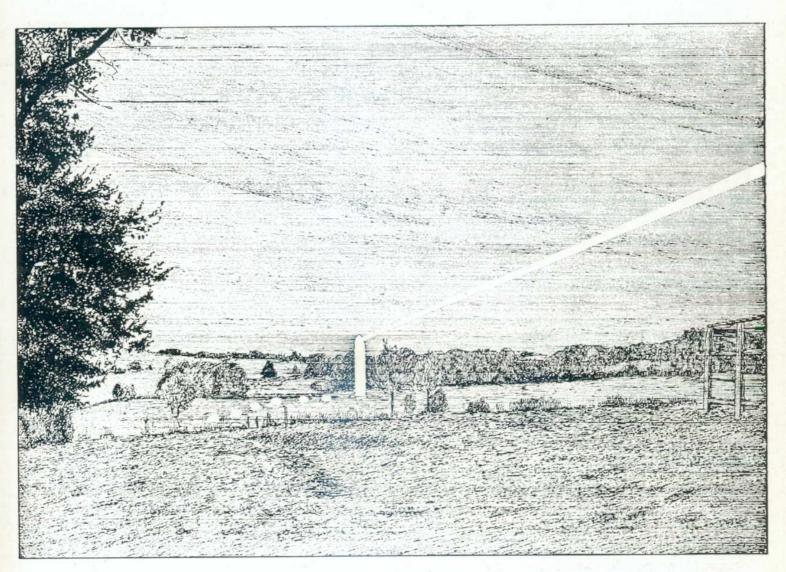


Vol. 16, No. 6 November/December 1970 Six Shillings



The 'shell' and probing beam of light, with perambulating 'balls of fire': bizarre night-time described in . . .

THE AVEYRON ENQUIRY



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THE ART OF DEBUNKING

WITHOUT a doubt Mr. Patrick Moore, amateur astronomer, journalist and broadcaster, is a first-class man in his chosen field, namely that of popular astronomy entertainingly presented for the masses, particularly through the medium of television. It must be recorded, however, that his knowledge of UFO reports appears to be limited, and that our experience of him in the past is that he is an avowed opponent of any notion that accepts

the reality of flying saucers.

For anyone in broadcasting or in publishing who wishes to debunk flying saucers, Patrick Moore is just the man. Well known, and with that stamp of authority which, whether merited or not, accrues from regular television appearances over the years, his views could be swallowed whole by unthinking box-watchers—and by a few others besides. Voluble to the *nth* degree, his blustering no doubt amuses some. One remembers the way he was allowed to interrupt and shout down a scholar of distinction, Gordon Creighton, who was answering a question on a BBC-TV news magazine programme. Maybe this sort of thing impresses those who have no wish to think.

So, when the publishers of Man, Myth and Magic set out to debunk flying saucers in part 36 of their encyclopaedic conglomeration, they chose Patrick Moore as their expert, and he did his best, although a pretty poor best it turned out to be. Little or no knowledge of a subject is required by an intending debunker—although it is preferable that he should have some knowledge, otherwise he might well reveal the paucity of cards in his hand. What is required of him is that he seek out and exploit any weak points that can be found. While Mr. Moore has revealed the weakness of his own position (to those who will recognise it), he has not had to search very far for weak points in our subject; indeed they have been presented to him, and all he has had to do is to air his views on the contactee, cultist and human hoax aspects of the subject.

Moore stresses that the UFO cult is entirely harmless, and, with lordly magnanimity, reveals that the "sincere and dedicated believers" have, included in their ranks, great names like Lord Dowding and Dr. Hermann Oberth, men who have studied the evidence and put their personal interpretations on it

(which, he concedes, is "entirely permissible").

Much of what is said about the cultists (Moore refers to them as the "various UFO groups—notably the Aetherius Society") and about the reasons for their beliefs, and for their escapism, could well be true. However, no mention whatsoever is made of the objective recording of world-wide reports, or of the serious research and comment on those reports, or of the work of scientists, doctors and psychiatrists, historians, theologians and others who have been forced to the conclusion that there is something persistent and real to be examined, such as may be found in the pages of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. Mr. Moore also ignores the fact that many non-cultist researchers have long since put aside the concept that UFOs are "spaceships" visiting us from nearby planets, or—by means of a technology not greatly dissimilar

from ours-trom distant star systems. Had he mentioned any of these things he would have undermined

the intended debunking.

