

and showing photographs of activity on the other side of the moon; he thinks huge earth moving machines were visible and unless the photos had been 'doctored' the tracks were unmistakable. He feels, and I agree, that if something of this nature is going on the public should be informed.

This reminds of an item, also appearing on *Nationwide* (I think it was last summer) of an expedition going to investigate a large hole found in the ground in the middle of a jungle (I was preparing dinner and missed the location). No one to that date had

been able to reach the bottom of this hole and this new expedition was making a further attempt, taking with them miles of rope, and the necessary equipment.

After a couple of months had gone by I wrote to *Nationwide* asking for the result of this expedition, had the bottom been reached, and if not, why not? After a couple of weeks I had a card from them saying sorry, they could find no trace of the item to which I was referring. This must have been in December because very soon after that they put on a review of the past programmes through the

year of items of special interest they had shown. This rather suggested to me that all their programmes are taped so could be referred to at any time, so why was the item I enquired about untraceable?

Good luck with your magazine; its the best I have come across.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) J. M. Battell
"Chalwood", 117 Hart Road,
Thundersley, Benfleet,
Essex, SS7 3QP
March 23, 1977.

Book Review

MORE ABOUT THE SIBERIAN 'METEORITE'

THE FIRE CAME BY, by John Baxter and Thomas Atkins, published by Macdonald and Jane's, London, 1976. £3.95 net in the United Kingdom only. Introduction by Isaac Asimov, appendices and a bibliography.

THE great Siberian meteorite made news in the West in the 1920s although it fell in 1908; little was to be learned about it because of the vast distances in Russia and lack of communications. Fortunately it is not too late to recover the facts and one of the interesting features of this book is the reporting of interviews with reindeer shepherds who were witnesses. The Tungus (now called Evenki) live in small villages and the shepherds in scattered huts and tents; one family 25 miles from the blast were thrown into the air, their tent carried away and they saw "the forest blazing around them with many fallen trees." Another man, 40 miles from the explosion, had his shirt almost burnt off his back. Many reindeer disappeared and the survivors suffered a strange disease. The elders of the tribe forbade anyone to visit the site and the shaman said that it was there that the god of fire and thunder, Ogdys, descended to the earth.

Expeditions have visited the site increasingly in recent years and photographs have appeared of the forest flattened outwards for miles around, although bare poles still stand in the centre, below the point of the explosion. For it occurred in the air and there is no crater; not until Hiroshima did similar circumstances occur and the evidence is strong that this was an atomic blast. The glowing, cylindrical object seen passing overhead that June morning altered course before it blew up and it did not behave like a natural object.

Recent analysis of glazed particles recovered from

tree trunks shows small amounts of cobalt and nickel, as well as traces of copper and germanium. Kulik's 1928 expedition reported that some Tungus had found unusual bits of shiny metal "brighter than the blade of a knife and resembling in color a silver coin." What happened to these pieces of evidence; were none of them kept or handed over to the shaman?

That the Tunguska meteorite might have been a space ship would have been inconceivable at the time it fell; it would have seemed fanciful in 1955 when FSR first appeared; it was envisaged as a possibility in FSR Vol. 8 No. 2 (1962) in an article by our first Editor, Derek Dempster, entitled "Does Siberia hold the proof?" in which he quoted a *New Scientist* article of February 2, 1961, entitled "Was it a comet that hit Siberia?" in support of the official Russian view; however, he shows how this theory fails to fit the evidence then available and anticipates a further change after examining the results of that year's expedition; now it has become the most likely explanation in 1976, when "The Reader's Digest Book of Strange Stories, Amazing Facts," in its section on the enigma of the UFO, asserts that about 26 astronauts have reported seeing them. Was an alien space ship in trouble and did it try for a safe landing in Siberia? The answer could be in the records of some advanced race able to travel in our solar system. One day we might learn the full circumstances, if we persevere.

JOHN M. LADE

World round-up

of news and comment
about recent sightings

England

Possible Clayton EM disturbance case

We are indebted to UFOIN for the following report—

"Mr. Paul Exton of Clayton, Staffordshire, is an AA Engineer. In the early hours of the morning of February 4, 1977, he was driving his van along the A500 towards the junction at Basford. A colleague was driving about 50 yards behind him and the two were communicating with each other by radio on a frequency of 72.8 MHz.

At 2.25 a.m. their conversation suddenly became swamped by static. This was composed of two definite levels of noise. There was a general background hiss, and a high pitched note. Both men heard the sound and had to tune their sets down because of the volume of this interference.

