

# NEWS ROUND-UP FROM NORTHERN ENGLAND

*Jenny Randles*

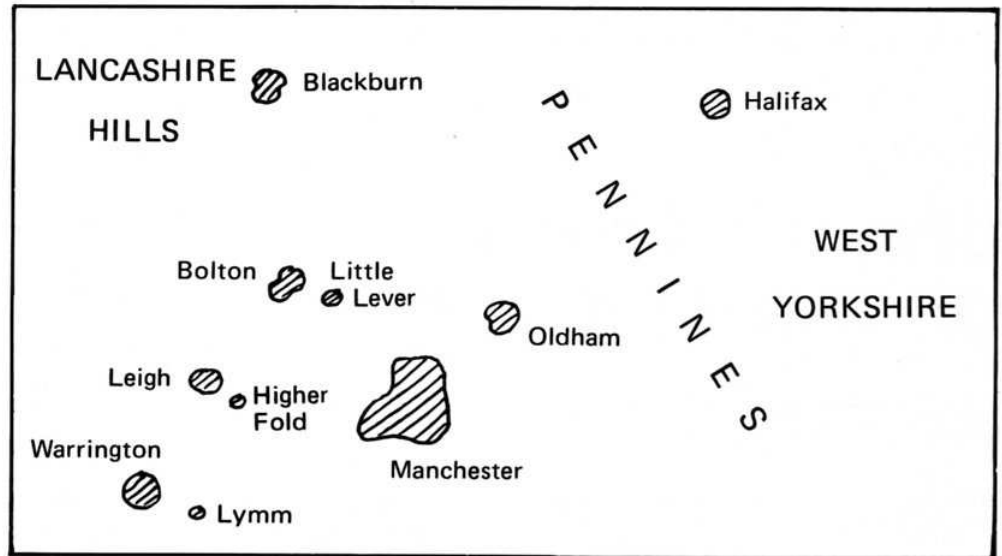
Our contributor is Secretary of the Northern UFO Network (NUFON) as well as being a committee member of BUFORA.

DURING recent years it has come to the attention of ufologists in the area that there exists a particular region which seems to be a focal point for UFO sightings far more than it should be on the basis of chance. This area consists of moorlands on the borders between Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Lancashire counties. It also appears to extend to the West to the south central Lancashire hills.

Readers in Britain may recall that over the past two or three years there has been a good deal of talk about a 'mystery helicopter' which flies these regions in the dead of night. It has been chased by policemen, seen by aircraft pilots (sometimes flying under severe weather conditions) and seen by countless witnesses. There is no official explanation for these sightings, which for the most part consist simply of bright white lights low down over desolate hilltops, though there is speculation that a helicopter is illegally bringing in immigrants or performing other kinds of unlawful pursuits. Certainly there is enough evidence to suggest from the reports collated by local UFO groups that although there may well be a helicopter present there also could be something far more strange lurking there also. One is bound to recall John Keel and his articles about mystery aircraft in the 1930s (FSR Vol.16, Nos. 3 & 4) and wonder if the two phenomena may not be more than coincidental.

## Police sighting at Lymm

A recent example, which is still under investigation by local investigators of Contact UK, concerns two policemen in the quiet Cheshire village of Lymm. This lies only a mile or two outside the area discussed above and



Rough sketch of area involved in Project Pennine

the helicopter has crossed this artificial borderline before. In the early hours of the morning of May 13, 1976, they went to follow a report of a brilliant light seen at a low elevation, and followed a series of lights which seemed to be down amongst trees, and possibly landing. As they approached the lights took off and disappeared, still keeping low. Officially the national press related that the policemen had seen the helicopter, but in subsequent discussions with investigators the police were less certain about this explanation.

Obviously reports of more substance than this are needed before one can formulate theories about an unusual incidence rate in the region in question. Some such reports were featured in my article 'Lancashire Round up' (FSR Vol.21, No.6) which dealt with a flap of sightings in the

early part of 1975. This activity is typical of that still occurring on a fairly regular basis. It was for these reasons that several groups through the medium of the Northern UFO Network, decided to get together to launch 'Project Pennine.' Involved in this to date are the Manchester UFO Research Association, D.I.G.A.P. (Lancashire), the Rossendale Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena, and the Yorkshire branch of the British UFO Research Association. Most of the reports featured herein spring from their work. The Project is looking at the area from its various aspects, trying to isolate why it should be so productive of reports. Any suggestions on this would be gratefully received by NUFON (c/o 23 Sunningdale Drive, Irlam, Greater Manchester M30 6NJ).