Another criticism that can be levelled at Mr. Moore is that some of his preparatory work was sloppy. When embarking on a debunking foray, the debunker cannot afford to be slipshod in his preparation, for doubts are thereby cast on the value of other work he might do. That Patrick Moore did not do his homework is first shown up by his bestowing the accolade on Britain's only active contactee. We read: ". . . Sir Arthur Shuttlewood, a journalist by profession, whose sincerity is not to be doubted."

Secondly, one of his illustrations is a montage of pictures of UFOs "photographed over America". It should be noted that one of the objects displayed in this montage is the UFO of San José de Valderas,2 which place is near Madrid, in Spain, and certainly not in America. Thirdly, in the same montage there appears one of the Fogl photographs which were exposed as fakes in the pages of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, following the photographer's admission to us, by letter, that they

were part of a somewhat jejune hoax.3

Again, everyone is entitled to his or her opinion, but when Mr. Moore writes of the ". . . . very thorough investigation carried out by a University of Colorado Group, supported by a panel of scientists" which reported that "virtually all UFO sightings are due to natural phenomena . . . and that little could be gained by investigating them further", it is patently obvious that he has read very little of either the Condon Report or of the reasoned criticism elsewhere that has followed its publication. Perhaps he is blissfully unaware of the infamous "trick" memorandum,4 and of the spirit in which some of the leaders of Dr. Condon's Colorado Group set about their mission; of the way the subject was "written off" despite the presence in the list of cases examined by the team of puzzling and inexplicable incidents like those of Lakenheath, the Gulf RB47 and Kirtland AF Base,5 like the affair of Paul Trent's

McMinnville photographs, again left "unexplained" by Condon's men.⁶ Perhaps he just does not care. In either case he should not allow himself to be paraded as an authority on the subject.

From time to time we have counselled all who are involved in this subject to exercise great care, particularly in their dealings with press, radio and television. Cultists and publicity seekers invite the hammering they get at the hands of the debunkers. So too do those, for example, who race to tell the newspapers that they will be holding a skywatch: skywatches and skywatchers are sitting targets, even for inexperienced cub reporters.

Perhaps counsel should be expanded to warning: speak only when necessary, and even then choose your words carefully. Remember that you have an advantage over most questioners in that you know more about the subject than they do, so curb your enthusiasm and do not throw away that advantage. Only in this way will respect be earned. When the debunkers are denied their ammunition, we'll be able to forget them, and that will be the beginning of their being forgotten by the rest of the world. Who now remembers the scientific establishmentarians who so scornfully debunked the discoverers of meteorites?

So, while debunkers debunk, preparing themselves to sink into oblivion on the day when the truth is out, let us proceed with the task of recording as many as possible of the facts of this subject, and encouraging those imbued with true scientific curiosity to help us edge closer to the dawning of that day.

24 Hours, August 1969, after the publication of the first photographs received from the Mariner Spacecraft when approaching Mars.
 See Antonio Ribera's article in FSR for September/October 1969,

which, as far as we are aware, is the only time these photographs have appeared with an English-language article.

See A Hoax Exposed in FSR for September/October 1966.

See FSR for March/April 1968 (back cover); also Gibbs-Smith, C. H., A Question of Integrity, FSR for July/August 1970.

These three multi-witness radar/visual incidents have been discussed in full by Dr. James E. McDonald in FSR issues for March/April, May/June and September/October 1970.

Dennis Bardens discusses this case in the final chapter of his book, March and Control of the March (NY, H. Allen, London, 1970).

Mysterious Worlds (W. H. Allen, London, 1970).

Newly Arrived

R CASE HISTORIES

The excellently-illustrated Supplement No. 1 for October 1970 (see back cover) has been well-received by hundreds of subscribers. Make sure you join them and convert that number into thousands. And be warned: there are only a few hundred copies remaining to be sold, so No. 1 is bound to become a rare issue.

TO SUCCEED, THIS BRAVE NEW VENTURE MUST PAY ITS WAY. SO JOIN UP NOW AND PLAY YOUR PART IN THAT SUCCESS

FSR CASE HISTORIES presents an opportunity for greater reader-participation than has been possible in Flying Saucer Review alone. Our aim is to establish, as soon as possible, our own FSR Investigators' Society. For this we would need responsible, level-headed people, who could be entrusted to uncover the full facts behind a sketchy newspaper report in their area; who could become known and respected in their districts and, as a result, perhaps be led to hitherto unknown cases. The French investigators of Aveyron, Francis, Dinan and so on, set a sterling example of what can be done.