"Looking out to the side of the road one of the men saw an orange light moving westwards parallel with the road. At first it was seen over the Shelton Iron and Steel plant, but it then hovered for four to five seconds. As it did so the noise on the radio increased in volume. The object then continued its path westwards towards the M6. As it moved away the noise on the radio gradually faded out.

Derek James was able to complete some of the details of this report from the witness for NUFON. He also made efforts to check other companies in the area which utilise radio vehicles, with a view to finding corroborative evidence. There were no problems reported by the West Midlands Gas Board, although they had no call outs around that time. However, the police at the Stafford Headquarters confirmed that on the night in question their radios had been heavily inundated with very bad static between 2.15 and 2.25 a.m. They had been unable to find any cause for this. Their radio operates on a frequency of 102 MHz."

Doughnut-shaped object over Cheshire

The following is a UFOIN report—

"13 year old Nigel Blagg lives at Alsager in Cheshire and is very keen on looking for high flying aircraft through his binoculars. At 6.55 p.m. on April 15, 1977, he was in the dining room of his home scanning the clear blue sky. There were no aircraft visible and he decided to look a little higher in the sky, at an elevation of about 80 degrees. Here he spotted

an object which looked like a silvery metallic diamond with two short stubby wings.

"Nigel called to his mother and father to look at it. With the naked eye the object appeared as just a bright white light. His father is a company director and a former RAF test pilot with photo reconnaissance experience. After satisfying himself that the object was something unusual he went with his son into the garden through the french windows.

"Mr. John Blagg borrowed the binoculars from his son and described what he saw as like a doughnut with a bright silver outside and a dark grey middle. The object appeared to be very high and practically stationary. He estimated its diameter as 100-150 feet at a height of 40,000 feet plus.

"After viewing for about one minute the object suddenly disappeared into a puff of cream coloured smoke. This change occurred momentarily, and out of the smoke came three smaller oval shapes, placed in a formation with two on top and one in line some distance underneath. This relative position remained throughout the completion of the sighting.

"To the naked eye the puff of smoke was not visible. Nigel simply describes two objects suddenly appearing where formerly there had been one. It is probable that the two upper ones were too close together to be separated by the unaided eye.

"The objects took about forty five seconds to move slowly away and then suddenly travel upwards at some speed, growing smaller and disappearing from view. In all the observation had lasted nine minutes."

The report was investigated for NUFON by Derek James and Allen Gillies.

Spain

Statement by a Spanish Air Line Pilot

The Madrid morning paper, *Sociedad*, carried a report in its issue of Sunday, November 21, 1976, about a UFO which accompanied a *Boeing 727* aircraft of the Iberia Airlines on a regular flight from Santiago de Compostela (in the far north-west of Spain) to Madrid on Friday, November 19, 1976. The UFO accompanied the plane for twenty minutes, and was also seen by witnesses aboard other aircraft.

Comandante Parreño, the pilot of the *Boeing 727*, declared in an interview with a representative of the news-

paper *El País* that, while the sighting might conceivably be due to some optical phenomenon, it was at any rate not something that he had ever seen before.

Obviously choosing his words carefully, Captain Parreño was quoted as follows:—

"I do not think it was a UFO, but it certainly was also not a cloud. My interpretation of it is that it was a phenomenon of reflected light (un fenómeno de reflexion luminosa). It was too big to have been a UFO. It displayed, moreover, a certain degree of transparency."

This 'image' accompanied the Boeing over a distance estimated at about 300 kilometres, with the aircraft travelling at a speed of 900 km.p.h. at a height of about 5,000 metres. It was always seen to the right of the plane, at a varying distance.

Captain Parreño continued:

"Probably it was an optical phenomenon. The existence of layers of air at different temperatures and pressures can cause differences in the passage of light through them, producing this sort of image. But, in the twentyfive years that I have been flying, I have never before had a case like this. Phenomena of this sort need to be observed directly by scientists. Science knows that these things exist. All these matters need thorough study. In the course of these twentyfive years that I have been flying, I have heard my colleagues relate many things. They are reliable and credible professionals, who have described things that they themselves have experienced, and that obliges me to consider the possibility that UFOs do exist."

Credit: Russell Guérard y Holmes of Madrid. (Translation by Gordon Creighton.)

UFO chases truck for six kilometres

According to a report from Gerena published in the newspaper *El Correo de Andalucía* (Seville) for November 23, 1976, a local peasant named Antonio Alfonso Casado was driving his truck along the road from Guillena to Burgillo at 4.30 in the early morning of November 10, 1976, when he had a harrowing and unforgettable experience. (Before commencing his account of it, the Gerena correspondent of the newspaper, José Ortiz, who questioned him, adds that he knows the witness very well indeed, that he is highly thought of in the local community, and that there is every reason to