

MAIL BAG

Why "Glad"?

Gentlemen:—In my FSR Volume 19, No.2, March-April 1973, I find a strange remark, and I must ask "why?" At the bottom of Page 30, the editor, in answering a letter from one Norman Oliver, begins: "I am glad to be able to say that I have had no experience with UFOs..."

Why, Mr. Editor, are you "glad"? And if you are, surely you are in the wrong occupation, are you not?

I would think of all people *you* would be most anxious to have such an experience! Is there an explanation? Yours

Helen Frank
(Mrs. Abbott Frank)
223 Idle Wild Road,
Macon,
Georgia 31204,
U.S.A.

Why not?

Dear Madam,—I assume, with dismay, that you reached the end of the text on page 30, and then failed to see the signpost "(continued on page iii)" and thus never read the remainder of the sentence where I stated that (my sole) "...preoccupation has been with reports of UFOs and of their alleged occupants, and discussion based on those reports." It is possible too that you have missed the many reports over the years which we have published telling not only of the apparent benevolent experiences of some UFO witnesses, but also of the ludicrous and bizarre experiences, of the mind-bending experiences, of the sickness-inducing experiences, of the lethal incidents, stated variously to have been the lot of some unfortunate witnesses. After what I have read in all the reports that have come my way I still retain a deep and compelling interest in the subject, but I am indeed glad to be able to occupy a chair on the sidelines as long as I may, looking on and recording the scene rather than waiting anxiously for personal involvement and risking a 50-50 chance of something nasty happening. Anyway, what would be the value of such an encounter? If I reported such an experience, no one would believe me.

Yours etc.,

Charles Bowen, Editor.

P.S. You may rest assured, madam, you are not alone: Mr. Norman Oliver also seems to have missed the point!—C.B.

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

More on "Gobbledygook"

Dear Sir,—With reference to Betty Allen's comments (Mail Bag, Volume 19, No.3, on "Gobbledygook."

For nearly two years I have been researching into the so-called voice phenomenon with a view to trying to establish or discover a cause and source of this phenomena. Although I can appreciate the *very rare* possibility of "metal fillings in the teeth acting as a crude form of detector" as Betty Allen commented, most experiments of this type have been conducted in a Faraday Cage which is surrounded by a layer of sound-proofing material—shielding the recording unit and the operators from general electromagnetic radiation and external noises. This will therefore cancel any effect such as that described by Betty Allen.

Might I respectfully suggest that Betty Allen read two books entitled "Breakthrough"* and "Carry on talking." Both these books will give an extensive account of the voice phenomena.

Yours faithfully,
Francis M.G. Morton, A.F.B.I.S.
65, Malmsey House,
Vauxhall Street,
London. SE11 5LU.

* This is Radive's book, already dealt with by me fairly fully in *Gobbledygook*. — GDN. CREIGHTON

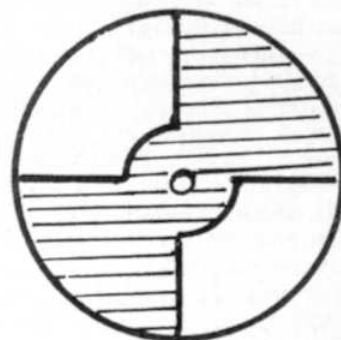
On the Oregon photo

Dear Sir,—I should like to put a finger on one or two weak spots in Mr. Adrian Vance's article about the Oregon photograph (FSR March/April 1973.), in connexion with the recently issued Volume 1, No. 1 of NICAP's *UFO Quarterly Review*, pp. 18-24.

Mr. Vance's conclusions are obviously mistaken, for in the first place the photo shows no "residual imagery", as NICAP observe, and consequently there is no discontinuity in the movements of the UFO. And, in the second place, we don't see in stills!

As I have done research in connexion with getting motion-pictures on TV, I am thoroughly familiar with the problem of the alleged intermittency in seeing. We do see continuously, but we are not able to see separately a sequence of stills on a motion-picture film as soon as the rate surpasses about 12-16 stills per second, just as we are unable to distinguish separate beats

above this frequency in hearing. In this case we start to hear a definite low tone, just as in sight, with a too-rapid succession of stills, we see continuous movement. This is all due to the inertia of the perception-centre of



the brain. Just fancy what would happen if you were to see in stills, and not synchronized to the 50 cycle/sec. frequency of moving-picture films (not 25 cycles as Mr. Vance asserts!): you would go raving mad in a very short time!

To digress somewhat about the number of stills/sec. on TV or motion-picture film, there is also another problem in this connexion. Although we cannot distinguish above the said frequency of 12-16 cycles/sec., we are still able to see a *flicker* in the light up to a much higher frequency, dependent on the brightness of the brightest spots of the picture. A rate of 25 cycles/sec. is much too low for a satisfactory degree of brightness. Therefore a rotating vane with two openings, (see sketch) rotating at 25 rev./sec., doubles the picture-frequency, i.e. to 50 cycles/sec. in motion-picture films. And TV scanning is "interlaced" i.e. scanning alternately the even and the odd lines, in this way also producing a 50 cycles/sec. sequence.

You can try it for yourself by brightening your TV picture too much. At once you will see flicker occurring in the brightest parts. A rate of 50 cycles/sec. is a rather low limit, and 60 (as in the USA) or even 75 (which I have tried experimentally) is much better. The fact that not every picture projected is a next one in the sequence does not matter; the inertia in the eye-sight compensates for that. An old gentleman of about 95 in the pension where I live turned on his TV picture to a brightness that was much too much for me. Within five minutes I got a headache from the flickering unless

I put on dark eyeglasses which reduced the brightness to 1/8th. So the old man's eyesight had at least worn out to the extent that *he* saw no flicker at all!

