

3. With the right equipment, it is possible to make certain measurements of negative density of the UFO image and of other images of objects at estimated distances from the lens. Here the object is to show that the unknown is not nearby — and thus not a hubcap or other such object thrown into the air. The idea is to measure, from the image of the object at a known distance, the atmospheric 'extinction coefficient'. On a clear day, with a low value, contrasts between dark shadowed areas and brightly lit areas retain their distinction over greater distances. On hazy days, the light and dark areas blend towards a mid-range shade, giving the appearance that distant mountains have of being one shade of grey. Nearby shadows can show their true darkness, as opposed to the lighter shade of distant shadows. But in this picture there are no nearby shadows to serve as a standard, only shadows of trees in the lower left bottom.

It has been alleged that edges become fuzzy at greater distances and that this can help distinguish nearby objects from those far away. I know of no theoretical reason for this based on the optical properties of the atmosphere, but will ask Jim Lorenzen if we have a consultant who could be more sure of this. After all, we do take remarkably clear

pictures from space with no trouble from edge-blurring of objects on the ground, and that is through 14.7 lbs. per square inch of air in the path.

So proving authenticity is likely to be elusive, insofar as there is only the evidence of internal consistency to go on. I wish I could be more positive, but then there is so much evidence of other sorts for the reality of UFOs that we shouldn't have to add to it excepting for those who are beyond believing anyway."

POSTSCRIPT

In a further letter from Mr W. K. Allan, he comments on Dr Harder's reference to the fact that Mrs McRoberts' photo is one of a sequence of outdoor pictures, and says: "It is unfortunate that the importance of keeping the individual exposures on the roll unseparated was not fully realized, *but when I saw the negative it was still unseparated from one of the family snaps.*"

With regard to the lady who took the photograph of this UFO, Mr Allan goes on to say: "*What is of great importance to me is the fact that Hannah McRoberts is the niece of one of Canada's leading nuclear engineers, a man in charge of a multi-billion dollar electrical generating complex, whom I have known continuously since his attendance in my class at Western Canada High School in Calgary, Alberta.*"

ANOTHER BRITISH "CLOSE ENCOUNTER" NEAR READING

JUST a few days ago, as she was driving along a country road in Berkshire, not many miles from London, a young woman secretary, aged 26, who works in the offices of an important British firm in Reading, had the "classic" type of "close encounter" with a UFO which she says came down and hovered over her car. Although her own impression at the time was that the experience was brief and fleeting, she subsequently discovered that some 15-20 minutes remain unaccounted for.

The young lady, who wishes to remain anonymous (the names and addresses of herself and her employers are on file with FSR) has no recollection of having gone aboard the craft, or of having seen any occupants, or of having indeed seen any door open. It is however most curious that, as she noted on her sketch of the UFO, she "thinks she knows how the door of the craft opened."

This strange impression, plus the missing 15 or 20 minutes, may possibly be thought to suggest that there are good grounds for suspecting that the young lady was indeed aboard the UFO.

EDITOR

The young lady's report

"At 6.15 a.m. on Friday, October 14, 1983, I was driving in a north-westerly direction, towards Reading, along the 327. It was still dark and misty. There were fields on both sides. No houses in sight.

"When between Arborfield and Shinfield, I became aware of a bright light in the sky, first on the left hand side of the road and then on the right. My first thought was that it must be an aeroplane or a helicopter. However, after it had moved over on to my right hand side, it appeared to be standing quite still. I looked at the car clock. It was 6.15 a.m. exactly. Just after I had done this, *the car lights and car radio went off (reception on the radio had been very bad that morning — which was quite unusual). The object then got lower in the sky — coming towards the car in circular motions. The car stopped, but I cannot remember whether I stopped it or not.*

"When the object got nearer, I realised that it was not an aeroplane or helicopter. The light was incredible — it lit up the road. The object had a large green light on the left side and a purple light on the right.

The green light shone on the car as the object hovered overhead, making my skin appear green.

"The object circled the car for what seemed like half a minute or so. I remember having the definite feeling that I was going to go into it, and wondering whether they would let me out again, although I do not understand at all why I should have thought this.