In the process of the work some very interesting past cases came to

Must it be "forever"? (continued from page 17)

ever" must surely mean that there is no intelligent communication upon our level of understanding, although that is not to say this could not occur when our understanding grows. We must find out, but it doesn't look as though we are going to get help from anyone, and Stanford's hope that the climate of opinion in the U.S. — instanced in the Senate committee investigation uncovering details of various illegal activities by the CIA and other intelligence

agencies — will now force public disclosure of facts about UFOs seems unlikely to be realized.

## Notes

1. "The Disappearance of Flight 412," Thames Television, 7.35 pm July 27th, 1976. Film obtained through Viacom, 40 Conduit Street, London, W.1.
2. Frank Scully: *Behind The Flying Saucers*, Henry Holt, 1950.

light. I will relate here one of these (involving an alleged contact experience) and a more recent incident which involves a humanoid sighting.

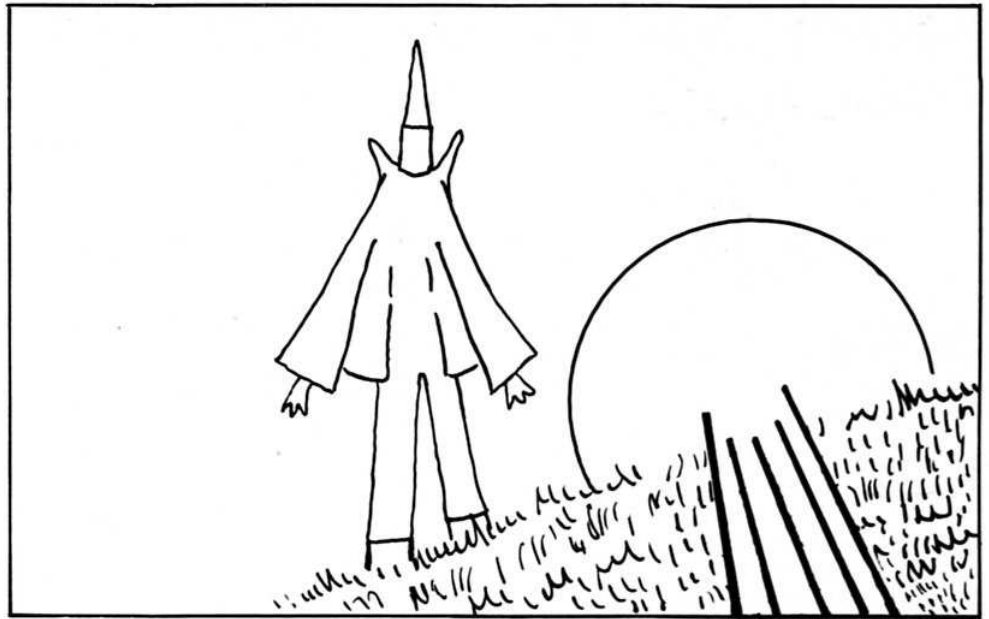
#### Comings and goings at Little Lever

Mrs. Lainchbury is an elderly lady who lives in Little Lever, a town to the south east of Bolton. She is very lucid, despite her age, and one has reservations in accepting her story, at least so far as she is concerned. The story begins in the Spring of 1964, when Mrs. Lainchbury was awakened by a brilliant orange light flooding into her bedroom. Going to the window she saw a sphere of light floating across the sky, and moving away towards adjacent houses. Her estimate of size is difficult to value owing to her age, though she thought it was small. When it had moved some distance it suddenly burst into 'a thousand pieces' without making any sound. She then heard an odd chattering noise coming from outside, though she could see nothing. It was not unlike frightened and angry voices. On getting up the following morning she found that the window, the door next to it, and a metal drain-pipe above it, were badly burned. The rest of the house was untouched. This, of course, had happened during that night.

