

A UFO and the car which "floated along"

School-teacher's unnerving experience in Alberta, Canada

W. K. Allan

The following incident was taken from a tape-recorded interview with the witness supplied to us by the author, a reader for many years of *Flying Saucer Review*, and a friend and collaborator of Dr. P. M. H. Edwards, a regular contributor to the *Review*.

THE witness, Mrs. Barbara Smyth, a teacher from a small town in Alberta,* Canada, saw, on February 18, 1969, "something I don't believe is true". It was "gigantic, bright pinky-red coloured, and about seven times the size of a steel granary of 14ft. diameter. When she first saw it, it seemed to be at a height of some 7 or 8ft. from the ground and was approximately half a mile away.

She was driving to school at the time, in an eastward direction (facing the sun). It was a beautiful morning, without even any frost on the trees. The object was seen in a field to the right of her, i.e. to the south. It seemed to consist of two rounded layers with a thin blue line in between. The two parts began spinning counterclockwise and revolved at such speed that the blue line seemed to disappear. There were two huge white lights on the top, flashing on and off regularly; these seemed to be attached to the revolving part as they revolved with it as well as flashing.

Surmounting the object was a tent-like portion whose sides were "going in and out" (? pulsating) laterally "like a couple of swing doors". The tent-like part was described as being of a silvery to fiery yellow colour with some orangey-red in it. The tip of it seemed to be moving like flames, but the sides were so straight that it did not seem like fire.

The object was kept in observa-

tion whilst driving for about 1 mile. After driving for about $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile, Mrs. Smyth glanced back and noticed that it had "jumped over" to the next hill, which must have entailed a sudden and very rapid movement. When asked how fast she was driving the car:

"I finally shifted into high [gear—ED.] at 30 and got back to about 20 mph—it just seemed to be going along. I didn't seem to be steering it—or hit any bumps; and there was no noise—nothing. I've been trying to think whether the radio was on—I don't think it was. I always have the radio on. The car just seemed to keep on going down the road. I didn't seem to be able to get my stupid foot off the gas and put it on the brake."

Did she think she was partially paralysed?

"The only thing I noticed was I glanced my head back at the road once in that full mile, and I kept thinking: What if I meet somebody? But I didn't meet anybody. The car was floating along O.K., so I looked back at the thing—I was so hypnotised by it. But as for the rest of my body, I'm sure it didn't move. When you're driving, your hands move a little bit—but they didn't. I just sat like that."

"That's very strange."

"Extremely strange."

"Do you mean to say there was an unnatural quietness?"

"Exactly—horribly quiet. It was awful."

"You usually hear the sound of the car."

"Oh sure! I hear the bumps, because it's bumpy out there. I

steer through bits of ice and ruts and stuff. I just kept my hands in the same place and the car just seemed to float along on the ground. It was awful!"

"You didn't feel any sound or sensation? Mrs. Heggs in Saskatchewan—she saw one—she said it was like a shock. She could feel a sensation going through her."

"No, I never felt anything like that. I kept telling myself: Hey, stupid, go back and get your camera, go back and get your camera."

"How many times did you look over at the object?"

"Well, I was more or less staring at it all the time . . . it was maybe 3 minutes, but I wouldn't put a dollar on it."

"What was the final result when you were driving? Did it climb? Did it go up and disappear?"

"It disappeared behind the hill. It seemed to just go down behind it and the last I saw of this thing was the top, the tent-shaped thing."

When asked what she previously thought about the subject of UFOs, Mrs. Smyth exclaimed: "I don't believe it, and I still don't believe it!" In fact, the topic had somehow arisen in her class at school, just prior to her sighting, one child saying that his mother had seen a UFO, and then another child adding that his mother had seen one too.

Mrs. Smyth continued: "I said, 'Oh, it's impossible. There is no such thing—it's just your imaginations.' Then they argued with me, 'But my mother saw it!' I said, 'I have not.' Now I've seen one!"

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* The name of the town was not audible on the tape.

