

# UFO and "Auto-stop" at Belchar's Bar

Geoffrey Coxon

THE incident described below took place at Belchar's Bar on the night of Tuesday, May 25, 1971. Belchar's Bar, near Ibstock, is a tiny village situated on the A447 road, about eight miles to the north of Hinckley in Leicestershire.

The witness was Mrs. Eunice Rose, of 26 Welwyn Road, Hinckley. Aged 36 at the time, she is a housewife who has three children of her own, and who is also a foster mother. She states that she has read no books or magazines on UFOs, and has no knowledge of other incidents similar to her own. During an interview at her home on Sunday, May 30, 1971, she was found to be puzzled, but eager to learn the true nature of the things she experienced.

## The incident

On the evening of May 25, 1971, Mrs. Rose had been visiting friends at the village of Odstone, near Ibstock, and at 10.45 p.m. she drove away from their house in her 1956 Austin A30 car to return to Hinckley. The weather was not good, and she recalled that at that time it had just stopped raining.

She was travelling along the country road between Odstone and the junction with the A447 at Belchar's Bar when, about half a mile from the junction (point A on the map), she saw, through the windscreen, a large glowing light directly ahead of her, but still some distance away. At first she thought it was the headlights of a lorry coming towards her, but no vehicle passed, and she wondered if there was a car in a ditch with its lights shining upwards. However, she came across nothing like that, and thought no more about it. It was after she had turned right towards Hinckley at the Belchar's Bar junction that she realised something strange was happening.

She had driven only about 100 yards in the new direction (point B on the map), when her transistor radio, which was operating independently of the car, began to fade. She turned up the volume, but this had no effect, and the sound died away completely.

She then noticed that the car's headlights, which were switched to full beam, had dimmed considerably and that the vehicle, which should still have been accelerating away from the Belchar's Bar junction, was gradually losing power. At the same time she became aware of the close proximity of a large light to her left out of the front off-side window. Although at this time she was depressing the accelerator pedal, the engine would not respond normally, but continually "coughed" and "sputtered" till the car came to a stop just past the junction with the road to Nailstone Grange (point C on map; see also photograph 1).

The engine did not cut out completely. "It was running very slowly and unevenly," said Mrs. Rose, "and when I pressed the accelerator pedal, the engine just coughed and sputtered again. I was confused. I could see this light to my left out of the front passenger window and my first reaction was to reach for my

Our contributor signs his report as "Investigations Officer—NICAP/GB" and we understand that the initials stand for *National Investigation Committee for Aerial Phenomena/GB*, and that the group, which is directed by Mr. D. C. Samson of 67 Wildmoor Road, Shirley, Solihull, Warwickshire, is not connected with the well-known, and very much older American organisation, NICAP, of Washington DC. The British group publish the quarterly *NICAP Journal*.—EDITOR.

cigarettes—lying on the front passenger seat. It was then that I noticed the whole interior of the car was gradually becoming lit up."

She said the light was extremely close, about 30 yards away, and was moving quite slowly towards her. As the light moved closer to her the interior of the car became increasingly brighter; the light then moved directly above her car. At that point she could clearly see her cigarette packet, and on glancing about her she saw that the area round about the car was very strongly bathed in light, the colour of which she likened to moonlight.

Mrs. Rose estimated that by then the time was 10.50 p.m.

At no time during the incident did the witness notice any change in temperature in the car, nor did she smell any unusual odour.

As the light moved over her and away to her right, she noticed how the interior of the car, and other features such as the hedge by the side of the road, were gradually lost again to the darkness, but she could not see any sort of beam of light extending down from the light, nor did it appear to cast any glow on to the countryside as it moved away. "It just emitted a light which seemed to light up me and the immediate surrounding area as it went over me, but it didn't appear to light up everything else as it went over everything else. Whether this was just the fact that I was beneath it . . .?"

Mrs. Rose described the light (as she persistently termed it) as being like a flat circular disc and of moonlight colour over all. Describing it further, she said it was "saucer shaped" and like a "huge plate shape." It was of solid appearance and had a well-defined shape, but there were no markings or any noticeable projections. On drawing it she could only sketch the shape.

At first she had difficulty in assessing its size and compared it to a huge Moon. However, when comparing its height above the ground to something a little higher than that of a nearby tree (approx. 36 feet), she conceded that the disc, from that height, would have covered the entire width of the road from hedgerow to hedgerow (approx. 15 yards; see photo 2).

The "disc" moved slowly and smoothly, and at no time was any sound audible above that of the car's engine which was continually running. It was estimated to have moved 100 yards away over a field to her right before the headlights and the transistor radio began to



**Photograph 1.** Mrs. Rose's 1956 Austin A30 car at the spot where it came to a stop just past the junction with the road to Nailstone Grange.



**Photograph 2.** Looking south at the same spot; photograph shows the tree and the width of the road with which Mrs. Rose made comparisons of the "disc's" size, and its height above the ground.

pick up again. When she again depressed the accelerator pedal, the engine coughed and sputtered a few times, then responded normally. "Time seemed to stand still," said Mrs. Rose, "but I recall that when the radio started to fade, a record on the 'Night Ride' program was just beginning. When the radio came back on, the same record was just finishing. When the light moved away to my right I lit a cigarette, of which I had smoked about half by the time the radio, headlights, and the performance of the engine, returned to normal."

