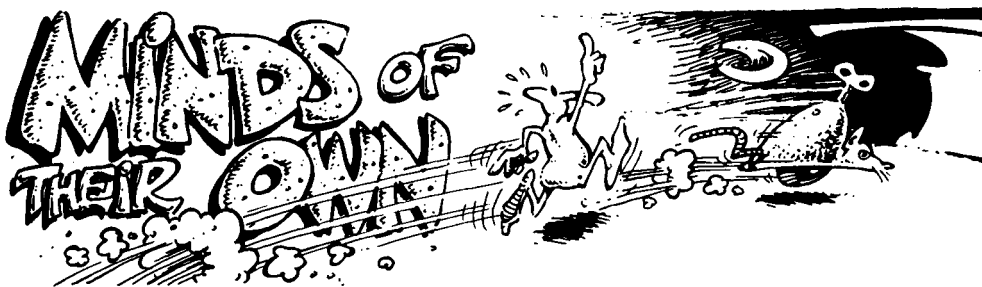
Of course, the eye on the pyramid was a favourite symbol of Aleister Crowley, who called himself Eopt of the Illuminati, and sub-



but to accept a more comforting solution in everyday terms, knowing it to be irrational. But if our studies of the phenomenal have taught us anything it is that rationality and rationalizing are two very different animals (the chronic schizophrenic can rationalize according to the strictest logic, for example.) By pointing out the inadequacies of conventional attempts to explain-away, it is not our intention to strengthen the spirit (or any other) hypothesis, as we feel that in the absence of conclusive data one way or the other, or any way, the most practical, the most scientific position is the sceptical one - is not necessarily doubting per se, but having no allegiances to any theory prematurely. But back to our story: it is said that

these mysterious hammerings had been going on for several weeks, and at times were so violent as to be heard several houses away. Houston, Texas, Chronicle 26 February 1977 (Cr: Mark A Hall.) Note that this is concurrent with the end of the 'Concorde' booms!

\*\*\* We have many notes on the mystery hums, whirrs and clicks, over the same 'Concorde' period, which surprisingly were not blamed on the plane!, and we'll give these in this column soon. Also overlapping this period were the jamming radio signals of great power reported from many parts of the world as originating in Russia, and on which some blamed the USA's devastating winter of 1976/7 - we'll give these notes in the next issue under 'Electro-magnetic weirdestuff!\*\*\*



#### RUNAWAY TRAINS

In 1965, one of the last steam locos, a 'Black Five', had a last defiant fling on track around Morecombe Bay, as new deisel locos were being introduced. Somehow it started up on its own and ran from the depot at Carnforth almost to Grange, without a driver. The poor man was chasing desperately in his car. The Yorkshire Post 21 October 1974 (Cr: Paul Screeton) says the incident was celebrated by a folk song.

This clipping came our way recently, and put us in mind of the runaway train story in News 5/5, which raced 9 miles through suburban London, early on 29 March 1974. Here are some others:

The London to Glasgow express began to slow down to 30mph between Carlisle and Lockerbie. The guard, Tom MacCondechie, wondered if the driver was ill, investigated and found the cab empty. Quickly, applied the emergency brakes. With the help of the Lockerbie staff, they found the driver further back along the track, staggering about. Six months later, a small note said that the driver had been found guilty of being drunk and endangering the lives of the passengers, none of whom was aware of the drama. The unresolved mystery seems to be where he got

out after boarding at Carlisle, and why the deadman's handle failed to operate. Daily Mail 25 January 1977; Daily Mirror 13 July 1977.

According to the News of the World 19 July 1977 (which places the incident about the time of the driver's trial, above) a train coasted at 18mph for 25 minutes towards Munich on its own, passing 12 level crossings, some of them unmanned. It was shunted to a siding where it crashed into a barrier.

#### DRIVERLESS CARS etc

According to clippings sent by Nigel Watson, the Cornish & Devon Post has quite an interest in runaway vehicles, in its reminiscence columns. In the 12 Oct 1974 edition, it said that on 10 Oct 1914 a car in Holsworthy had started up on its own, driven into town and smashed into a lamp-standard. In the edition for 27 Nov 1976, a curious coincidence occurs. They remember that on 21 Nov 1936, a car in Bude ran away with itself, crashing later. A separate, modern incident, involving a cake delivery lorry happened on 22 Nov 1976, also in Bude (1 day over 40 yrs apart). It careened off a van and went through railings coming to rest in gar-

dens. It was braked and left in gear and police said they still could not account for it.

The end of 1976 and early 1977 saw a nice little run of runaways. A taxi, owned by a man in Grimethorpe, near Barnsley Yorks, burst into life, gave its driver a run for his money, then burst into flames. Daily Mirror 3 Dec 1976.

In a scene recalling Ted Sturgeon's 'Killdozer', a digger on the back of a transporter, negotiating a low railway bridge, began to chug forward, falling off the lorry and tipping nearly 1cwt of rubble into the High St, at Staines. From Slough Evening Mail 7 Jan 1977 (Cr: Peter Hope-Evans.)

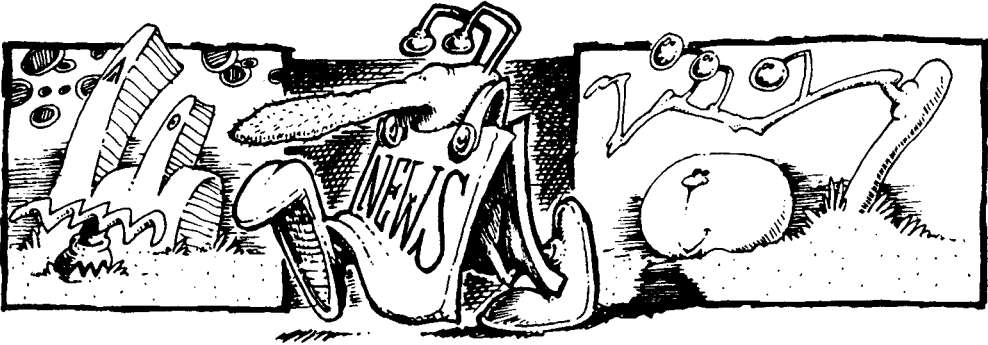
Finally, an amusing story from Palfrey, near Walsall, Staffs. It seems that a car moving slowly down a street without a driver was stopped by a milkman who stepped in front of it, dug his heels in and shoved. His name...Steve Austin! True! News of the World (letters) 13 March 1977; Weekly News 26 March 77 (Cr: P Hope-Evans)

#### SOME EXOTIC SELF-MOVERS

Apparently since 11 Jan 1976, a 500lb tree stump has been migrating around Ridgway, Illinois. It turns up suddenly, and vanishes several nights later - so far residents have found it inside a van, a garage, and outside several houses. It has people baffled. Lebanon Daily News 9 Feb 1976 (Cr: Curt Sutherly; ARE 4).

Physicists, explaining 'Maxwell's Demon' to you, usually give the example that the random motion of molecules makes it highly improbable that soup, say, will suddenly lurch out of your plate on its own. Tell that to Esther Yungling, of Ventura, California! It seems that she was peacefully sleeping on her waterbed, and the next minute she was on the floor pinned

down by the bed. Firemen had to rescue 68-yr-old Esther, and they confessed their bafflement at the incident. All they could suggest was that 'The water shifted for some reason, bouncing her on the floor, and the mattress followed.' Evening Press, Dublin, Eire, 9 Oct 1976. (Cr: Leslie Shepard.)



Films -- 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' seems set to be released in the USA in time for Xmas...but if 'Star Wars' is anything to go by, we won't be seeing it until next summer. 'Star Wars' will open in at least 2 London central cinemas just after Xmas. We learn from PRL Newsletter 20, that another UFO movie is being filmed. Tentatively called 'Skywatch' it is intended to dramatize US government cover-up operations over the last 30 years around 'a reenactment of actual cases, using actual names'. Sounds great if they can survive the injunctions. Former Air Force, CIA and NSA personnel are said to be advising the production to ensure maximum authenticity.

Then there is an Italian production called 'The Yeti', said to be filming in Canada with a giant model of the creature 29ft tall, weighing 1.6 tons. The newsphoto shows their inter-

pretation of the Yeti to be very much like an idealized Bigfoot (or hominoid, I believe the academic term now is). The Advocate, Stamford, Conn, 20 July 1977. (Cr: Doc Shiels).