Over the intervening years four different coats of paint had been applied to the areas in question, but none of this had adhered properly. It had not peeled off gradually, but had fallen off in massive lumps as Mrs. Lainchbury watched from the garden. Even today the paintwork is blotchy in these areas of the house alone. Mrs. Lainchbury lives with her daughter and son-in-law. They find it difficult to accept her story, but have no way of explaining the mysterious effects on the woodwork.

A few months after this incident Mrs. Lainchbury had retired to bed but had not fallen asleep. Suddenly, she said, a figure appeared in the room. It was dressed entirely in a suit made of greyish tubular rings about one inch in diameter. It was about five feet tall. No features were visible on the face owing to the covering suit. The being told Mrs. Lainchbury that it was from the exploded ball and that he and two others had been stranded. Then it disappeared.

A few months later the three beings came together into Mrs. Lainchbury's room. She is certain she was awake, and propped her head on her elbow for a better view. She states that they said that they had come to her because she had not been afraid. Although, apparently, she later regretted it, she asked them just the one question, 'Where do you come from?' She says the letters P L U T O appeared in the



Above: The creature in Mrs. Kent's Higher Fold sighting.

air before her. She added that she did not know what this meant until she looked it up in a book later, when she found it was "...the underworld and also a planet." The beings then vanished.

Her final experience came in 1968 when "...something willed her" to go to the window. There she saw another orange sphere floating through the sky, and she felt sure that the beings were saying goodbye and returning home.

#### Mrs. Kent's observation

More recently there is the case of Mrs. Kent, a middle-aged lady from the Higher Fold estate (just outside Leigh, Greater Manchester). On May 11, 1976, she set off at 06.15 to take a pair of tights to her daughter's house round the corner. When she came to the edge of the estate she saw a strange figure standing on the top of a hill. It was apparently looking out over the estate, and standing with its arms hanging rather stupidly by its side.

The figure was wearing a brilliant silvery suit, reflecting the rising sun from the opposite direction. It appeared to have on a cloak, pointed hat and sharply pointed lapels. Boot tops were also visible over the edge of the hill. By its side was a sphere, of polished metal, beaming down white light from its centre. The sphere came about half way up the body of the figure, which appeared to be of normal height, but there was no sense of perspective and it could have been larger and further away.

She returned by the same route



Mrs. Lainchbury's creature

from her daughter's at 06.20 and the figure was still there. It did not appear to have moved. She now changed her route so as "it" could not follow her. On her way to work at 06.40 she saw that figure and sphere had vanished.

The hill in question is a grassed-over coal tip, about 75 feet high. The only markings found on it were a semi-circle 12 feet in diameter, but this was almost certainly due to grass cutting equipment. No other traces were found.

It is not argued at this point that either of these reports is genuine. In the latter case especially the witness described the figure as looking like a manikin and the possibility remains that this is what it was, although no evidence of this has been found to date. Certainly, however, there is enough of interest in this region to warrant the special study that Project Pennine provides.

# MAIL BAG

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.

From Dr. P. Guérin

Dear Mr. Bowen,—Among the anti-saucerites, fashions change periodically. At the outset, they used to say that observers of UFOs had seen natural objects or natural phenomena in the sky, which however they had observed badly and interpreted badly. Then, when the close encounters became more numerous, or at any rate became better known, it was necessary to find something else: and so now it had to be hallucination (collective hallucination if needs be) on the part of the witnesses, who moreover frequently had to be drunk as well. However, the huge number of eyewitnesses, both at close as well as far range, now obliges the heirs of Dr. Menzel to revert to their original "explanation" of known objects or known phenomena incorrectly observed. But now they have introduced a variation: they now say the sightings are being made correctly by the witnesses and that then, during the interval separating these visions from the oral report that the witness makes of them, a distortion creeps in, wherein the UFO makes its appearance. The said UFO is thus a sub-product of disquiet in the face of the world situation, which creates anxieties in the unconscious.

The anti-saucerites, who thus "explain" how it is that the sightings of UFOs obey the laws of optics and the laws of atmospheric absorption — since there are real objects or real phenomena at the basis of the reports — are consequently returning, though with a variation, to the first attempts to whittle down the sightings — attempts that Menzel had set up as dogma. In particular, the anti-saucerites are once more on the look out for atmospheric phenomena, such as haloes, photographic effects, or optical effects (camera lens flares), etc..

