

often correct when experts in astronomy and related sciences were wrong. See de Grazia, Alfred; Juergens, Ralph E; Stecchini, Livio C. (editors): *The Velikovsky Affair: Scientism vs. Science!*, University Books, New Hyde Park, N.Y., 1966, Bowen, Charles (ed.): "The Leopard's Spots," FSR, Vol.14 (No.3): (May/June 1968).

10. Harold Sherman and Ingo Swan, two gifted paragnosts, attempted psychic probes of the distant planet Jupiter on April 27, 1973. Their responses were monitored by Drs. H.E. Puthoff and Russell Targ of the Stanford Research Institute and later compared with feedback material from the Pioneer X space craft. Both paragnosts gave similar responses to each other and to data sent back from Jupiter (approximately December 3, 1973).

Later, Janet Mitchell, a parapsychologist with the American Society for Psychical Research, monitored Swan's out-of-body precognitive (?) observations of the planet Mercury, which were subsequently confirmed by the Mariner X's fly-by. Miss Mitchell wrote about this in the May/June 1975 issue of *Psychic*.

Therefore, it can be supposed that Betty Hill, whatever the nature of her star map experience, could have

used her natural paragnostic abilities in analogous ways to Sherman and Swan, and the scholarship and intuition of Velikovsky, or that she possessed considerable latent psychic abilities which were precipitated by her life crisis: i.e., the abduction, and which were projected into the clairvoyant, precognitively perceived star map.

11. Guideposts for investigations into precognition can be found in chair tests by Professor Tenhaeff with the Dutch paragnost Gerard Croiset, and the contributions of Jule Eisenbud. See Tenhaeff, W.H.C.: "Seat Experiments with Gerard Croiset," *Proc. of the Parapsychology Institute of the State University of Utrecht*, No. 1:53-65, 1960; and Eisenbud, Jule, in Dean, Stanley R. (ed.): *Psychiatry and Mysticism*, Nelson Hall, Chicago, 1975 (Chapter on "Research and Precognition," pp. 101-110).
12. Although Dr. Simon alluded to the possibility of telepathy as an important factor in explaining some of the events of the Betty and Barney Hill abduction, this theme was not developed. However, Betty Hill recalled, from her conversations with Dr. Simon, his mention of some hypnotic-telepathic experiments with other people. Therefore it would appear that this aspect of his opinion about the abduction was not just wild speculation.

STRANGE OBJECT NEAR CHILDRENS' HOME

Jenny Randles

This is a NUFON report, specially prepared for UFOIN (UFO Investigators' Network)* and for *Flying Saucer Review*.

THE affinity that the UFO phenomenon has for schools and school-children, especially during the 1977 UK wave, has already been noted in FSR. The following report may serve to corroborate this idea as the incident occurred in the vicinity of a Childrens' Home.

The date was July 5, 1977, and the location was Marple, Cheshire. A Mr. and Mrs. Simpson look after the Home, which is surrounded mostly by open farm and woodland. In the direction in which the object was seen there is a lake surrounded by trees, and some electricity power lines.

The UFO was first seen by some of the children at about 10.20 p.m. Mrs. Simpson was called to look at it and they all watched from upstairs

as a yellowy object hovered just at the top of the tree line, seemingly over the lake. It seemed to alter shape on a number of occasions from that of a cigar to that of the edge of a saucer. The sides seemed to shimmer or tremble. From the underside came beams of light which slanted outwards at an angle as if illuminating the area underneath.

At 10.40 p.m. Mr. Simpson returned home and he observed the phenomenon with his younger brother and the previous witness. It remained stationary for some twenty more minutes.

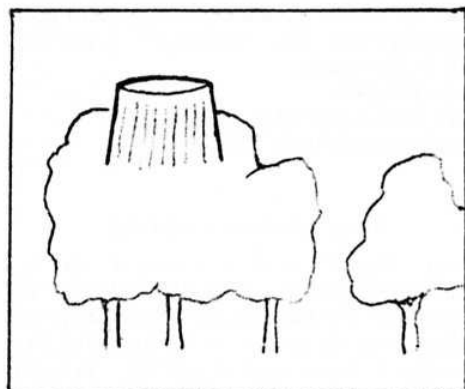
The object was at least three times as bright as the brightest star in the sky and had a definite size to it. The moon was visible in roughly the same arc of sky, and was low down and almost full. It was possible, however to affirm absolutely that this was not the cause of the sighting owing to later events.

After watching it with the naked eye for some while Mr. Simpson obtained some binoculars and viewed it through these. He saw an elongated silver shape with what seemed to be lumps on its side. The object then slowly moved across to the south east and stopped in a clearing between the trees. Here it seemed larger and possibly closer. It then dulled through orange to red and eventually just disappeared from view. A few moments

later it reappeared in the same position where first seen, and back in its original shape and colour. After a few minutes it began to descend below the trees and was lost to view. Because of their responsibility at the Home the witnesses could not go to the lake to see what was happening.

At 12.10 a.m. Mrs. Simpson finally contacted me at the local UFO investigation group (I had only just returned home after being out with a friend). She had obtained my number from the local radio. After she had quickly related the story, I asked her to make ready a camera and take a long duration exposure if the object reappeared. I then went to a high vantage point and scanned the area in question (Marple is roughly 1 1/4 miles distant). I was able to ascertain that the Moon was in a different position and that there were no bright stars in the vicinity. Although the night was clear, and I stayed out for some minutes, nothing was seen by myself.

