

various points in the district.

"One of the staff, Mr. Joe Thomas, spotted the object while driving to school from his Illogan home.

"How did it appear to him? 'I thought it was a very short vapour trail with the sun glinting on it. But what was most peculiar was that it was moving eastwards.'

"Mr. Thomas said some of the pupils had kept the object in clear view for up to ten minutes. It was the only object in an otherwise completely clear blue sky. Some pupils described it as a 'streak of light,' but others said it resembled a cigar shape with something like short, stubby wings.

"A spokesman at Kehelland said no weather balloon had been let off at anywhere around that time.

"Many Falmouth people stared for minutes at a bright object in the sky. It appeared to be stationary, changed its shape and was bright silver and gold.

"The police had reports about it and RNAS Culdrose received inquiries. Some viewers thought it was a flying saucer. Others suggested it was a satellite. The less imaginative claimed it was a slow-moving plane caught in the light of the still rising sun."

Credit: Dennis Bateman of St. Ives.

Dome-shaped Scunthorpe UFO

From the Scunthorpe *Evening Telegraph* of November 25, 1970, comes the following account—

"Busman Melvyn Batty . . . (30), who lives at 56, Teale-street, Scunthorpe, said that he was walking from his home to shops in Frodingham-road last Friday morning when Paul (his son, aged 3) pointed to the sky and asked 'What's that?'

"I asked him if he meant the sun,' said Mr. Batty. 'Then I saw something silver in the sky. I thought it might have been a jet plane but then I noticed that it had no wings. It was domed shaped and was going across the sky faster than any ordinary aeroplane without leaving a trail. It was a perfectly clear sky and I'm sure I was not mistaken.'

"The object he saw, appeared from the direction of Doncaster in the west and he watched it disappear into the east.

"Mr. Batty said that he did not think too much about what he had seen until Sunday when his daughter, Julie (7) told him that she had been at school when she had seen a round ball in the sky.

"He asked when she had seen it and Julie said that it was on the Friday. Mr. Batty said that Julie had told him it looked like a round ball and it

moved around and around in the sky before flying away.

"Mr. Batty said that he would have mentioned the sighting earlier but he did not really expect people to believe him.

"Neither RAF Manby nor RAF Scampton report having seen anything unusual at that time.

"In June, however, an unidentified object that looked like the moon but smaller and moving across the sky was sighted by a number of people.

"And last year, Scunthorpe police received four calls in the space of half-an-hour from people claiming to have seen an oval object about the size of the moon."

Credit: Nigel Watson of Scunthorpe.

Flaming object over Wimborne

The following item comes from the *Southern Evening Echo* of December 1, 1970—

". . . Mrs. Phyllis Wallace, of 34 Grove Road, Wimborne, her son Gordon (15) and his friend Garry Tilley all saw a large bright object in the sky as they were looking towards Holt.

"Said Mrs. Wallace: 'I don't know what it was. It had an oval shape and appeared to be on fire. It was not very high—not as high as you would

SPRING HEEL JACK

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records in the newspapers of the time. For instance, *Everybody's* magazine of February 20, 1954, carried an article on Spring Heel Jack, stating that as late as September 25, 1904, a crowd of people in Everton watched a luminous figure leaping from house top to house top. Although it has so far not been possible to find a contemporary source for this story, it does seem to have a factual basis, since a subsequent issue of the magazine carried a letter from a reader who claimed that his father had been a witness, and stated, without giving further details, that the creature had been shown to be a kangaroo. (I also recall that some years ago there was an item on the now defunct TV programme "Tonight", in which Fyffe Robertson interviewed surviving witnesses to an early twentieth-century Spring Heel Jack case.)

Clearly, much remains to be done with this study. However, even at this stage, it is evident that the files of the nineteenth and early twentieth-century British press may, if carefully sifted, yield data of considerable interest to ufologists.

NOTES

¹ For a more detailed account of the 1837 manifestations see J. Vyner: "The Mystery of Spring Heel Jack" in FSR, Vol. 7, No. 3, May/June 1961.

² See, for instance: Charles Bowen: "More Unusual Humanoids," FSR, Vol. 14, No. 3, May/June 1968.

John A. Keel: "Ohio Contact Claim," FSR, Vol. 14, No. 1, January/February 1968.

Gordon Creighton: "The Humanoid in Latin America" (in *The Humanoids*), cases 8, 21 and 35s

³ For some such reports see: Gordon Creighton: "The Humanoids in Latin America," cases 1 and 31.

J. Mesnard and C. Pavy: "Encounter with Devils"; FSR, Vol. 14, No. 5, September/October 1968.

Coral Lorenzen: "UFO Occupants in US Reports" (in *The Humanoids*), the Coldwater case.

Jim and Coral Lorenzen: *UFOs over the Americas*; chapter 5.

⁴ It should be made clear that, in spite of its name, this paper had no connection with the police force or the *Illustrated London News*. It was in fact a cheap journal, largely devoted to reports of the more sensational court cases.

⁵ See Coral Lorenzen: "UFO Occupants in US Reports" (in *The Humanoids*).

⁶ See Gordon Creighton: "The Humanoids in Latin America," cases 9, 12 and 14 (in *The Humanoids*).

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³ See the article *Living Creatures, Earthquakes and UFOs* which follows this section of the FSR Catalogue.

⁴ John Keel concludes: "During my travels I have examined a number of dogs and cows which have been mysteriously mutilated, as if operated on with a sharp scalpel. In December 1967 a cow was found outside of Gallipolis, Ohio, which had been cut cleanly in half 'as if by a giant pair of scissors'. The organs and blood had been removed from the lower half of the body." (See also NANA article by John Keel on animal mutilations, November 1967, and the celebrated case of the horse "Snippy".