I write this letter to you with this in mind. For I deplore the fact that, in the last issue of FSR (Vol.22, No.1, 1976) the anti-saucerites may, alas, find some excellent justification for their neurotic frenzy to explain everything away. For, without any critical spirit, this issue in fact presents them with at least three photographs which have all that is required to rejoice the hearts of Dr. Menzel and his heirs. In the picture at the bottom of page 4, the light patches are obviously reflections in the lens of the camera

(they are — as they should rightly be — completely in line with the Sun, which is up above, to the right of the picture, and the line passes right through the centre of the field.) On page 6, the two photos may very well (in the absence of any indications as to the position of the Sun in the photographic field) be explicable as the luminous condensations of a solar halo or parhelion seen through the fine ice crystals of a slight mist or a diffuse cirrus cloud. Anyway, there is the wherewithal there to gladden the MUFOB folk. As for me, I am saddened.

Yours sincerely,

Pierre Guérin

Astrophysicist, Chief of Research,  
National Centre for Scientific Research  
30 June 1976.

From Dr. David Jacobs

To The Editor,—I thank Colin Bord for his kind words about my book, *The UFO Controversy in America*, (FSR, Vol.21, No.6) and for pointing out several errors in one paragraph about George Adamski. I have asked the publisher of the paperback edition to correct these and other errors. Part of the confusion came about because I misread Adamski's phrase "seven loaded films" to mean seven rolls of film rather than seven single negatives.

Mr. Bord says that I have made Adamski seem like an idiot. This was not my intention. Adamski was far from being an idiot. Indeed, he was a very clever and shrewd fellow. To suggest that he was anything less is to denigrate his ability to tell a splendid tale, inspire confidence and trust, and make money from these talents. I certainly would not want to take away credit where it is due.

Mr. Bord complains that I did not write about Adamski objectively. I take issue with this. I treated him as the evidence overwhelmingly indicates UFO researchers should treat him — as a person who fabricated a hoax. To believe anything else about Adamski is to launch oneself into the subjective realm of the "will to believe" which has no place in UFO research.

Sincerely,

David M. Jacobs

Department of History, Temple  
University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.  
June 6, 1976.

The Knutson photograph

Dear Sir,—I would like to thank Mr. S. Conway of British Columbia for providing additional information on the Knutson photograph (FSR, Vol.22, No.1). However, it does not change my opinion of it.

Mr. Conway quotes a number of interesting sightings occurring in the Surrey area where the picture was taken. These may be quite extraordinary but they have no bearing on the reliability of Knutson's alleged sighting of a UFO. Each case must be judged on its own individual merits and not on the basis of other sightings happening within weeks or months.

A point on witness sincerity. I had mentioned the Alec Birch photo in my previous letter (FSR, Vol.20, No.6). Here is a case of a fourteen-year-old schoolboy fooling everybody for an entire decade, including a variety of "experts." He was very sincere. The fact remains that the photo was always a hoax and was accepted by UFO researchers as evidence of the existence of extraordinary machines in our skies. Also, the photo would, possibly, still be considered unknown if Mr. Birch had not exposed himself. Here is the problem. Is David Knutson only sounding sincere? A lie detector test may resolve this problem.

Mr. Conway also mentions that the photo shows two UFOs. If he is referring to the dot above and a little to the right of the disc in my copy of the picture (FSR, Vol.20, No.4), then he is weakly defending his case, indeed, as the dot looks like a dust speck to me. Remember, the picture is taken through a window which may have been spotted with a few specks of lint. As a matter of fact I see *three more UFOs* in the photo, two a little less than ¼ inch from the right edge and 1 7/8 inches from the bottom and one 1/8th inch from the left edge and 2 1/16 inches from the bottom.

In conclusion, Mr. Conway is convinced of the validity of the case but has ignored my criticisms in my other letter. I am convinced of the validity of these criticisms and would want these answered before I would take the Knutson case seriously.

Sincerely,

Barry Greenwood

6 W. Hancock Street, Stoneham  
Mass, 02180, USA

July 5, 1976