While we're on the subject of films, have you noticed how many seem to have Fortean overtones? Apart from the plagues of bugs, frogs and squirming things, there was 'King Kong' (which is to Bigfoot what 'Hound of the Baskervilles' is to the Black Dog!); 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' involving a mysterious quadruple disappearance; the revenge of a nature red in tooth and claw in 'Night of the Animals'; a foreshadowing of the Big Bird saga in the USA, in 'Food of the Gods' in which a giant chicken stars (! a sort of cosmic Col.Saunders?); 'Demon Car' in which said vehicle develops a mind of its own (see back to p36 this issue. Shades of 'Killdozer'!), and another film, 'Demon Seed' portrays the allied theme of a breakaway

computer; not to mention the past or imminent films about psychic powers, reincarnation, possession and sorcery. Lastly I'd like to mention 'Carrie' (which was quite sensitive in parts), about psychic trauma, adolescence and TK: there was a scene in the film where carving knives rise up, fly through the air and transfix the body of Carrie's monomaniac mother in a gruesome reenactment of the martyrdom of St Sebastian. Last issue (PT22/13) we told the story of Sister Rosa, tormented by poltergeist phenomena, but we had no room to mention the similarity between the roughly contemporary 'Carrie' and the way airborne knives would hurtle towards Sister Rosa's chest. Stranger than fiction!

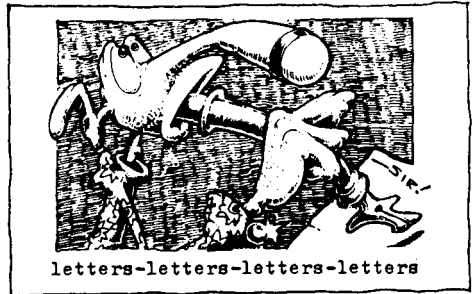
Speaking of fictional Bigfeet reminds us that another allegedly factual film of Bigfoot has come to light. Frank White took it while on holiday near Bellingham in the area of Mt Baker, Washington, on 7 October 1977. The ape-like beast was walking along a trail, and stopped twice to look back at the Whites. Palm Beach Post 18 October 1977 (Cr: J&C Bord).

The BBC 'Horizon' team, who produced the Bermuda Triangle debunking TV documentary based on Lawrence Kusche's book, are working on another TV special which will critically examine von Daniken's claims. Some of the footage was filmed during a 5yr study by 30 British archeologists among the ancient ruins of South America. No details of when it will be released. Daily Mail 25 May 1977.

In a maddeningly vague notice, in the Sunday Standard, Bombay, India, 16 October 1977, we learn that an (unnamed) group of scientists have located a previously undetected chamber in the Chefren pyramid, the second largest at Giza. The only other known chamber in the pyramid proved to be empty. The clipping also revealed that a Japanese university will be funding a project to build a smaller replica of the Cheops pyramid nearby. It has the backing of the Egyptian government, will employ 8,000 locals, and will study the problems and methods of raising such structures. (Cr: Ion Will.)

A lecture on 'The Welsh UFO Wave' will be given by local researcher Randall Pugh Jones (whose reports have appeared in FSR), at Kensington Central Library, London W8, 7pm, 3 December 1977. A BUFORA lecture but open to non-members. Paul Devereux, editor of the Ley Hunter, will talk on leys and UFOs, at the same venue, 7pm, 4 Feb 1978.

\*\*\*We hope to have settled down a little more by next issue, to have more news, and to reintroduce our listings of interesting relevant material in the professional mags.



#### PHENOMENA

from Bob Rickard, London.

With our book now finally published, John Michell and I would like to make known a few corrections that have come to light, and which cannot be incorporated into the book until a second edition is printed. 1) In the caption to the Aberdare fishfall picture (bottom right) the correct date should be 11 February 1859. However it seems that there is some doubt about this date too as many of the major sources give different dates. Bob Schade-wald and I are investigating these sources and will report on the problem in a future PT. 2) In the celebrated SHC case of J Temple Thurston (1919), the victim's name should be J Temple Johnson. This error came to light when I was checking the source given by Fort (Books 912f); I had a photostat of this source but didn't look at it properly. Mea culpa! 3) On page 81, the pamphlet, Wonderful Phenomena, cited in the middle column, is by Eli Curtis, not Curtis Eli.

#### BODIES

from William Grimstad, Illinois.

A collector of weirdiana wants me to tell you that the death of Geoffrey Hubbard ((son of the Scientology founder - see PT21/11)) was but the latest in a series of mysterious murders/'suicides' in the vicinity of Las Vegas International airport. Most of the rest have involved assailants described as looking like 'Mexicans', which is certainly a possibility around there, but might on the other hand be MIB types.

As for the Dennis Graham disappearance near West Point, Virginia in July 1976 ((see PT21/12)), you should know that this area is just across the York river from the Central Intelligence Agency's Camp Peary. Ironically, this supposed US Army base is actually one of 'the Company's' most sensitive installations, where training in assassination, demolitions and other highly illegal matters are allegedly carried

out. What it means I don't exactly know, but Camp Peary is known inside the CIA as 'The Farm' and as 'West Point' (a reference to the US Military Academy, in New York, I presume). So, mysterious disappearances around there probably aren't so mysterious as they'd be in, say, Possum Trot, Arkansas.

((Famous last words! In Bill's next letter to us was a brief note from the Washington Post 10 Aug 1977, that the previous day yet another body was fished from the James River, Virginia. An autopsy was to determine whether it was the body of a man drowned in a boating mishap about 2 days before...or that of someone else! Bill comments)) The James River site here is within 10 miles of the York River site ('West Point')... By my Fortean Synchronicity yardstick that's close enough for a 'Hmmm' rating (one cut above a shrug!).

(( We'll be having an article from Bill in a forthcoming issue, on Fortean happenings in US towns with Masonic name-links!))

#### LEVITATION

from Dr C Louis Wiedemann, New Jersey.

John Keel told me about a levitation which he witnessed in the far east (he might have written of it in his book Jadoo), which he was convinced was real levitation. I do not recall whether the levitee (if that's the correct term) used a cane or other contact with the ground, or whether he seemed to float totally suspended in the air. One might opine that this latter fact (would) mark the difference between a true levitee and a phoney. If there has to be contact with the ground or another object, however frail it might appear to be, one might easily construe that it is not a true levitation.

(( Firstly, many thanks to the several readers who wrote in response to your editor's piece on fakir-type levitations - see FT21 - pointing out the many tricks and devices used by and available to the stage-magicians of today. I regret that we don't have the room for that avenue of the discussion and would like to confine it to the apparently genuine feats. Secondly, thanks, Lou, for reminding me of Keel's Jadoo (pub'd by Tower (USA) as Mysteries of the Orient: Jadoo). I had forgotten this case (given in the book on p186)...and yes, Keel's guru did keep his hand on his stick as he rose cross-legged into the air! I note your distinction between this mode of levitation and that of the free flyers who need no props of any kind, but I can't really accept that

one form should be less 'true' than another. Granted the mode of employing the forces involved differs, just as, say, some firewalkers need no purification rituals prior to venturing on the coals, and others cannot do it without them. If, as many sages have hinted, we can learn to do these things, then it's possible that the manner of the lessons sets the form for the practice - hence variations according to culture, religion, etc.))

#### FISHFALLS, etc.

from Steve Ogden, Kentucky.

There are a couple of points I'd like to make about Bob Schadewald's 'Fish Falls & Whirlwinds' (FT22/31f). He forgot to consider the acceleration of gravity - 32ft per sec. per sec. Any object falling from 5000ft or 3750ft elevations should have accelerated to a far greater velocity than that he shows. The other point is the reason for the absence of reported falls in the Minnesota area. When you report unusual happenings in the USA, you may be sent to a psychiatric ward (at least the witnesses are afraid this might happen!).

(( The points you raise are interesting. But firstly I urge you to reread Bob's article. Our fish are not falling through an ideal vacuum, but through a viscous medium (the air) which prevents acceleration at the ideal rate. Then there are two unknowns: we don't know the velocity the fish started with, nor the air currents that may additionally slow-down or speed-up their descent. Secondly, the velocities Bob is discussing are the 'terminal velocities' (ie the velocity at which drag, caused by the resistance to the smooth passage through the air of the surface of the fish, cancels the acceleration of gravity.) Thirdly, Bob was making a point regarding the whirlwind explanation of fishfalls; that, in an area like Minnesota, with its high proportion of tornadoes, and large numbers of lakes and ponds, etc, you'd expect the whirlwind theory to hold water (forgive me!) and produce a higher number of fishfalls than are actually reported - another nail in the whirlwind explanation's coffin!