At 12.25 a.m. the object was reported to have returned, but no photographs were taken as it was only visible for a few seconds, moving very fast in the same vicinity. As it disappeared, an aircraft came by overhead, clearly audible. The witnesses



UFO at Marple, Cheshire

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stayed up until 3 a.m. but there was no further sign of the phenomenon, although the night remained clear.

The mystery was not over, however, for some days afterwards it was discovered that another event had occurred on the same night (the only other one on file with NUFON) and this had occurred in Irlam (which is the town in which I live, though as previously explained, I was out in Manchester that night).

The Irlam witnesses were two teenage boys who, at a time around 10.00 p.m., claim that they were looking south eastwards (which is in the direction of Marple) when they saw a

dark cigar-shaped object hovering over the Manchester Ship Canal. The area to the east of Irlam is mostly taken up with open land, the canal and a large oil refinery, so there is a wide area of view from this vantage point.

The object was producing a beam of light from one end, and this was sweeping backwards and forwards in a slow arc. The object eventually moved out of sight slowly following the course of the canal to the south. No other witnesses of this incident have been found, although the boys stated that the object was over a large housing estate in Flixton.

It seems quite possible that these

two experiences are inter-related, as neither of them received any publicity whatsoever, and reports of cigar-shaped objects emitting beams of light are not all that common. Their significance seems to be somewhat obscure, however, because there appears to be some 'selectivity' of the witnesses. Had this been a purely objective phenomenon one would have anticipated many more witnesses than those discovered.

Help on this investigation was forthcoming from Ron Sargeant and Arthur Tomlinson for MUFORA and DIGAP. It is hoped to publish a full report on the Irlam incident in the next issue of FSR.

MAIL BAG

Random bending

[Although not directly ufological, we felt that readers would be interested in the following extract from a letter dated September 14 which we received from Dr. Ivor Grattan-Guinness who is lecturing at Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia for a few months].

"...A very curious thing happened on Friday. My friend in the Mathematics department here took me along to a meeting of people from several departments of the university with the local spoonbender, Ori Suoray. Various of us gave him keys and metal. He bent one key quite a bit after much effort, but was on the whole fairly unsuccessful. He's been doing it all for about two years and is getting bored with it ('so I can bend keys; so what?') I went with him alone into another room and we chatted for about 20 minutes while he tried on a key I gave him out of the desk in my room, and some other things. He may have bent that key very slightly, but said that it was the type of small key with which he is usually unsuccessful anyway; and he certainly did nothing to two other keys from the desk which I kept in my possession as controls. But I have great respect for spoonbenders, and left my keyring and watch in the glove compartment of my friend's car before we crossed over the building for the meeting with Ori. Afterwards we came back to the car and I took my watch and keys out of the glove compartment. The watch was still going; but one of the keys was bent by at least 5°! Moreover, it was the 4th of the set for my desk, the one that I use (or used to use). Like the

other three, it was completely flat (and thus usable); and of the type that Ori said he didn't like working with.

"This case seems to me to be particularly interesting. I am sure that I did not tell Ori that I had left my key or my watch in my friend's car, so that the effect must have taken place through some thought transference between him and myself — in other words, that is the kind of phenomenon that we are investigating. I know that people think this anyway, but this is a case when other possibilities seem definitely to be excluded."

I.G.G.

Pro-Am contradistinctions

Dear Mr. Bowen,—Replying to A. Cramwinckel's kind letter in FSR Vol. 22/6 regarding my essay "In Defence of Amateurs" (FSR, Vol. 22/2) in my country the contradistinctions, scientist — non-scientist and amateur — professional are used just as they are in the Netherlands. They apply universally, logically.

However, the scientist — non-scientist contradistinction has no place in any discussion of ufology. All who research UFOs must preserve a hard-headed, objective attitude toward the data, in the best tradition of scientific method. Non-scientists have never collected, preserved or correlated any worthwhile UFO material.

The essay was written originally for the Mufon UFO Journal, an American publication, and so was not intended strictly for an overseas readership. However, in France and presumably in Britain too, as well as in the United States the contradistinction scientist — amateur is in

common usage. Thus, there are professional and amateur astronomers, geologists, archaeologists, *ad infinitum*. Strangely, I have never come across an "amateur" engineer, however. Perhaps this explains why A. Cramwinckel, being an engineer himself, experiences confusion at my use of words.

I would never have been prompted to write the essay at all, had it not been for the fact that certain French and American scientists *themselves* have written and spoken rather derisively of the "UFO amateurs" who manned the bastions against media ridicule and government secrecy since the beginning of the modern UFO period.

In the past year or so, I have noted that the words "UFO amateur" are used less frequently; and when they *are* used, it is with a certain softness and respect which was not discernible before. This is all I ever wished for.

In spite of national differences in semantical usage, it is indeed a credit to the essential sameness of human thought that A. Cramwinckel and myself come to the same conclusion — i.e., in the field of ufology, scientists and all other qualified researchers and investigators are amateurs together. All best regards,

Ann Druffel

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More on time-travelling

Dear Sir,—I was interested in S. Suddell's letter (Vol.23, No.1) in reference to the article "Ufonauts as Time Travellers" by S. Priest (Vol.21, No.6). I have not read Mr. Priest's article, having only recently retaken the FSR. However, may I be permitted