"After the thing had circled around the car, it then hovered just in front of me. There were no other cars on the road and no other people around.

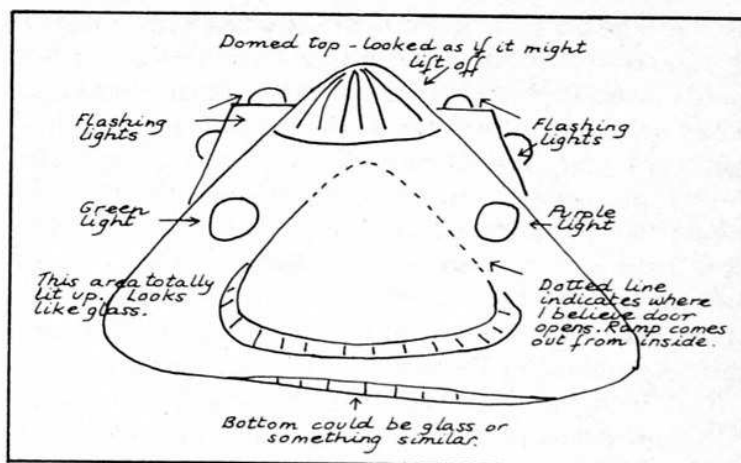
"It then went straight up into the sky and disappeared totally from sight. This happened extremely quickly.

"The lights and the radio then came on again. I started up the car and drove on. Shortly after that, a car passed me, coming from the opposite direction.

"Reception on the car radio did not become clear again until I had driven for about half a mile.

"When I arrived at my destination, my home, I realised that the journey which I had just done, and which would normally have taken about 20 minutes, had taken about twice that length of time. When I came out of my house again and got into the car, I found I had to adjust the car-clock, which showed a delay of fifteen minutes.

"Enclosed herewith is a sketch which I have made of the craft. I also feel that I know how the door of the craft opens, and I have indicated this on my sketch — although I do not remember it opening.



"The craft made no sound. The trees beside the road did not seem to shake or move as it approached.

"The colour of the craft was of a grey 'aluminium' shade.

"As regards the shape and size of the craft, it appeared to be circular, and its width approximately covered the width of the road."

TESTIMONIAL

I confirm that I have know Miss for six years. During that time I have always found her to be truthful, honest, and level-headed.

(signed):

Personnel Manager,
....., Reading, Berks.

BAD NEWS FOR CSICOP FROM CHINA: THE ADVANCE OF CHINESE UFOLOGY AND PARAPSYCHOLOGY

As elsewhere in the world, those forces in Communist China that oppose (and fear) research into such matters as UFOs, Parapsychology, etc., have been vociferous of late in their denunciations. The USA too has its Klases and its Obergs and at one time it had its Dr. Menzel (now deceased), and it has its CSICOP (*Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal*). In view of the way things are going in the world — indeed in view especially of the whole trend in Physics of late and in various other areas of study, one is obliged to sympathize with the Gentlemen from CSICOP. We can see how desperately worried they must be.

The Chinese People's Republic is a Marxist, atheistic, and materialistic society. And yet in that country too it seems that there are "maggots in the works" and with a vengeance. So we extend our sympathy to the Comrades as well as to CSICOP.

The CSICOP view of life is represented in China in

admirable fashion by Comrade Weng Shida of the Peking Observatory. He is, we might say, the "Celestial Menzel," for he does not like UFOs.

But the maggots are there, everywhere in China, and so we have horrible things to report.

Paul Dong and C.U.R.O.

The China UFO Research Organization (CURO) has some keen and active leaders, and one of them, Mr. Paul Dong, although born in China in 1928, is now an American citizen and lives in California, where he works as a journalist. In 1981 CURO, who had made him their Foreign Editor-in-Chief, invited him to return for a six-week visit to China. He visited many of the main cities, and everywhere he went he was asked to lecture on UFOs! In Canton, his native city, he spoke before the whole student body of the Jinan University, plus the whole of the professional staff. In Pek-