However, it is true that we cannot judge the actual number of happenings by the number of reports, though we can give educated guesses. Keel and others have commented on the various 'filters' a report has to negotiate - first a person must report it, then it is screened in turn by editors and others, before

appearing in the media. The proportion that drops out each stage could be high. Of course many people with experiences of Fortean phenomena never tell anyway, partly because of fear of ridicule (though I've found that to be a fairly low factor from my own encounters with witnesses), but mainly because they never knew who to tell it too. We hope that the publication of Phenomena will begin to encourage people, and establish the Fortean journals as the people to contact - to this end we printed an appeal and a shortlist of journals at the books back.))

#### HOLLOW EARTH

from Frank Brownley, New York.

I would like to hear from FT readers who are interested in and collect 'Hollow Earth' theory books. Are there any clubs in England?

(( As far as I know, there are no clubs specifically for hollow-earthers in England. We do know of the 'Hollow Earth Society': GPO Box 563, Sydney 2001, Australia...secretary is KH Snell. Tell 'em FT sent you! Others interested in corresponding with or through Frank should write to him at: 29 McCall Rd, Rochester, NY 14615.))

Your editor regrets that he cannot answer all correspondence, or immediately. But please write on topics of interest, and we'll consider them for these pages. Our aim is to stimulate discussion, and even contact if that's your wish (like Frank Brownley above).

#### Editorial stuff cont...

Errata - thanks to the vigilance of Robert Schadewald, we correct the date of Harry Kellar's levitation article cited in ref 12, FT21/23. It should be 1893, not 1897.

Can anyone knowing the address of Robert F Landro (USA) let us know too, please. He wrote forgetting his address!

Anyone contemplating throwing out old UFO and Fortean mags (including copies of early The News) please donate them to us instead, for our files. Write with list, and we'll pay for postage etc. Thanks.

#### Joint Subscriptions: IMPORTANT!

Though useful to some of you, FT's joint subscription plan failed to become widely used, and thus could not absorb our loss on the discount given. Besides, it proved a real pain in the ass to administer, especially with the parties (FT, TLH & INFO) having to frequently adjust their prices. We have decided to offer these reduced rates no longer - but for the convenience of readers of these mags, each will still act as agent for the other, passing your sub on to the others. The full rates for FT & INFO, and FT & TLH can be worked out from our back page, and can still be paid with one cheque, if you want. Subscribers who have taken advantage of joint rates (up 'til now) will be honoured.

Blanket apologies are hereby given to publishers of books and journals not mentioned herein. Even with our latest page-expansion, space is tight, and some items have to take a lower priority. We promise to fit it all in sooner or later.

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## Review Supplement

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### HARDBACKS

Phenomena: A Book of Wonders by John Michell & Robert Rickard (Thames & Hudson 1977; Hb £3.95, Pb £1.95; pp 128; 219 illus) -- It is an uneasy

task for me, as a member of the FT staff, to review the work of our editor and his co-author without being accused of bias...but then this is an uneasy book, surveying a multitude of 'damned' events hardly conducive to the mental well-being of most scientists, rationalists and advocates of plain common sense. It is, in short, a genuine Fortean book; a great rarity (as it ever was) in these days of hackwork and superficial probing by exploitationalists.

The authors begin with a brief introductory essay, putting forward the admirable point-of-view that the best point-of-view is no point-of-view...a piece of contradictoriness which might at first seem like a passive acceptance that 'these things happen'; capitulation in the face of the unknown. Considering the great diversity and quantity of the phenomena presented, this would seem like a very reasonable attitude. However, there is more; for if it is our conceptual framework that labels these events 'unknown' or inadequately explained 'chance' occurrences, it is our concepts themselves that are inadequate...for the events keep occurring with damning regularity, defying both explainers and non-believers. So our authors pursue

their way with admirable indifference to all explanations. If current concepts are to be put to the question, they must first be indicted; Michell & Rickard content themselves (apart from the occasional dry comment on the inanities of the defendents) with compiling evidence for the prosecution.

The explanation that all explanations are absurd is in itself absurd - so where does that leave us? We are left with the data, of which there is a great deal, most of which is totally absurd. In 57 chapters, the authors survey a broad spectrum of Fortean phenomena; dazzling, as much for their diversity as for their individuality. Here are old friends like showers of frogs, lake monsters, teleportations and mysterious lights, as well as many less well-known categories. Some of these, while obvious musts for such a Fortean survey, will be familiar to readers of FT, so it is a relief to find that much of the material in the book is previously uncollected, a considerable amount of it drawn from periods prior to 1800 (Fort's starting point for collection) and subsequent to 1932 (Fort's death).

Unfortunately, Fortesans must also speak of the unspeakable - so here are also cattle-rippers, invisible assailants, strange deaths and spontaneous human combustions - the details of which are precise and unpleasant. It is easy to see why man has a horror of the unknown, for the unknown is frequently

horrible.

At first, two pages per topic might appear inadequate for sufficient depth... until one discovers just how long it takes to read each section, for these are large format pages and the data is densely packed. This concise format ensures the book's quick acceptance as an essential reference work, besides being a highly recommendable primer on the main Fortean mysteries, for oldtimer and newcomer alike. Its data sources are referenced (which is pleasant), and a mass of cross-referencing (in situ) to other sections builds up a web of continuity showing the inter-relatedness of the categories. This cross-referencing also largely excuses the authors for not undertaking the night-on impossible task of indexing the book.

Some will doubtless be surprised at this seeming change of direction by John Michell after his previous works on 'Earth Mysteries'; and his unsought image as a 'hippy guru' may even perturb others. They can relax, because Michell proves himself just as much a Fortean as Rickard. Indeed, their approaches mesh together so well that it is virtually impossible to distinguish who worked on which section - an occurrence perhaps as remarkable as any in the book itself!

Lastly, the illustrations are as important in their way as the text, and equally diverse. Each section has a minimum of two illustrations, many of which are photographs (and many of these I have not seen before) collected together for the first time in an expansive visual conglomerate.

In order to prove my lack of bias, I have striven mightily to find some fault with the book... I must profess myself inadequate to the task, except to plaintively wish there were more. It seems superfluous to recommend the book; persons of taste and discretion will already have purchased a copy... Steve Moore.

(( For further information on Phenomena please see the letter from Bob Rickard in the letters section in the main mag p38. Until we settle the question whether FT can deal in the book, unsolicited orders should be sent to Dark They Were & Golden Eyed, 9-12 St Annes Court, London W7. Prices for the paperback plus post & packing: UK: £2.40; World (surface rate): £2.30/\$5.00; USA, HK, Africa, Tibet (Air rate): £3.80/\$8.00; Japan, Australia, NZ, Mongolia: £4.30/\$9.00.))

Space-Time Transients and Unusual Events by Michael A Persinger & Cyslaine F Lafreniere (Nelson-Hall, Chicago, 1977;

\$9.95; pp267; index, refs, graphs, maps) With the aid of an IBM 360-40 computer (to which the book is dedicated!), Persinger & Lafreniere made a study of 6,060 unusual events, covering just about every area of Fortean interest (with the exception of parapsychology, which they regard as a justifiable omission). Their sources were the books of Fort, 'known scientific journals', press clippings and Fate magazine. There academic qualifications (listed on the dust-jacket) are impressive.

Their method is based on a major theory concerning the origin and nature of human 'belief structures', and although I'm sure it will be familiar to most Fortean, this view should be outlined to gain a perspective on their approach. Fundamentally, there is the self-evident assertion that modern science has evolved from the systematic observation of recurring natural phenomena. Certain phenomena, being persistent and generally uniform, come to be regarded as 'data points', and when enough of these have established their reliability, someone postulates a systems theory that seems to logically link them together. In this way, science eventually provides a series of frameworks, which in their turn calcify into rigid 'Laws of Nature'. Unfortunately the whole process is based on the selection of those data points which suit the theory, and the rejection of those which do not.