Once the car was operating again she resumed her driving, but although a little nervous she had no difficulty in operating the vehicle. As she drove away she occasionally glanced over her shoulder at the light which was soon lost to sight moving towards the south-

west. She agreed that she was a little frightened, and at the point when the light moved directly above her car, she did experience the chilling sensation of the hair on the back of her neck bristling up, but said she was by no means terrified. She added that her nervousness and fear persisted, but that once the light had gone, all these manifestations, including the chilling sensation, disappeared.

All Mrs. Rose wanted then was to get home as quickly as possible, to have an explanation for what she saw, or to hear from anyone who might have witnessed anything similar that night. There were no other vehicles on the road at the time, in fact she could not recall seeing another vehicle along the same route until she had arrived at Hinckley. "I think the first vehicle I saw



**Figure 1.** The village, based on O.S. maps SK4008 and SK4108. The dotted line shows the direction followed by the glowing object

was when I got to Lathams Garage in Hinckley, when I had to stop at a junction to let a lorry go by. I was in a hurry but I wouldn't risk nipping in front of him."

From Mrs. Rose's description of its flight path, the light should have moved close to, and almost parallel to a row of houses at Belchar's Bar which are aligned along the road to Nailstone Grange (see Fig. 1). Checks at these and other houses established that at the time of the incident, the occupants were either at work (on the night shift), watching TV, or had retired to bed. None of them however had seen anything unusual, or noticed any flickering or dimming of the house lights, nor had they noticed any interference with the TV.

Again, from the description of flight path, the light, if it kept to the same course, should also have passed over the neighbouring villages of Odstone, Congerstone, and Twycross. After a restless night, Mrs. Rose next day telephoned Mr. and Mrs. George Evans of the "Woodlands," Odstone, the friends whom she had visited that night, to find out whether they had seen anything unusual. She learned that a few minutes after she had left, Terry Evans, their 10-year-old son, had seen a light through his bedroom window which he assumed to be a car approaching up the drive. He told his mother, but no car arrived.

## Down on Yarnold's Farm

News from Kempsey, New South Wales

*Eileen Buckle*

SINCE the Kempsey flap of last April, Patricia Riggs, Associate Editor of the *Macleay Argus* has been faithfully keeping us informed of the latest UFO events in the area. There have been sporadic sightings these last few months, but to quote her own words, it would take a landing to cap last year's performance.

I was particularly interested to learn that there have been continuing phenomena at Yarnold's farm, near Collombatti, which was mentioned in my previous article on the Kempsey flap\* as being a seeming focal point of UFO activity. The *Macleay Argus* of January 18, 1972, relates how a visitor to the farm was terrified on the morning of Saturday, January 16, by a UFO which moved towards her as she walked out of the house.

Mrs. Shirley Yarnold of Port Moresby, New Guinea, her husband Lyle and family were staying with Mr. and Mrs. Peter Yarnold at the time. Her daughter, Debbie, told the *Argus* reporter that her mother had left the house at about 3.30 a.m. and had seen, apparently near a barn 40 feet away, a brilliant white light about 18 inches in diameter. The light, triangular in shape except where the sides curved around the base, was no more

### Other reports

Mrs. Rose also made an enquiry in the *Leicester Mercury*, which carried a report on the incident the following evening.\* Following this, and another report in a local newspaper, Mrs. Rose received a letter from 13-year-old Steven Freary, of 1a Tudor Road, Hinckley. He wrote that on that same night of Tuesday, May 25, 1971, he was returning home by car with his father along Coventry Road, Hinckley, when he noticed what he called a "thing" high in the sky through the front passenger window. He asked: "What's that, Dad?" but his father was not interested for he replied: "I don't know; I'm driving." The car at this point was just passing the North Field Road junction, and the time was approximately 10.45 p.m.

Steven lost sight of the "thing," which he described as being orange in colour, round and with a halo around its edge, when the car turned left into Trinity Lane. However he saw it once more over in the direction of the Electricity Board building (East) when the car was approaching the junction with Bond Street (A47). "The Thing," he wrote, "then seemed to go North East then North towards Ibstock way."

### Note

\* See "World Round-up", p. 31 of FSR, Vol. 17 No. 4, July/August 1971.

than 4 feet from the ground. Panic-stricken, Mrs Yarnold fled indoors.

Her husband, who was following her out of the house, was in time to see a bright glow behind the barn, but he did not investigate it. Shortly afterwards, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Yarnold woke and on going outside they saw a pulsating light disappearing towards the West.

### The shaking barn

Further mystery was added to the story by Sue Yarnold and Debbie, who had been sleeping in the barn for the last fortnight. They said that on several occasions between 1.00 a.m. and 4.00 a.m. they had been awakened by a feeling that the barn was shaking violently. They thought cattle may have been rubbing against the walls, but at no time had they heard movement or sound outside.

On the Saturday night, at the time Mrs. Shirley Yarnold was sighting her UFO, the girls had again been awakened by the rocking or shaking sensation, and as on former occasions, the ducks and geese became agitated.

On the following night, the family kept vigil, but sighted nothing. Exactly a fortnight earlier, on January 2, the whole family had seen a UFO at about 7.30 p.m. It was a light, approximately 6 inches in diameter (apparent size, as seen by the observers), pulsating "all colours of the spectrum" before disappearing between two ranges in the Bellbrook region. It had descended slowly at first and then accelerated, leaving behind an orange glow above the trees.

The shaking of the barn concomitant with the light phenomenon makes this case a most interesting one in that it clearly confirms that *some* UFO phenomena at least are related to poltergeist activity.

\* See FSR Case Histories Supplement 8.