What the children saw

Eileen Buckle

EARLY this year a new magazine for children was launched. Its name is **Countdown**† and its main theme is travel and adventure in outer space. Since its inception, more than a dozen articles on UFOs have appeared in its pages, the author of most of them being our Editor, Charles Bowen. The readers were invited by the editors of *Countdown* to write in to FSR giving us details of any personal UFO sightings they may have made. The good response surprised us all.

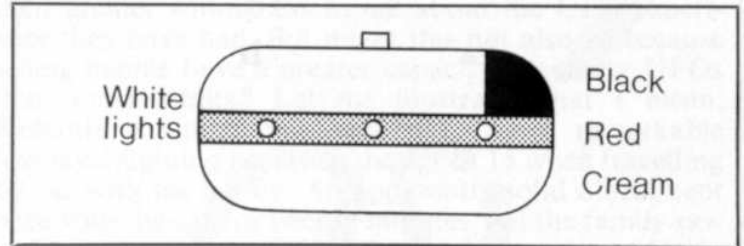
To date, 150 letters have been received, and most of them seem to be of *bona fide* sighting reports, judging by the contents and manner of narration; only a minority are deemed probable leg-pulls or exercises in imagination. A good many are probably sightings of weather balloons, satellites or aircraft, but there are other reports of objects not so easily identifiable, and the reports are often accompanied by well-executed drawings. Lack of descriptive detail and sighting data has marred a good many reports, though in general the standard of reporting has been high. Parents have rather obviously helped in the writing of a few of the accounts, and we are glad they have encouraged their youngsters in this way.

It might be argued that children make poor witnesses. Certainly a limited vocabulary and undeveloped observation technique lessen the accuracy and overall value of a sighting report, but on the other hand, it has been noted that children are generally more objective in describing an experience than most adults, and they are less inhibited about telling it.

It was difficult to select the best accounts for publication here. Almost all had their merits, and I would like to thank all those children who wrote to us.

The following letter came from **John Child** of Gorleston-on-Sea, Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk:

"In August 1969 I was outside for a P.E. lesson with the rest of my class and I sneaked behind the changing rooms so as to miss a game of football. I sat down and kept my eyes fixed on some television aerials on the block of nearby flats. I was a keen aircraft spotter at the time and I heard the noise of jet engines. As quick as a flash my eyes were fixed on the sky. Immediately I saw a De Havilland Comet (I think!) leaving a heavy vapour trail across the sky. Then my attention was drawn by two objects moving slowly across the sky southwards, apparently appearing from nowhere while I was looking at the other aircraft. The UFOs looked like this:



UFO observed over Peterhouse Junior School

"Then I heard another aircraft noise and I turned away. My keen eyesight searched the sky for about 30 seconds but I could not see any aircraft. My eyes turned to the spot where the UFOs had been, only to find that they had gone. So I regret to add I did not see how the UFOs came or went, but just their swoop over Peterhouse Junior School."

I wondered if this next sighting, by **David Humphry** of Enfield, Middlesex, was of a similar luminous object to that filmed at Newark by Mr. W. H. Huntington*:

"In issue 1 of *Countdown* it said that if you see a UFO write to this address. Well, when we were going to my aunt's in Chesham on the 20th December, 1970, we were just passing Radlett on the M10 when my sister spotted a large, long flame of fire in the sky, about 1 mile from Radlett aerodrome. It seemed as though a plane was on fire. But it started to come down on a diagonal slant; it then started to come down vertically, but for some reason got stopped. We then saw a small charter plane that seemed to be circling it. The flame of fire then started to rise again. We stopped at some toilets and when we started again we lost sight of it.

"As we were going down a hill in Hemel Hempstead we caught sight of it heading towards London. We came to the conclusion that the flame of fire was the main jet of fire to the UFOs main engine. We could see no spaceship, only the long flame of fire. From where we were standing the flame of fire was about 14 inches long and about 4 inches wide [sic]. As far as we can judge, it was about 250 feet long and 20 feet in diameter. It was about as high up as a Vulcan jet plane.

"The people who saw it were my mum, dad and sister and I. The time was about 5.30 p.m.

Next, here is the sighting account of a most peculiar object by **Dean E. Morris**, aged 10, of Chislehurst, Kent:

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* See Case Histories Supp. 2, p. 3.