The events we find acceptable, and which form the components of the current consensus or description of the world around us, are largely determined by the way in which our brains, and to some extent our nervous systems, function. We have conditioned ourselves to perceive the environment as three-dimensional - our notion of time, for example, as being like a straight line, is derived from the faculty of memory. We know that belief structures have existed in the past that are different from those in dominance today, but the only real divergence in most cases was the quality and quantity of the data points chosen to support them. In the context of recorded history, it has been common practice to ignore inexplicable events; which leaves a residue of data points which do not lend themselves to inclusion in the contemporary belief structure. Space-Time Transients is the record of a methodical attempt to discover any meaningful correlations between these 'leftovers'.

Using the United States as a primary yardstick, and comparing events worldwide to it, they employed their computer to sift through thousands of well documented

cases, which had been grouped into classes (UFOs, mystery animals, falls etc) and plot out any patterns. This was irrespective of the seeming relevance of the similarities which showed themselves. They let the data points dictate the view structure.

One of the most interesting consistencies to emerge concerns the periodic frequency of phenomena. Thus, instances of animal falls are highest in July, while rock falls peak in June and July; ice falls, however show a strong summer preference outside the USA, but little monthly variation inside. UFOs, both aloft and grounded, show a peak in April, but the majority appear, again, in summer. Poltergeist and related disturbances favour no particular month; but you are more likely to spontaneously combust, or disappear while flying or at sea, during December and January. (You have been warned!)

It's early days yet to claim any really meaningful sets of coherent linkages between these events, but the importance of this approach is that it advocates a much looser interpretation of causative possibilities. A truly Fortean enterprise; and hopefully the forerunner of further pushes in this direction. Recommended.

Stan Nicholls.

Visitors From Outer Space by Roy Stemman (Aldus/Jupiter 1976; £3.25; pp144, illus) -- 'This book,' says the publisher, 'provides a balanced history of the whole UFO business.' As it is only 144 pages and contains over 150 illustrations, it is of necessity a very brief history; and considering the bizarre nature of the material he has to handle, Roy Stemman has produced a relatively sober and factual text. This book is one of a series on paranormal and occult subjects aimed at the general reading public, and as UFOs are usually associated in the public mind with the more sensational aspects of SF space opera, this new addition to UFO writings with its emphasis on the extraterrestrial hypothesis and its brightly coloured paintings depicting alien spaceships in action are unlikely to cause people to change their misconceptions. None of the material is likely to be new to the knowledgeable reader, though some of the photos of personalities involved in ufology are of interest.

The book is grouped into eight sections thus (our comments in brackets): 'The Coming of the Saucers' (early reports of 1940s & 1950s); 'The Conspiracy of Silence' (Blue Book, Robertson & Condon); 'Chariots of the Gods' (von Däniken rides again); 'Spacecraft in Early Times' (pre-1940s back to Biblical & Indian texts);

'The Aliens are Among Us' (contactees Menger, Bender & MIBs); 'UFOs today' (the present state of ufology, Hynek, APRO & Pascagoula & other prominent entity cases); 'The Inhabited Universe' (basic astronomy, spacetravel, Ozma & Sagan).

In a book dealing with this complex subject matter it would be almost impossible to completely avoid errors. Some of the picture captions are imprecise; eg a photo of Adamski's (p7) is said to be '.. a "scoutship" observing Earth from Venus', when the author probably meant '.. a "scoutship" from Venus observing Earth'. But an error of greater magnitude relates to the double-spread colour illustration and caption on pages 69-71. In 1906 the crew of a British steamer in the Persian Gulf observed bands of luminescence travelling underwater from the horizon, passing beneath the ship and continuing unimpeded. This and similar events are not strictly ufological, though they have been used by Fort and Sanderson etc in a ufological connexion. In this book, however, this phenomenon has become a vast wheel of light in the sky whose vivid shafts of light passed right through the steamer - and to prove it there is a large colour painting of the dramatic incident. Thus are legends born!

If the names and comments in the brackets above are familiar to you, then you have probably nothing new to learn from this book. If our references are new to you, then this could serve as a broad introduction to the subject. But, as it has no index, references or bibliography, it won't enable you to go much further.

Janet & Colin Bord.

The Ancient Wisdom by Geoffrey Ashe (Macmillan 1977; £4.95; pp232; notes, bib, index, drawings, photos) -- Quite simply, this 'quest for the source of mystic knowledge' is Ashe's best and most readable book to date, and typical of the literary detective work we have come to associate with him. He begins by outlining the familiar notion of the explosion of interest in occultism today, and that its appeal is directly to some part of ourselves that scientific materialism fails utterly to touch, let alone satisfy. Then he isolates the fundamental teaching common to all schools of thought on the subject: that there is a body of inherited knowledge which has come down to us through ritual, myth, folklore, folk-memory, and traditional teachings (both esoteric and exoteric) which is connected to the very origins of culture, language, sciences, laws and religions. It is a structure of knowledge, a way of looking at the universe that claims unbroken transmission from the gods themselves in

the Golden Age; the 'Ancient Wisdom'.

The first few chapters deal with Ashe's search for some basic set of knowledge which, when reconstructed from its fragmented forms in all the cultures down a major migration route, could point to the home ground of the Ancient Wisdom. Naturally this entails some brief but illuminating looks at the major mystery schools and origins of their teachings. Step by step, Ashe isolates the teachings and lore of the number seven and its links with the stars of the Great Bear. Allied to this is a belief in the 'axis mundi', the pivot of the heavens (about which the 7 revolve most plainly to all observers in the Northern hemisphere), and its (mainly mythical) terrestrial counterpart, the mountain of the gods and sages (Mt Meru/Sumeru/Zion etc) which was the mystical model for pillars, standing stones, pyramids, ziggurats and towers all over the world. By tracing these ideas, mainly through the migrations of shamanistic practices (Ashe is very convincing on linking the Mediterranean oracles with Altaic shamans, via the Apollo-Artemis cult) we come to the central idea of the book: that the origin of the Ancient Wisdom can be found in the land between the Altai and Himalayan mountains.

This theme is interwoven with several others to make a fascinating (one might even say irresistible) alternative to the ideas epitomized by von Däniken. They concern the belief, in this remote region, in a place called Shambhala, the refuge

## A Short Life at the Land's End

John Michell has written and privately published a life and appreciation of JT Blight, the 19th C artist and scholar whose interest in, and illustrations of, the old stones, sites and antiquities of Cornwall, have long deserved recognition. He died hopelessly insane after failing to make it in the competitive world of metropolitan fame, despite (or perhaps because of) the patronage of two remarkable characters, RS Hawker, vicar of Morwenstow, an eccentric Cornish poet-mystic, and JO Halliwell, the great Shakespearian scholar, adventurer and antiquarian.

Copies of the limited edition, signed and numbered by the author, and illustrated with 8 1/2 tones & 100 line drawings, are still available at £6.60/\$12.00 each. Write to West Country editions: 11 Miles Buildings, Bath, Somerset.

from which the sages, messiahs, hidden masters, 'Great White Chiefs' (whatever) sally forth to lighten a benighted world. Ashe examines Madame Blavatsky's theosophy (and several other dubious occult teachings) and discovers that despite charlatanism, crankiness and doubtful scholarship, one is left with an impression that the heart of the teaching is based on sound principles, though their alleged origins are called in question. The Ancient Wisdom (and Ashe cites an impressive list of curators from Newton and Blake back through John Dee, Copernicus, Paracelsus etc) and its home are living symbols which have adapted to an acceptable form in each age: thus Ashe can say (without flippancy) that the theories of visiting aliens and UFOs are similar to Madame Blavatsky's 'in science fiction garb'. Correlated with the ideas of sky-people/secret Masters (whom Charroux calls 'Initiators') is the belief that the 'King of the World' will ride out from Shambhala and bring about the Apocalypse. Although Ashe does not explore the Millennial aspects of the salvation-from-space type of ufology, he does see the modern interest as a living form of the Ancient Wisdom, and to reinforce that view he cites from the diaries of Nicholas Roerich, the explorer who encountered a UFO on 5 August 1927. The account is very interesting indeed: preceded by a form of a giant bird, a huge shiny spheroid moved at incredible speed overhead, as Roerich and guides move on from dedicating a stupa-like structure to Shambhala, high in the Humboldt mountains between Tibet and Mongolia. Interestingly the lamas suggest it was a thought-projection from that secret domain, a sign from the Masters to men. Ashe does not seem aware of the current discussions of psychic, psychological and parapsychical phenomena in the 'new ufology', but seems to have arrived at similar conclusions by a very roundabout route.