Some well-wishers have already contributed small sums of money "to help FSR in its task." Our magazines, published as they are by a limited liability company, cannot accept this money, but we propose instead to use it to open a fund for investigation and research—a fund backed by Flying Saucer Service Ltd.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and FSR CASE HISTORIES are going places Come along with us, and bring your friends as well!

THE AVEYRON ENQUIRY—2

F. Lagarde

Investigated by G. Canourges, J. Chasseigne, F. Dupin de la Guérivière and F. Lagarde of the "Lumières dans la Nuit" organisation. Our contributor is one of the editors of the organisation's journal, in which this report is currently appearing. Translated by John C. Hugill.

FTER the story of what happened on the evening of Affect the story of what happened Affect the story of what happened discussion June 15, 1966, we continued our general discussion of the events which followed, in a complete muddle as to chronology. M. Chasseigne, our man on the spot, wrote to us on May 22, 1970: "I am certain that a mass of unknown facts still exists, which could suddenly come to light in the course of conversation. For example, the father had already seen a 'ball' well before January 15, and the grandmother has seen some since then.

It seems, therefore, that two days will not be sufficient time in which to gather all the facts. There is a lesson here for investigators, in that, after the first contact when the witnesses "tell all", it appears necessary to go back over the same ground to pick up the facts they have forgotten, perhaps because they thought them of minor importance. Once placed in context, they appear

in quite another light.

We asked the mother, who up to now had said nothing,

if she had seen anything.

"Oh yes, I saw these lights, but I don't remember any more, and anyway I'm short-sighted."

Father: "She's not interested in such things."

Grannie: "Only last night you said there were fires down in the fodder."

Father: "More than fifteen times they came here . . . and one on its own came close twice.'

"It broke away from the five others, did it?"

Father: "That's it, one ball broke away from the five others . . . a couple of seconds . . . then off it went again. But twice they came right up . . . it'd move off, then it'd come back."

"It disappeared, and then re-appeared? Or what?"

Father: "It moved away about 15 metres. I'll show

"Was it lit up, or extinguished?"

Father: "Ah . . . I mean it was extinguished; we couldn't see it any more."

"Did it draw back?"

Father: "It moved off . . . we saw it come closer . . . then I don't know whether it went round (he meant round behind the building) . . . we couldn't see it any more . . . it drew back . . . then it moved off backwards . . . myself, I didn't see that . . . then we couldn't see it any more . . . it moved off at walking pace or thereabouts, went off to one side of the house."

"And this happened fifteen times?"

Father: "Yes, yes . . . twice it came right up to the house . . . twice."

"Didn't it once get in your way?"

Father: "Ah . . . that's right, got right in my way, it did, just down there beside the house."

Grannie: "Me, I went off to my bed. I said to myself

I'll just call out to have the neighbours roused out, then off I'll go to bed."

Father: "The neighbours were at the fair on Sunday." Grannie: "He went on watching that thing, but me, I

went off to my bed. I didn't get undressed. I just laid

on the bed . . .

We addressed the father: "You saw them again, didn't you, before the month of January, 1967? What happened that time?

Father: "Ah . . . I saw a ball in the sky."

"A ball? In the sky?"
Father: "Yes, right over there."

Grannie: "That light you said you'd seen that was lighting up the whole field?"

The son: "But that weren't on that day!"

Father: "No, not on that day!"

Son: "It weren't as long ago as that. Not more than five or six months ago."

Father: "Yes." "In 1969, last year?" Father: "Yes, last year."

Access denied

"However, we haven't reached that point yet. It was Friday, January 6, 1967, when you called your son who had gone to bed. What happened on that day?"

Father: "Oh ah! Oh ah! . . . me, I went outside, went outside to the stable, to see to the animals like! Then I seen this light there, perhaps 50 metres away, no more, and 3 metres from the house. Says I to myself, 'what's that then? Whatever is that there then?' Sharpish-like I go to look for a torch, and I says to myself, you'd best get round behind that thing to see what it is . . . oh, ah! ... and when I go to get round behind, that there thing followed me, it did, all along the path.