Yours sincerely,
A. Cramwinckel, Engineer,
Chr. de Wetlaan 1,
Hilversum,
Netherlands.
August 3, 1973.

Discovering oneself?

Dear Sir,—Since opening my first copy of F.S.R. three years ago I have deserted the fiction shelves at the Public Library and wandered through the aisles of the serious, the 'way out' and the esoteric. Starting with Ufology (Sanderson, Keyhoe and Adamski) I went on to Bowen, Trench and Keel. These led me further to a variety of subjects which include:

Ancient enigmas (von Daniken, John Michell and others);
Astral Projection;
Astrology;
Atlantis and Mu;
Dowsing;
Dragons, serpents and other monsters;
Fort;
Hypnotism;
Magonia and other "fairy stories";
Numerology;
Philosophy (Krishnamurti and others);
Prophecy (Nostradamus and others);
Psychic phenomena;
Reincarnation (Cayce, Joan Grant and others);
Spiritualism;
Theosophy (Blavatsky and very heavy going);
Witchcraft.

So, the mental exercise has widened my vision, you might comment, but it seems to have done more. My previous fifty years had been fairly mundane, yet in the last two years I have seen one UFO and had half a dozen Psychic/E.S.P. experiences.

Is it just coincidence?

To be whimsical on both the personal level and the larger issues (which seems the only sane manner of approach): "where will it all end, I wonder?"

Yours sincerely,
M. Sweetman, Eng. Lt. R.N. (Ret'd),
Elmside,
Fernleigh Road,
Plymouth PL3 5AN.
July 11, 1973.

1825 "Flatwoods Monster"?

Dear Sir,—While looking through a book entitled "Haunted Britain" by Elliot O'Donnell, I came across the following account taken from *Broadsides*, Volume 2 (printed in Bristol between 1700 and 1840). The heading reads, "Extraordinary appearance of

a supernatural spirit to two young men belonging to St. Phillips, Bristol, 18th December, 1825."

"In a wood, near Stapleton, where they went one Sunday for the purpose of cutting fir clumps for Christmas, two young men, Davis and Peters, were arrested in the progress of their work by the rattling of chains and a terrible rustling among the trees as if blown by a mighty wind, though the day was extremely serene. These noises were accompanied by the strange and hollow sounds of many unintelligible tongues. The young men stood motionless with terror and consternation, not knowing what to do, and in that state beheld a most horrible and ghastly figure that, surrounded by smoke, came through the copse or wood in front of them.

"Just as this 'Demon of Darkness' was within a few yards of them it vanished in a flame of fire, and nearly suffocated by the sulphurous fumes, they fell senseless to the ground.

"On recovery they hastened out of the wood, leaving all their articles behind them, and returned home in a state of fearful conviction of mind that they had been very wicked in breaking the Sabbath Day. This they resolved never to do again."

Yours faithfully,
Nicholas Maloret,
180 Locksway Road,
Milton,
Portsmouth,
Hants.

On entities

Dear Sir,—The articles by Aimé Michel and A.E.I. Mackay in the March-April 1973 FSR interested me very much because over the past five years I have known two characters who claimed to be, as Mackay states, 'entities whose physical form and characters resemble those of the human being so closely that they could fairly closely pass as one of them! I have referred to them as "genii" but they could equally well be described as demons, angels, wise-masters, or psychopaths. They are different things to different people, but on the whole I found them delightful, amusing, kindly, cruel, and, on occasion, frightening. Under their guidance I had many fascinating psychic experiences. They taught me everything that is in these two articles, and many other things as well, *but I was always aware that everything they taught me had several meanings, and nothing was really as it seemed.*

On one small point I would disagree with Aimé Michel. He states that the belief of the Ancients was wiped out by Islam. If you read the Koran you will find a Sura of the Jinnii which

states that a company of the entities (who are created from fire) were out one day when they met the Prophet Muhammad, recognized him, and at once fell down and worshipped him and became followers. A later offshoot from Islam, the Bahá'í Faith, has many references to the Supreme Concourse, the Illuminated Ones, etc. Bahá'is tend to interpret these references as to the souls of deceased believers, but deeper study in the light of older beliefs would indicate that they have much in common with these other entities.

To anyone interested in the subject, I would suggest a study of Bahá'í books—the originals, not souped-up versions by later writers. *The Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*; *The Book of Certitude*; and the official history, *The Dawn Breakers*, contain much of interest. In the latter-mentioned work, the characters Quddus and Tahireh are particularly fascinating.

I have been involved in the subject of UFOs over the past seven years, and while starting out subscribing to the ET theory, have gradually come around to the stance of FSR of investigating everything and believing nothing. I now refer to myself, tongue-in-cheek, as an 'eclectic Keelist.'

I would be most interested to hear from any FSR readers who have had, or are having, experiences similar to mine.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Peter Macdonald,
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Swarthmore, Pa., 19081
U.S.A.

Animal reactions to UFOs

Dear Sir,—In her most useful letter about varying animal reactions to UFOs (FSR March/April 1973), Miss Hargreaves suggests that I should "look again at my files and perhaps place more value on those reports where no reaction was noticed. That really would indicate something odd."

I do concur most heartily with Miss Hargreaves, and this was precisely in my mind when I deliberately included in my Catalogue a number of cases where absolutely no animal reaction whatever was noted. As she says, it is indeed something very odd, and I am inclined at present to the view that this may be a further piece of evidence in support of the theory that "UFOs" and "UFO entities" are an extremely mixed kettle of fish, and may have very, very varying origins, and very varying motives. Evidently our animals *know* this.

Yours faithfully,
Gordon Creighton
London, SW7