Another theme is the perennial rumour of magical warfare between good and bad adepts. Shambhala (which had direct communication with heaven still) had a dark counterpart in subterranean Agharti - and Ashe suggests in closing the book that Celtic Britain provides a duplicate structure. Not only did the term 'Hyperborea' refer to the North-Central Asian wanderings of the shamanistic Apollo, but also (on good authorities) to the British Isles with its shamanistic Druids. Here too we find the abodes of light and dark (in the Celtic Avalon and Annwn); and the sleeping King awaiting the day of his return. Indeed the Celtic migrations out of central Asia make a link with Altaic

shamanism reasonable. But there Ashe leaves us. Hopefully he will continue to explore this theme, as his previous works on Arthur, the cults of Mary and the Virgin goddess, allow him to comment intelligently and creatively on the links between occultism, mysticism, ufology and 'von Dänikenism'. We have badly needed such a guide - the book is well worth your attention.

RJM Rickard.

Someone Else Is On Our Moon by George H Leonard (WH Allen 1977; £4.95) --

The index in Fort's collected works has, under 'Moon' and 'Lunar', over 60 entries recording anomalous sightings, ranging from moving patterns of lights to vast dark shadows moving purposively across its surface. The first satellite pictures were expected to produce answers to some of these enigmas; but it seems the more evidence available, the greater is the mystery. Leonard has been an avid amateur astronomer for 25 years and when he started to study NASA's moon photos he found shapes within the craters and on their rims which he interpreted as giant structures intelligently formed. These include 'mining rigs' several miles long, and 'A motor as big as the Bronx', to quote one chapter heading. He also concludes that 'More than one space race occupies the Moon', and that although they are largely self-sufficient they come to Earth for their fresh water (hence the reports of UFOs with hoses hovering over lakes and rivers). Fortean sky-falls of fish and blood are, he suggests, the dumping of wastes 'over the friendly skies of Earth, where animals and bacteria and vegetation take care of them'.

How is it then that the artifacts Leonard claims to see in the NASA photographs have not been noticed before? He is himself undecided: early in the book he states that the ostensible reasons for the space program did not add up. 'We do not spend billions to reach something merely because it is there', which suggests governmental secrecy. But he also says that 'NASA has taken more than 100,000 photographs of the Moon'; too much visual data for any two people to cover the same ground. Scientists are deeply involved in their own disciplines and largely unable to communicate with those in other studies, and very few can step back and see the whole when confronted with fragments. 'NASA drowns in a sea of data,' he says, which is another explanation of why no notice is taken of the anomalies so apparent. (( This portrayal of modern sophisticated technology seems overly simplistic to me - eg a lunar geographer has to know the surface like the back of his hand, and computerized mapp-

ing facilities linked to image analyzers and enhancers make sure that surface anomalies are quickly spotted - Ed.))

This popularly written account of these inexplicable shapes, markings and lights on the lunar surface is reasonably convincing, and with the extensive history of observed lunar anomalies (on which he includes a chapter) suggests that indeed something strange has been occurring on the Moon for centuries. It is his interpretations that are more open to criticism. Also, it is unfortunate that the publisher's small reproductions of the original 10x8" photos render invisible much of the detail the author describes. (However he has provided sketches which help a little.) But don't let this inadequacy dissuade you from reading what is probably one of the most original and thought-provoking books published in Britain this year. (It also includes an index, bibliography, and details of where to write to get copies of the original photos.)

Colin Bord.

Canada's Monsters by Betty Sanders

Garner (Potlatch Publications, 35 Dalewood Cres, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4B5, 1976; bib, illus) -- Nessie seems in imminent danger of losing her place as No1 lake monster, as publicity is increasingly given to monsters of equal interest in lakes at all corners of the earth. Here Ms Garner makes strong claims for Canada's lake monsters: Ogo-pogo, Manipogo, Igo-pogo, and others less frequently reported from a further 12 lakes; not to mention the sea-serpents sighted off both east and west coasts, especially the monster nicknamed 'Cadorosaurus'. She also gives coverage to the Sasquatch, quoting the now familiar cases of Jacko (a possible young Sasquatch captured in 1884 in British Columbia), Albert Ostman (reputedly kidnapped and held captive by a family of Sasquatches in 1924), and William Roe (who in 1957 watched a female Sasquatch from close quarters as she took a meal of leaves).

This book was in fact intended as a children's book, but will serve as a useful introduction to the monsters of Canada. It is most attractively produced as a large format paperback, and is well illustrated in black & white, and colour (British publishers take note!), with engravings, photos and artist's impressions (some of which make the monsters look soulful and endearing). The 3-page bibliography is to be praised, but sadly there is no index. Another strange omission is the lack of page numbers in the table of contents.

Janet Bord.

Without a Trace by Charles Berlitz. (Souvenir Press 1977; £3.95; pp180; bib, photos) -- This much awaited sequel to The Bermuda Triangle does more to emphasize the critics views about the Triangle and supports the 'Establishment' opinion about Fortean research than any book I've seen in a long time! Critics of the Triangle, notably Lawrence David Kusche, have shown that few, if any, of the incidents happened as Berlitz (and other Triangle writers) have described them. Berlitz makes no attempt to reply to his critics. Even worse, he hasn't even the regard for his readers to correct the mistakes of his earlier book. Flight 19, Raifuku Maru, Witchcraft, Star-Tiger and Ariel; all the (ho hum) old favourites are here, along with such (ho hum) standbys as the British regiment which vanished (but didn't\*) at Gallipoli in 1915.

I will find it difficult to believe anything Berlitz writes in the future. But Without a Trace and The Bermuda Triangle have done much more than destroy Berlitz' credibility. They have done a lot to destroy the credibility of Fortean studies in general. For years we've been on at the establishment to take an interest in Fortean, and when 'They' do - the interest being in the Triangle - they get false facts and Mr Berlitz.

Paul Begg.

(( \* Paul is preparing a short article for our 'Fortean Corrigenda' section on this notorious, much-quoted and quite erroneous case. Ed.))

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The Undiscovered Country: Adventures into Other Dimensions by Stephen Jenkins (Neville Spearman 1977; £3.95; pp 240) -- It is becoming increasingly clear to all perceptive readers of UFO 'close encounter' and 'contact' reports that the theory of interplanetary visitors does not satisfactorily explain the phenomenon. A favoured alternative theory is that of another dimension of existence, interpenetrating our own but normally undetectable. However, as we know even less about other dimensions than we do about outer space, the problem of the nature and purpose of the mysterious UFO visitors comes no nearer to solution. Jenkins has jumped feet first into the fray, and in doing so has made a thoughtful and thought-provoking contribution. He asks the questions which ufologists should be continually asking themselves: What are they? Who are they? Where are they?, and the book is divided into three parts under these headings. It is a moot point whether his discussions further our knowledge of 'them'; we did not find any revolutionary ideas here - but then we, and many others, have for years pondered over similar evidence to that which Mr Jenkins presents. However, comparative newcomers to ufology are likely to have their horizons widened.

Where Mr Jenkins makes his real contribution is his work on leys and their possible link to UFOs and other strange phenomena. Such a link has already been suggested, especially in the recent Winchester encounters with UFO occupants of Mrs Bowles and Mr Pratt, which seem to have taken place on leys (see studies by Paul Devereux in The Ley Hunter 75; and by Frank J Woods, FSR 22:5). Jenkins' own strange experiences at points where leys cross (which he terms 'nodes') give a lead toward further important ley/UFO research. And what happened to him in 1975 at Saltwood, Kent, where a weird entity was seen in 1963, is particularly interesting...(Read the book to find out!)

Such personal experiences give the book an immediacy otherwise lacking, because the author is inclined to be repetitive. We get the impression of wooliness, which is not helped by the author's apparent inability to organize his material properly - parts 1 and 2 are followed by postscripts, and part 3 by an 'Additional Note' and a postscript. The footnotes often consist of material better incorporated into the text; and the four appendices read suspiciously like additional notes. Two further quibbles: 'radiesthesia' is consistently misspelled 'radiethesia'; and contrary to Jenkins' comment (p148) that 'ancient monuments (are) not very plentiful', the Orkney Islands are in fact

covered with them.

This book should be read by all serious ufologists and Fortean, for despite our picky quibbles, the author has succeeded in highlighting some aspects of ufology which have, until recently, received less attention than they merit.

Janet & Colin Bord.

