

FROM MY OHIO VALLEY

NOTE BOOK

by John A. Keel

Our contributor has made a personal investigation of a number of unusual cases in the States of Ohio and West Virginia.

DURING the tail-end of March and the early days of April this year I travelled extensively up and down the Ohio Valley. Here is a selection of cases where I have interviewed witnesses and "silent" contactees, and which have thrown a little more light on UFO ground level activities.

The Vanishing Building

Some time in late October, 1966 (the witness does not remember the precise date), Mr. Leonard "Shy" Elmore, 72, of Duncan Falls, Ohio, was taking a stroll around 4 a.m. when he encountered a strange "building" which frightened him badly. Like many elderly people, Mr. Elmore does not sleep well and often takes long walks late at night. On this particular morning, he was walking along a road two blocks from his home when he saw a strange "L-shaped building that looked like a galvanised iron shed" sitting in the middle of a large field. Since he had never noticed this "shed" before, he walked closer to it to take a better look. Something about it frightened him . . . later he could not exactly explain why it had scared him . . . and he turned and started to hurry away. Although it was dark and he could see no windows or doors in the "shed", he claims that he distinctly heard a normal male voice come from it. "Don't run . . . don't run", the voice called. "I didn't exactly run," Mr. Elmore told me, "but I walked pretty fast."

He hurried home and got his rifle and returned to the site. To his astonishment, the "shed" was gone. This incident upset him very much and, according to his wife, he was a nervous wreck for several days afterwards. He decided to call the sheriff the next day and report what he had seen. The sheriff promised to come out and take a look . . . but never did. Mr. Elmore told me his story in a direct manner without embellishments or wandering speculations. He did not claim that he had seen any kind of "flying saucer". It was just a "shed" of some sort to him . . . something that was there one minute and gone a few minutes later.

I carefully examined the field in which he claimed to have seen this object. It was a large open field directly behind the newly constructed Duncan Falls Elementary School.

Duncan Falls is about 20 miles from Roseville, Ohio, where Mr. Ralph Ditter, a barber employed in Zanesville, saw and photographed a low-level circular craft in November, 1966. There were innumerable other UFO sightings in the neighbouring towns around that same time.

Among the chicken coops

On January 10, 1967, another elderly man, Wallie Barnett, 77, a retired schoolteacher, presumably got within sixty feet of an unidentified flying object. Mr. Barnett, who lives on a farm on route 2 about 12 miles from Point Pleasant, W. Va., heard his dogs barking about 10.30 p.m. that evening and went outside to investigate. Although he is partially deaf and walks with a cane, he is mentally sound and able to give a lucid description of what he saw. Like Mr. Elmore, he gives the impression of being an honest and forthright witness. Unlike Mr. Elmore, Barnett made crude drawings and notes immediately after his sighting.

A very steep hill rises behind the Barnett home. It is thinly wooded and there is a slight ravine which runs down the face of this hill, ending a few feet from the kennel where Mr. Barnett houses several beagle dogs. When he first observed the object, it appeared to be a very large light on the summit of the hill. As he watched, it came down on to the hill and moved slowly towards the ravine. "It was about the size of a Volkswagen," Mr. Barnett said, "and appeared to have windows in it which were brightly lit. But when it got close to the ground, those lights went out. There were two four-inch red lights in the front of the thing and they stayed on." As the object moved closer, Mr. Barnett noted many small white lights which seemed to dart out from the object and return to it . . . "like they were doing a square dance". The machine came slowly and silently along the ravine with the little lights whirling around it. It came

within sixty feet of Mr. Barnett's position, paused, and then slid out of view behind his chicken coop. Mr. Barnett hurried around the chicken coop, hoping to get a better look at it, but it was gone when he reached the other side. It did not rise into the air (he could have seen it if it had), but simply vanished. He was not afraid, only puzzled.

His family and friends vouched for his honesty. ("If Wallie says he saw it, then he saw it!") He did not report it to the press or police, although he did consider writing to the Air Force but did not.