The plan reconstructs the sequence of events which we

checked on the spot. (See page 4).

Father (continues): "That there thing followed me for about 60 metres, near enough . . . and then there was a narrow bit where I wanted to get through, I did . . . so's to get round behind. Then 'that' followed me right along, right along . . . till I stopped there, where I wanted to get round behind, and the 'machine' stops there too, right at the narrow bit. So I says . . . now . . . 'tain't no use to argue . . . I can't get past!"

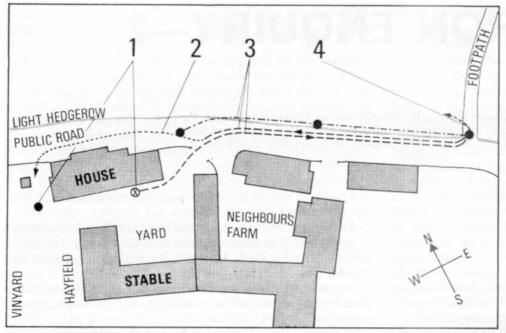
"Was it big at that moment?"

Father: "Oh ah! About 1.50 metres across."

"The same white colour?"

Father: "Yes, same colour, yes." "It wasn't lighting up the ground?"

Father: "No, no . . . no, no . . . it were lit, but not lighting up anything at all."



The "ball" and the witness

The "ball" and the course pursued by the witness. His intention to get behind the "ball" was frustrated Path taken by "ball" and witness

3.

Witnesses' intention still frustrated by "ball" whereupon the old man retreats to the house to call son

"Did you feel that it was giving off heat?"

Father: "Oh no! No, no, no. I never felt anything."

Son: "That one what I saw weren't no 1.50 metres across . . . more like 1.20 metres, I reckon!"

Father: "Then I came back where I was, and the ball went off back towards the house, like the first time."

Now we talked to the son:

"Now your father called you at this point, and you got up, didn't you?"

Son: "Yes, when he came back, he called me, but I

never saw anything, not at first."

Father: "It had disappeared! But me, I still stayed there . . . and it came back again . . . came back again it did, later!"

Pulling his son's leg a little, we asked if he had made

it go. He laughed.

Son: "When I looked, I couldn't see anything right at first."

Father: "Yes, but it went off . . . didn't stay where it was . . . me, I stayed put . . . and I said to him, I said, that's come back!"

Son: "But I saw it a few minutes after . . . I saw one of 'em . . . well . . . just down there under the window. It had gone up that little climbing path . . . and I said, there now, this time there is something!"

"Then you came downstairs again?" Son: "Ah, that's right, I came down."

"You came down again because you'd already been down once, and having seen nothing you went up again?"

Son: "Yes, yes."

"So it was this time that you both saw this famous 'shell'?"

Son: "Yes, yes." "Both of you?"

Son: "Oh yes, yes."

Grannie: "They come and called me, by gum! But

"So then?"

Grannie: "Oh no, no, I didn't go, no . . . my daughter was crying (this was the mother of the family) . . . I said to her 'Now, Innocente!' and then . . . well, I went down all the same . . . and then I saw that fire! (In her emotion,

she broke into untranslatable patois, and one could see she was completely overcome by recalling what she had seen.)

Grannie: "Well, it's God's own truth, for all that! Seeing fires like that, it's against nature, that's what is is!"

And so to bed

We then talked to father and son together: "What was it you both saw? What happened at that moment?"

Son: "Me, I saw these six balls."

"What happened then?"

Father: "Oh, ah . . . well . . . I didn't hang about any longer. I went off to bed."

"You saw the 'shell' but didn't go on watching it? You went indoors again to bed?"

Father: "No, no . . . I didn't have any more of that carry-on!" (he laughed).

"How did it affect you? Were you frightened?"

Father: "Oh, well . . . I had the feeling that . . . " (he laughed weakly).

"What feeling did you have about it?"

Son: "He wanted to chuck a stone at it, when he was near to it there, but he didn't dare."

Father: "No . . . oh! I wanted to do something all right, but . . .

"You were a bit frightened perhaps, deep down?"

Father: "Oh aye, not half I weren't . . . when I saw that a-following me . . .'

"Didn't you have your torch at that moment?"

Father: "Yes, had it in my pocket! But . . ."

"Did you switch it on?"