Handbook of Unusual Natural Phenomena (\$14.95; pp542; subject & source indexes, drawings); Strange Universe vol A2 (\$8.95; pp280; subject, date & source indexes, drawings, photos) both compiled by William R Corliss (Sourcebook Project, Glen Arm, MD 21057, USA; 1977)

-- Strange Universe is the latest volume in the growing series of reference works from the Sourcebook Project, being the second one on the general topic of astronomy (A2). Others deal with biology (B series), earth sciences (E series), physical sciences (G series), ancient man & his artifacts (M series), and the mental sciences (P series). The format of loose sheets in a PVC-covered ring-binder allows you to collate the subsections as the series accumulates, as each entry is coded in sequence, and the indexes are cumulative. Each Sourcebook consists of a selection of quotations and summaries (often complete texts) of key and rare Fortean sources - many rescued from virtual extinction and in a useable form (as anyone who has strained eyes and patience at a microfilm reader will truly appreciate). A2 has notes on cosmic rays; myths of astronomical bodies, meteorite biology, and ET matter; notes on many aspects of optical astronomy from Bode's Law to Planet X and zodiacal light radio astronomy; and experiments relating to gravity, relativity, etc.

The loose-leaf format has not been received well universally; Corliss acknowledges that libraries in particular are reluctant to have it, though many do. So he has produced the Handbook, a hefty volume of essentially meteorological notes culled from the Sourcebooks, and which forms an excellent reference book in the subject. Here are superb collections of eye-witness accounts and discussions of all kinds of strange luminous phenomena (auroras, glows, flashes, lightnings & spook lights); optical & radio anomalies (sunset phenomena, mock suns, halo and rainbow phenomena, mirages, and radio & radar anomalies); unusual weather (from cloudbursts, darkdays & whirlwinds to strange fogs and clouds); mystery sounds (booms, hums, bells etc); earthquake phenomena; hydrosphere phenomena; falling material and objects; and finally, magnetic phenomena.

No researcher can afford to be without

these books in some form; libraries will go for the Handbook because it's case-bound, but the Sourcebooks themselves are more complete, flexible and useful.

RJM Rickard.

The Irish Giant by G Frankcom & JH Musgrave (Duckworth 1976; £3.95; pp128, index, bib, photos)-- If I were 8ft tall, my inclination would be to live as a recluse; but even if Patrick Cotter had wished to do the same, a lack of money forced him into the life of a showman-exhibitor. Born in Ireland in 1760, he exhibited himself under the name 'Patrick O'Brien, spending most of his time in England, and finally dying a rich but sick man, at 46. His life has been pieced together by Frankcom and makes fascinating reading for the general reader; for the specialist, Musgrave has contributed a detailed medical history of Cotter. Fortunately Cotter's bones were rediscovered at the beginning of this century, and it was possible to determine that he was a 'pituitary giant'. Besides this hormone imbalance, he suffered from osteoarthritis and a few other ailments. The whole book is greatly enhanced by many pertinent illustrations, including photos of objects he used, articles of clothing and even X-rays.

Janet Bord

## PAPERBACKS

Fire from Heaven by Michael Harrison (Pan 1977) -- a lengthy critique appears in the 'Forteana Corrigena' section in the main magazine, because we wished to take the opportunity to correct a few of the books major errors of fact.

The Tungus Event by Rupert Furneaux (Panther 1977; 60p; pp128, bib, photos) -- Perhaps the soundest of the new books on the subject as Furneaux does not seem to be foisting one theory on us at the expense of others or of objectivity. In a postscript he summarizes: 'There is no elegant answer. Each investigator pursues his own course of inquiry and every theory has been contradicted. Belief in the meteorite has been abandoned. The crashing nuclear-propelled spacecraft and the tiny black hole are highly improbable.' Furneaux hints at a novel possibility. The problem is that the 1908 explosion over Siberia has the characteristics of both a comet and the anti-matter hypotheses. Is it possible, he asks, that the two became combined somehow? 'But for that to have happened would require the almost inconceivable coincidence that two rare events...combined to cause the catastrophe.' No answers here, but a good bibliography and summary of the work of

the primary investigators and theorists.

RJMR

The Fire Came By by John Baxter & Thomas Atkins (Futura 1977; 75p; pp162, bib, photos) -- Yet another contribution to the current stream of books on Tunguska (although, unlike its predecessors, any mention of that name is strangely absent from the cover blurbs). It really offers nothing new - the explanations offered, however, mostly swing between the unconvincing and the spurious - finally coming down on the side of the alien spacecraft hypothesis. SN

UFO Exist! by Paris Flammonde (Ballantine Books/Futura 1977; 90p; pp480, index, bib, glossary, photos) -- Interesting that we seem to have got to the point where a book advocating the idea of UFOs being the product of technologically advanced off-planet civilizations can be regarded as conventional, if not downright reactionary! Flammonde, author of The Age of Flying Saucers, has set out to write a reasonably comprehensive history of ufology, and also to expose, as he sees it, a plot by the authorities to 'keep the truth from us'. With so many, other, better books available the value of this book is doubtful - more so with its heavy bias towards the 'solid spaceships' view, with only a few passing references to the activities of the 'new ufologists'. But it's his obsession with supposed government sponsored conspiracies that puts the level of debate back to the 50s and early 60s. I should admit to a prejudice against books that have titles both (seemingly) ungrammatical and complete with exclamation marks. SN

The Great Lakes Triangle by Jay Gourley (Pontana 1977; 75p; pp192, index, bib) -- An attempt to justify the theory that strange forces, at work over the Great Lakes of America and Canada, are causing disappearances similar to those which allegedly happen inside the Bermuda Triangle. A statistically high proportion of aircraft and shipping losses have occurred, according to Gourley, in this area between longitudes 76°W and 92°W, and latitudes 41°N and 49°N; a region which has densely populated centers, but is on the whole sparsely peopled. Several of the cases cited do indeed seem inexplicable; and examples of possibly related phenomena (chiefly UFO-type objects capable of enormous rates of acceleration) add to the puzzle.

The notion that these incidents must be attributed to (the malevolence?) of a specific geographical location is rather over-determinedly pursued. There do seem to be places around the world which dem-

onstrate a high level of unexplained activity...however it seems unwise to allow this increasingly fashionable idea to develop into a standard prerequisite for research (or to sell a manuscript). SN

Pendulum: The Psi Connection by Francis Hitching (Pontana 1977; 85p; pp254, index, bib & notes, charts, tables) -- A noted dowser outlines the extent and practical application of psychometric and related powers, and attempts to widen the limited view held by most people about the nature of these gifts. Covers surprisingly broad range in an engaging, if dry, manner. SN

Your Life in Your Hands by Beryl Hutchinson (Sphere 1977; 85p; pp254, bib, illus) -- A good basic guide to palmistry written in a straightforward and unpatronizing style. Should make clear the fundamentals of this form of divination to even the most uninformed student. SN

Jack the Ripper: The Final Solution by Stephen Knight (Panther 1977; £1.25; pp288, index, bib, illus) -- We boggle at the monumental smugness displayed in the choice of title, for this is a very silly and unconvincing book. Its contents reveal the usual modus operandi: a quick recap and body count; a shuffle through (and gentlemanly dismissal of) everybody else's theories, and an anxious sprint along the convolutions of the author's own beloved 'explanation'. Knight says the name 'Jack the Ripper' should be used collectively, because there were three Jacks out ripping on instructions from high places, to divert suspicion from the nocturnal pleasures of the Duke of Clarence, a favourite in the looney stakes. Rather you should believe the suicide theory! SN

The Fairies in Tradition & Literature (RKP 1977; paperback £2.95; pp261, index, bibs, illus); British Folktales & Legends: A Sampler (Paladin 1977; paperback £1.50; pp315) both by Katharine M Briggs -- Ms Briggs is the first lady of folklore (a past president of the English Folklore Society) and the high standard of scholarship in all her works has made them classic references - so it is a great pleasure to be able to afford them now that these two are in paperback. Fairies, first published 10 years ago, has not been superseded as a modern key sourcebook on the fairy traditions (and traditional fairies) since, except perhaps by her own later works. Pt 3 deals with the use of fairies and fairy-lore by writers and poets; pt 1 being one of the best summaries of knowledge of 'The Fairy People', and pt 2 concentrating



with 'Traffic with the Fairies'.