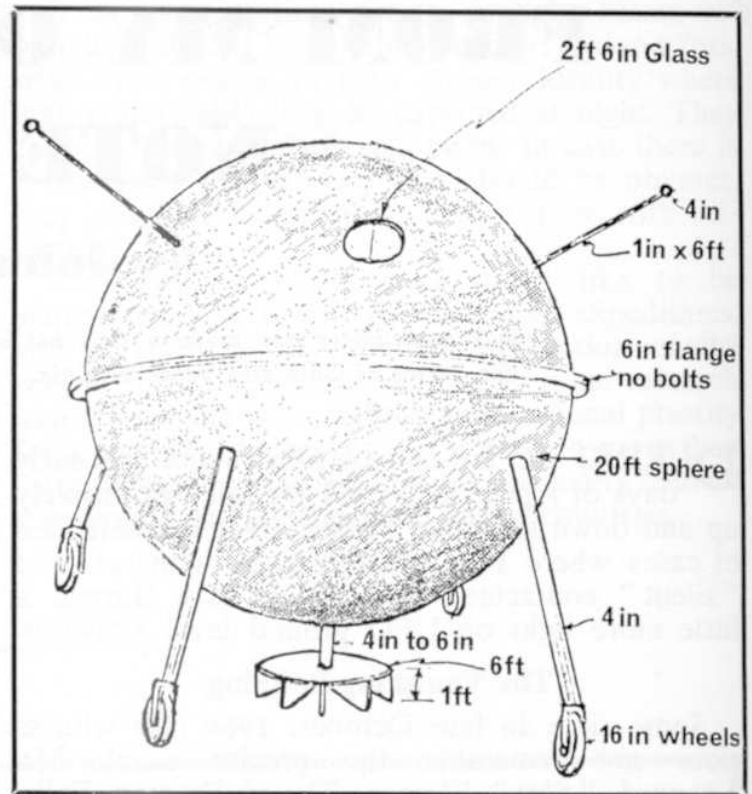
A few days later a country preacher and his entire congregation saw a large "red fireball" whizzing past the church about two miles from Wallie's farm. This thing was travelling at ground level and disappeared "up the holler". (Hollow: valley.)

Witness threatened

At 9.05 a.m. on the morning of January 19, 1967, Mr. Tad Jones, 38, of Dunbar, W. Va., was driving along Interstate Highway 64 about ten miles outside of Charleston, W. Va., when he came upon a large metal sphere hovering about four feet above the road. Since it was broad daylight, and since the object remained in view for about two minutes, Mr. Jones was able to give a very good description of it. The sphere was about 20 feet in diameter and was the colour of dull aluminium. There were four legs attached to it, with caster-like wheels on the bottom of each one. He could also see a small window about 9 inches in diameter and there was a "propeller" underneath the object which was idling when he came upon it. This propeller began to spin rapidly and then the object rose and disappeared into the sky.

Mr. Jones, the owner of an appliance store at Cross Lanes, W. Va., is one of the most impressive witnesses I have met in my travels. He is an articulate, well-educated man . . . a non-drinker and a leader in church and civic affairs. Another reporter accompanied me on one of my meetings with him and was equally impressed.

We visited the exact area of the sighting (three months after it happened) and I discovered the object had been hovering *directly above* a major gas line which passes under the road. Furthermore, we found a series of very strange footprints in the mud beside the road. One group of footprints were identical to those I had found in the TNT area north of Point Pleasant last December. They looked like huge dog tracks . . . except that they were not dog tracks and were so deep that the animal which made them must have weighed from 200 to 400 pounds. We made casts of these prints and none of the wild life authorities in Charleston



was able to identify them. In addition, there was one single footprint of what appeared to be a naked human foot of unusually large size. And there were also several prints of a human foot wearing a ripple-soled shoe. The spacing of these footprints were most peculiar, they did not start anywhere, and they did not lead anywhere. Since this section of the highway (a four-lane super highway) is quite isolated, hilly and thinly wooded, it seemed unlikely that any hunter could have made the prints.

On further questioning, Mr. Jones recalled two other incidents to which he had not given much thought at the time. A week after his first sighting, Mr. Jones was driving along the same highway at the same time in the morning (on his way to his store) when he saw a man standing by the road in the same area of the UFO site. Assuming that the man was hitch-hiking and was stranded in this isolated spot, Mr. Jones slowed his truck and offered the man a lift. The man did not answer but merely waved Tad on. The next morning this same man was in the same spot but this time Tad did not slow down. The man was dressed in a blue coat and blue cap with a visor. His face was normal but seemed tanned or reddish. He was holding a peculiar clock-like instrument in one hand. It had a large dial on it and a wire ran from it to the man's other hand.

Upon hearing this, I immediately checked with the local gas companies to find if they had had a man out "walking the line" in that area. I also