Father: "Oh no! No, no! I had it in my pocket. but I never used it . . . I wanted to get round behind it, to see what it was, but I couldn't get by . . . so I give it up as a bad job."

The "shell" and a "searchlight"

To the son: "Now, for you, what was it you saw at that moment?"

Son: "Oh well, me, I saw the 'shell', with three branches sticking out either side."

"It had branches?"



A "ball" follows the father of the family. (Drawing by Jean-Louis Boncoeur based on a background photograph.)

Son: "Yes . . . they were straight . . . just like in that there drawing."

(This was a sketch mounted on a photo by Monsieur Jean-Louis Boncoeur, based on the evidence of the earlier witnesses.)

"And the balls?"

Son: "Three branches it had on each side, and at a given moment one ball came on to each branch... three balls on either side, that made six balls... there was a searchlight on top, right at the end of it, and it lit up that window up there, lit up the whole room it did... I had the window open there opposite."

"Was it a diffused beam, or rather very concentrated?"

Son: "Oh, concentrated, very concentrated."

"And it lit up your room?"

Son: "Oh aye, I should think it did! I could see in there, just as if it was broad daylight."

"But then had you gone back up to your room when you saw it?"

Son: "Yes, I'd gone back up . . . later."

"And the 'shell' was still there?"

Son: "I never saw it go away, that day."

"And it lit up your room?"

Son: "Yes, lit it up all right . . . off and on like . . . it was turning . . . kept on turning."

"It was turning round and round, like a beacon?"

Son: "Yes... sometimes it lit up the next room down there... kept on turning around... but there it was, 23.00 already, maybe 23.15, something like that."

"Not so funny, eh?"

Father: "No, it weren't. What the hell was it, we asked."

Son: "Then, sudden-like, everything died out. It all died out, and I didn't see anything more. I don't know if it had gone, or if it was still there."

Son: "Next evening I went out first, and I saw a greeny-blue light, but it was pretty far off, down at ground level in a field. Then Dad came, and we saw the 'shell' again, the two of us together. It'd be about 21.00 or 21.30" (this is the gist of a conversation).

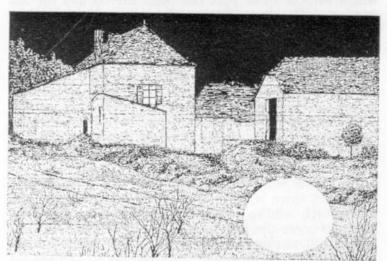
Comment

In this sequence the son is confronted with the phenomenon. Called to become an important witness, he had seen nothing as yet, and indeed had placed little credence in the story told of the evening in June 1966. Once alerted, he saw nothing to begin with, and his first reaction (off the record) was that his father was "seeing things." Now in his turn he becomes an interested spectator, and in a later sequence he will actually chase the phenomenon down the road in his car, which will lead him into many unexpected places.

The father is at the centre of things on this particular evening. If up to now he had been simply puzzled, perhaps because he was relatively remote from the manifestations, this time he was frightened, even if a certain shame prevents him admitting it openly. This ball, which he plans to sneak up on to see what lies behind, and which twice upsets his calculations by

barring his way, disconcerts him.

It is interesting to analyse his reactions, reading between the lines of his unpolished statement—which we have not forced in any way, deliberately, so as not to lead the witness. These reactions are the outward sign of an inward thought process, which, though not put into words, is none the less real and factual. On the



The "ball" in the vineyard, above the hayfield. Also the witness' bedroom window which was lit up by the machine. (Drawing by F. Lagarde, based on a photograph taken at the scene)

appearance of the "ball", one senses that he no longer mistakes it for a purely physical phenomenon, as for example a fire, but that his thoughts turn to a "living thing". He even attributes a "front" to it, or at least a part of it that is "in front", and he imagines that, by creeping up on it from "behind", he will not be seen, and will learn something further. And this it is which indeed results from his words. Twice we see his plans thwarted, and in the interval we see him traverse a path he had by no means intended, and in unaccustomed company!

How long those 60 metres must have seemed to him! "That there thing followed me all along the path, all along it . . ." One gets the impression of an endless journey, which yet could hardly have taken him more than a minute. He even thought, as he walked, of throwing something at the object, a branch maybe, or a stone.