The Sampler is a selection from her mammoth 4 volume Dictionary of British Folktales (totals 2558 pages!) under the following headings: Fables; Fairy Tales; Jocular Tales; Nouvelles; Nursery Tales; Black Dogs; Bogies; Devils; Dragons; Fairies; Ghosts; Giants; Historical Traditions; Local Legends; Saints; The Supernatural; Witches; Miscellaneous Legends. The scope is breathtaking, and it's simply amazing just how much can be crammed in. But that does not make for heavy going - for once the blurb is right, these are good tales well told, and each one a delight. Many of them are of interest to the Portean (as are the fairy studies in the other book) since they hint at the kind of inexplicable powers or events that most interest us, like Black Dogs, etc. But this is more than a mere collection. A true folklorist like Ms Briggs has an eye and ear for the way motifs are picked up and changed perpetually, forming a continuous tradition and usage. Here, and in most entries in the book, Ms Briggs also provides a genealogy and other illuminating notes. Another hint to the sort of rich mine of interest and entertainment<sup>n</sup> this book is that random openings assume a meditational quality (like an I Ching, almost!) Fort would have been tickled to read the section on talking dogs. Both books highly recommended.

RJMR

The Great Pyramid by Tom Valentine

(Panther 1977; 60p; pp144, illus) -- The author's thesis is that the GP was built in 4699BC by the mysterious Hyksos, who were actually survivors from Atlantis. Cheops, whose name has become linked with the GP, merely usurped the monument some 2000yrs later. All other and later pyramids are merely poor imitations of the GP.

The GP, according to Valentine, is not a tomb; it is a 'Monument to Man' erected in a time of prosperity and harmony. Its scientific message (pi, astronomical properties, etc) were incorporated into it to attract the attention of later generations, and to direct those attentions to the Spiritual Message of its interior system of passages. The passage system, Valentine claims, symbolizes the struggle of Man, individually and collectively, from beasthood to godhood.

The book is not really new in its approaches to the GP; much of it is derived from the older works of Smyth and Davidson. Its symbolism is derived from Mars-ham Adams' translation of the Egyptian Book of the Dead, and its first appendix deals with Flanagan's pyramid energy, and Kunkel's strange water pump theory. A second appendix is a miniature debunk of

some of the Pyramid Games people play. 'It gets a bit far fetched at times,' Valentine remarks. On the whole, worth a read but not a startling one!

RF

Cows, Pigs, Wars & Witches by Marvin

Harris (Fontana 1977; 80p; pp192, refs)

-- The chapters are essays on various 'Riddles of Culture', from Hindu taboos on cattle-slaughter, and the Jewish and Moslem taboos against pork-eating, to ritual warfare and male-chauvinism among 'primitive' tribes. Perhaps the sections of immediate interest to Fortean are those dealing with cargo-cults and the great witch-crazes of Europe; and in many examples we see that Millennialism, especially a belief in a messiah or in salvation from outside the system, is a universal trait, usually when apathy, despair and desperation have set in. Harris writes entertainingly and informatively, but ends the book with some baffled head-shaking over the occult-explosion of recent years. Worth getting for its perspectives on the bizarre doings of the peoples of this planet, and how they justify them.

RJMR

Levitation for Terrestrials ed Robert

K Morison (Ascent: 34 Elm Grove, Lond-

on N8 - 1977; £1.25; pp104; illus) --

It would be unfair to dismiss the book as crank literature on the strength of its title. This modest private publication is mainly a condensation by Morison of CE Last's Man in the Universe (1954) and is worth investigation for those interested in the problems of motion, energy and relativity. The author amplifies with ideas and expositions of his own. Basically he believes that any object can be levitated if its constituent particles could be uniformly energized to reach escape velocity.

SN/RJMR

The Haunted Universe by D Scott Rogo

(Signet 1977; \$1.50; pp168, bib) --

One of the most intelligent books on the overlap areas between UFOs, Fortean and parapsychology yet. Rogo avoids many of the usual traps of sensationalizing his material (its already bizarre enough) and settles down to a serious (if erratic) discussion of teleportation phenomena, the Portean events in so-called miracles, and the psychic aspects of UFO cases, much of it illustrated with relatively unexposed material. There is one glaring paradox at the book's close. Rogo notes that 'From years of investigation and laboratory work, we know that ESP is a very inaccurate information channel. In fact it is so bad as to be useless...' Yet he finds no alternative but to fall back on the notion of these unknown powers of the mind to account for the amaz-

ing complexity of apparently telepathically shared events such as the Pascagoula abduction and the mass visions of the BVM at Zeitoun and Fatima. He concludes: 'The mind that releases the poltergeist is also the mind that causes rocks to fall from the sky, people to vanish, and UFOs to appear...' But we are given no obvious clues here (if indeed there are any at all!) Worth getting. RJMR

The Sirius Mystery by Robert KG Temple (Futura 1977; 95p; pp304, index, bib, photos) -- Temple's first book, now in paperback, is a commendable piece of writing. How, it asks, could an obscure African tribe (the Dogons) possess a detailed knowledge of the white dwarf star that orbits the Dog Star, Sirius, unsuspected and undiscovered until relatively recently by the scientific community? Temple presents a plausible argument that they heard it from intelligent visitors from a planet in Sirius' solar system.

However, as the dreaded von Däniken school has shown, plausibility is no yardstick when documentation and interpretation flow from the same pen. There is undoubtedly a case for extraterrestrial visitations, but to contend that the original impetus for art, science, philosophy etc, is solely due to manipulative aliens is giving far too little credit to the creative abilities of Homo sapiens. Likewise, the theory that life on this planet was 'seeded' by outsiders, becomes in the hands of these theorists the ultimate copout response on the crucial questions of man's origins, avoiding the real issue by pushing it further, light-years away, among other star-systems.

In his argument and data, both keeping to the point (unlike vonD's scattergun approach) Temple's book is far superior to the usual excesses of the 'ancient astronaut' proponents. RJMR/SN

UFOs: The Psychic Solution by Jacques Vallee (Panther 1977; 85p; pp221, index, bib) -- Here's that word 'solution' again, though this retile of The Invisible College can at least justify some claim to it. In advocating the theory that UFOs might not be the material products of alien supercivilizations, but perhaps some kind of projected manifestation of a non-physical force able to simulate appearances, Vallee votes for the ultraterrestrial lobby. He seems largely in agreement with John Keel: they both accept that the experiences of witnesses and contactees, though real enough to them, may not have objective reality in the generally understood sense; they both speculate on the selectivity of the phenomena, to certain types of people at certain times and places; and they both place importance on

the post-contact ordeals of many observers, and the apparent mischievousness of these encounters. But they part company on their idea of purpose or function. Keel (at least up to Mothman Prophecies) concerns himself with reinforcing the non-material principle, preferring not to define a reason for these activities; while Vallee sees the machinations of a 'control system' (here likened to the thermostat on domestic heating.) UFOs and other psychic events, he suggests, are indoctrinating us into an altered perception of our environment, presumably as a preliminary to a forthcoming step up the evolutionary scale. Vallee's theory (implying perhaps some confirmation of Fort's unsettling idea that this earth and its inhabitants might be somebody's property) could well be wrong, but at least he has broadened the horizons of discussion beyond the usual approaches to the UFO problem. SN

Messengers from the Stars (Sphere 85p); Gods & Spacemen in the Ancient East (Sphere 75p) both by 'ancient astronaut' pioneer, W Raymond Drake.

The Sacred Mushroom & The Cross by JM Allegro (Abacus 60p) - the controversial, bold, original hypothesis about the origin of Christian mysticism.

The Virgin by Geoffrey Ashe (Paladin £2.50) - interesting scholarly study of myths & cults of Virgin Mary in particular, and Virgin Goddesses in general.

\*\*\* We still have many books for review next time. These include: Peoples of the Sea, Velikovsky; The Twelfth Planet, Sitchin; The Book of Lists, Wallechinsky & Wallace; Lost Gods, Allegro; Perpetual Motion, Ord-Hume; The Secret Discovery of Australia, MacIntyre; The Wild Boy of Aveyron, Lane; False Messiahs, Grattus; Life after Life, Moody; Androgyny, Singer; Child's conception of the World, Piaget; The Mind Possessed, Sargant; Hallucinations, Seigel & West, eds; More Lives than One, Iverson. And many others. \*\*\*

## JOURNALS

We welcome copies of journals on related subjects on an exchange basis; and review/list those received in return for a similar note. No mag: no listing. Readers who respond to these notes might like to tell where they saw the information - it really does help us know what's useful.

INFO Journal 25 (Oct 77) - a Nazca hypothesis; a philosophical psychological look at UFOs; the Golden Section 'phi'; report on Fortfest 77; pt2 of the Mont Pelee volcanic eruption, 1902; notes on the NZ 'plesiosaur'; notes on the Illinois 'Big Bird'; Canadian Nessies. INFO:

7317 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740  
USA. 6 issues/yr/\$10.00...or via PT at  
£5.00.

Nessletter - a newsletter from Rip  
Hepple; Huntshieldsford, St Johns Chapel,  
Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL13 1RQ, on  
events and personalities associated with  
monster hunting in UK. Monthly: £1.25/  
\$7.00.

Lantern 19 (Autumn 77) - stones of E.  
Anglia; pt2 of Black Dog study; Fortean  
& UFO news from E Anglia, etc. Journal  
of Borderline Science Investigation Group  
(BSIG): 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk.  
4 issues: 84p - write for foreign rates.

Forteana 2 - one of the most interest-  
ing and brightest developments on the  
Fortean scene this year is the founding  
of this quarterly Fortean 'newspaper';  
but unfortunately for some of us, it's  
all in Danish. Our Scandinavian readers  
are urged to support it, if they don't  
already. They even have their own book-  
shop in Copenhagen, specializing in  
Fortean publications. Published by the  
Scandinavian Fortean Organization (Scanfo)  
Classensgade 8, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø,  
Denmark. Membership kr10; Forteana kr15.

The Seeker 1:11 (Oct 77) - a small, in-  
formal and largely personal Fortean jour-  
nal, in which the editor, Ms Floyd-Kresse,  
gives her opinion on current Forteana,  
engagingly and intelligently. Also inclu-  
des some news and book reviews; haunted  
houses; & the city-mirage over Alaska.  
Tri-weekly from R Floyd-Kresse: Box 422,  
Asotin, WA 99402, USA. \$9.00 gets you 18.

Fate Sept 77 - rept on the disastrous  
Acapulco conference; report on New Jersey  
monsters; reincarnation; pulsing eggs;  
body of demon sealed in coffin in Mexico  
City cathedral?; locating America's first  
settlers by psychometry etc...; Oct 77 -  
your editor on a history of Morgawr;  
Christian holy places in Israel; Black  
Arts in India; an exorcism; guide to kinds  
of Yoga; phone calls from the dead; hiking  
ghosts; a dream of the next life?...many  
notes and fillers.

MUFOB 8 (Autumn 77) - a statistical look  
at vehicle-stoppages; vehicle-stoppages in  
folklore; aerial phenomena as portents of  
civil unrest etc; catalogue of Type 1  
incidents pt13; notes & reviews. Good  
stuff! MUFOB: 11 Beverley Rd, New Malden,  
Surrey KT3 4AW. Quarterly: £1.25/\$3.00  
(inc airmail).

BUFORA Journal 6:2 (Aug 77) - scienti-  
fic method applied to UFOs; news and  
sighting listing; variety of recent UFO-  
shapes; etc. BUFORA: queries to 6 Cairn  
Ave, London W5.

Page Research Library deal in new and  
used UFO books, mags, journals and re-  
lated stuff. \$4.50 will get you 6 issues  
of the PRL Newsletter ( an up-to-date  
forum of UFO news and letters) and copies  
of their latest UFO Collectors Catalog  
(which lists their current stock). Their  
holdings of UFO mags virtually unobtain-  
able in the UK, will interest many of you.  
Lots of Fortean interest too. PRL have  
also compiled one of the best studies of  
the BVM apparitions, at Zeitoun, Egypt;  
Apparition Phenomena Manifest at Zeitoun  
with 32 photos (\$2.75 inc post.) Write to  
PRL: 6708 Colgate Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102  
USA.

Flying Saucer Review 23:2 (Aug 77) -  
car-stop in Lancs; the Little Haven hum-  
anoids; Hainault, Essex, landing; other  
sightings and encounters; talks with  
Betty Hill; etc etc. FSR: West Malling,  
Maidstone, Kent.

Awareness 6:3 (Autumn 77) - report on  
UFOIN; UFO camouflage; news notes & data.  
Journal of Contact UK: 59d Windmill Rd,  
Headington, Oxford.

WATSUP Journal 7 - Hollow Earth; Gos-  
port airship; Folklore connexion; Win-  
chester case soil samples; Bermuda Tri-  
angle; UFO notes, news & data from Wessex  
WATSUP: 180 Locksway Rd Milton, Ports-  
mouth, Hants. £1.50/yr.

EUFOSG Journal 1:5 (Sept 77) - news,  
notes, data & studies on UFOs, from  
Essex & surrounds. Good on local invest-  
igations. EUFOSG: 16 Raydons Rd, Dagenham  
Essex RM9 5JR. £2.50/yr.

NEARA Journal 12:1 (Summer 77) - Exc-  
avations, studies, paintings, histories  
of ancient sites and artifacts from/in  
New England - much interesting incidental  
information. NEARA: 4 Smith St, Milford,  
NH 03055, USA. \$5.00/yr.

The Ley Hunter 78 - some notes on mega-  
liths in India; comments on the OS maps;  
a magnetic mystery on the Yorks moors; A  
preview of the TLH editors' field guide  
to leys, with observations on working in  
the field; number geometry; Welsh quartz  
geodes; news, letters & reviews. TLH is  
essential for keeping up-to-date on the  
Earth Mystery scene in the UK. £2.70/  
\$8.00 (inc airmail). TLH: Box 152, Lon-  
don N10 1EP.

Ancient Skills & Wisdom Review; and  
Terrestrial Zodiacs Newsletter -- the  
first being mainly a book/journal review  
mag on Earth Mysteries etc; and the sec-  
ond is self-explanatory; both edited by  
Paul Screeton (keeping his foot in the  
door): 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hart-  
lepool, Cleveland TS25 2AT.

Journal of Geomancy 2:1 -- proceedings of 1st Cambridge symposium; the Lamanche 'linear' zodiac; zodiac research; numerology; 'the Sprig of Ely'; dragon legends; boundaries & metrology; etc. From Institute of Geomantic Research (IGR): 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB38SD. IGR produce many pamphlets on geomantic studies; the most recent we hold back for review next issue.

The Christian Parapsychologist 1:8 (June 77) psychic research; witchcraft in 16 & 17 Cs; autoscopia & escomatic experiences pt1. 1:9 (Sept 77) - a critique of recent books on charismatic prophecy; pt2 of escomatic experiences; children as psychic subjects, etc; both with news & reviews on parapsychology & religion. Quarterly: £2.00/\$4.00. CP: write to Leslie Price, CFPSS, St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BA.

Journal of Occult Studies 1:1 - a fat new interdisciplinary journal on paranormal phenomena, under the aegis of the University of Rhode Island & the Occult Studies Foundation, edited by Howard Smukler. Contents of 1st issue are impressive: mass TK experiment with Uri Geller as agent; critical analysis of biorhythm theory in accidents & psychics; hand-

writing analysis of some UFO contactees; synchronicity of New England oil spills; antagonism between SF readers & those who have psychic experiences; effects of pyramid on tomato aging. Quarterly: \$7.50. Really interesting stuff; eg the cluster of coincidences in the last 16 days of 1976 & oil tanker accidents; and a survey that shows psychic experiences to be minimal among SF readers, and conversely, minimal SF reading among psychics. Weird!

New Horizons 2:3 (June 77) - human typology & mental autonomy; Philip is 4; voice production by PK; recording PK sounds; the pyramid-power cult; biorhythms; are more babies born at full moon?; Kirlian variations; patterns of authorship. A worthwhile journal of discussion & experiments from the New Horizon Research Foundation & Toronto's SPR. Quarterly: write for details to: Box 427, Station F, Toronto, Canada M4Y 2L8.

Journal of Meteorology 2:22 (Sept 77) - a 1681 aerial mirage; mystery noise; triple tornado; lightning. 2:23 (Oct 77) - sulphur rains; storms & lightnings; frog & grass showers, etc. An essential for Fortean meteorologists. Monthly: £6.50/\$16.00. J.Met: Cockhill House, Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 9BG.

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*'As phenomenologists, we accept everything;  
we believe nothing absolutely; we do not explain.'*

**Robert J. M. Rickard and John Michell**

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