When it came to it, however, he was afraid to do so, for fear of some unknown reaction from the "thing", for he is already attributing to it a life and a will of its own. He wants nevertheless to get it over with, and thinks of a little field path where he might find a chance to "surprise" it. He reaches it, only to find the object right at the entrance, denying him access. So that's the end of it, he abandons his game, and the "victorious" ball accompanies him back as far as the house.

We find the same signs of fear or distress in the two women, in the face of these unnerving phenomena. From the moment the appearances began, the farm was in the grip of a sense of insecurity, as of some hovering menace, and when the father calls out, the floodgates burst, the wife bursts into tears, and Grandma, who likes to think she is tough, and tries to raise her daughter's morale by telling her off, is not really so much reassured

herself.

The son it is who, analysing the situation some time later, will say to M. Chasseigne: "I reckon we could have seen a lot of other things if we hadn't been taken aback like, but them things seemed to know we had the 'twitch' "!! (Translator's note: I am guessing here at the meaning of 'la trouille'!) This seems to be very much the feeling which emerges from this whole enquiry, and which for the most part has been the motive for the witnesses' silence.

We cannot pass over the odd behaviour of this "ball", for this is probably the first chance we have had of making such a detailed analysis, and one's imagination reels at the possibilities. The reason for its presence remains for the moment unexplained. We may perhaps learn it, in the course of the long and delicate investigation which is still going on, for we have the feeling of having reached a turning-point in our knowledge of UFOs: the near future will tell us whether or not we are

right. But what did this thing do?

The father is alone, and sees this "ball". He doesn't speak, for there is no one there. He decides to go and find a torch, and to go round the house along the path, so as to come upon the "ball" from behind. He goes into action, but on reaching the path the "ball" is there, seemingly waiting for him, and he has to change his plan. It seems to have guessed his intentions, and to have prevented their fulfilment. Oh yes, we could call this pure chance, but exactly the same thing happens again, under the same conditions, when the object denies him access to the field path. However daring the thought may be, we are compelled to suppose that the "ball" had advance knowledge of the witness's intentions. No word was spoken-after all, to whom could it be? So it is a matter of telepathic reading of his thoughts, without the witness's knowledge. A fantastic theory, but everything here is irrational, including this object, which nevertheless seems real enough.

The "ball" moreover seems to behave in a motivated way which is more difficult to analyse. It would be risky to suggest that it wished to influence the father's actions, but we must certainly admit that it twice opposed the execution of a preconceived plan. The result was that the father re-entered his farm and called his son. We may think that this is the possible motive. The son is to become, "once contacted", the true witness of these manifestations, before whom the UFO phenomenon is to be revealed in a wide range of sightings, which will leave him with after-effects familiar to us in other places, and on other occasions.

In another sequence, which we have not placed chronologically, comes the story of the dogs. At the time, two dogs were at the farm; they slept outside, in the courtyard, near the stable door, about 15 metres from the house.

Before going to bed, the father is watching the sky from the first-floor window. He sees the "shell", and the procession of "balls", which he calls "the show", and one of them he sees coming nearer to the house.

"Tell me about the dogs, when you set them on the 'balls', You were down below there at the time?"

Father: "I was down below there, and then the dogs, they were over beside that door there, t'other side of the yard, about 2 or 3 metres away. Then I saw this 'show' up above, and I says to myself: 'Whatever's a-going on? Happen that's going to come in the yard; maybe into the house?' So then I said to the dogs, in patois: 'Go seek 'em, go seek!' and then they was off after it. and chased it right up to the railings.

"Up to the corner of the vineyard?"

Father: "Aye up to the corner of the vineyard." "But they never went too close did they, all the same?" Father: "Oh no! 1½ metres maybe . . . 1-1½ metres." "Were they not lit up by the 'light'?"

Father: "Oh no! No, no . . . I saw the dogs at the beginning you might say, and then that there disappeared in a wink, and the dogs stopped barking.

Comment

We cannot guess at the reaction of these dogs, but we have to admit solely that, at a word from their master, they chivvied the "balls" as they would have done cattle. They did not appear scared, doubtless because they saw nothing which seemed to them abnormal, nothing which would make them hesitate to obey. This may be an important piece of evidence.

(To be continued)

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Happy Christmas

THE EDITOR AND PUBLISHERS OF THE FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

wish their readers a very Happy Christmas and an exciting New Year REPRESENTE PROPERTIE DE LE REPRESENTATION DE LA REP