

WHIDBY ISLAND CONTACT

Whilst deploring the fact that the lady contactee in this new case from the U.S.A. prefers anonymity, we feel that her story should be published in view of the strange and interesting features which come to light. It is the policy of this REVIEW to present all aspects of the flying saucer mystery without prejudice, leaving its readers to judge individual cases on their merits.

WE are indebted to Marvin W. Smith, a member and active researcher of the Everett Flying Saucer Club, in the State of Washington, for sending us a full report of a new contact story.

It seems that Mr. Smith came to hear of this tale during a casual conversation with a friend. There was nothing casual, however, about his subsequent investigation. A diligent check through directories, a series of telephone calls, an exchange of letters, and finally an uninvited visit to Whidby Island, across the Sound from Everett, brought him face to face with the reluctant contactee.

The description "reluctant" is used advisedly. Mr. Smith points out that the contactee is a retiring, middle-aged woman who shuns publicity. Furthermore, he stresses the fact that she did not invite him to hear her story: it was he who sought her out. He describes her as "a matter-of-fact, reasoning individual who has had quite a bit of experience in public life", and he goes on to reveal how, when the overall UFO picture was discussed with her, she was suspicious of the validity of many other contact claims. She suspected that some claimants had invented stories, hoping subsequently to "cash-in" on them through publication.

In accordance with this lady's wish, Mr. Smith has withheld her true name: instead, he calls her "Mrs. Ruth Brown".

Mr. Smith's first visit to Whidby Island took place early in February 1964. He found Ruth Brown living in a detached house, with her nearest neighbours more than a quarter of a mile away.

Enquiries elicited that there had been two visitations by unidentifiable craft, the first in July 1963, the second in the following October.

The first "contact", which proved to be rather a tenuous one, occurred when the good lady was on the point of retiring for the night after an evening's televising. She stated that throughout the evening she had experienced an uneasy, prickly

feeling that she was being "watched", but it was not until she looked by chance from her bedroom window that she was aware that anything unusual was happening. It was then that she saw a strange craft hovering near the house. Her immediate reaction was not one of fear, as one might have expected, but one of inquisitiveness instead, for she hurried outside the house to get a better view. In this she was unlucky: when she reached the yard the UFO had gone.

A daylight visitation

The second visitation was quite sensational, however, and more than compensated for the disappointment of the July sighting. It happened at breakfast time, in broad daylight.

Mrs. Brown saw a machine of similar appearance to the July visitor. It was about ten feet long, coloured grey, and rather like an aeroplane to look at, shorn of wings, tail, fins and undercarriage. There was no visible means of propulsion.

The UFO approached from the North, and as it halted, it hovered some five feet from the ground, quite close to the eastern side of the house. The witness reports that the front part was transparent, and that she could see at least three figures inside. Whilst the craft hovered, the grass underneath was flattened.

Quite suddenly, one of the occupants, a being of human shape and size, was seen to be standing on the ground, having seemingly *emerged through the side of the craft!* "He" was clothed in "asbestos textured coveralls . . . which concealed the feet, hands and face, except for openings where the eyes should be, but where no eyes were visible. . . ."

The craft, led by the being on the ground, now began to move slowly round the house. Mrs. Brown hastened to the door and cried out to the solitary figure: "What do you want?" Whereupon he con-

ferred with his companions in the machine, before turning and saying quite clearly—"One of our party knows you! We will return!" He then re-entered the craft in the same disturbing manner that he had left it.

The craft, or UFO, now continued its movement round the house, with Mrs. Brown following, and then a second strange thing happened. Without warning, it suddenly *shrank considerably in size*, and tilted so that its rear portion *dipped into the ground*. The startled witness at first concluded that it was taking in water, but subsequent speculation favours the view that it was seeking fuel of a kind.

The occupants signalled to Mrs. Brown that she was not to touch or to go near their craft. She claims that she had an "awareness" of this, and

suggests that it would indicate some form of thought transference, or telepathy.

When the "digging" operation was over, the UFO swelled up to its previous size and then moved off in an easterly direction, with "... much steam, smoke, a flash and noise, rapidly disappearing from sight."

Some little while after this visit, a strange fungus appeared on the ground at the spot where the "digging" had taken place.

Marvin Smith had suggested that the object of the visit was not to study the locality, but to gauge the effect of such contact on human beings. He feels that this theory is supported by the space visitors' statement that they knew of Mrs. Brown, and that they would return.

SOIL SAMPLERS

IS this planet of ours being subjected to a series of tests? Is it beyond the realms of possibility that extra-terrestrials are so interested in what makes us tick that they have mounted, and are still mounting, expeditions to examine the ingredients of our life here on Earth?

There has been ample evidence during the past two years, that the flying saucers are interested in our water supplies, particularly reservoirs and fresh-water lakes: the Sheffield flap, among others, proved that point. Many are the whispers, too, that extra-terrestrial visitors are depositing those mysterious cat-like animals to test their reactions to our atmosphere, and to life on our planet.

To add to all this, we are currently receiving a series of reports which, whilst uncorroborated, confirm the impression that sporadic visits are being made to take samples of our soil. The strange contact story from the U.S.A., which is told in the preceding article, is but one of these reports. Whatever may be thought of Marvin Smith's story, it contains some very striking links with other accounts and reports. It serves also to promote new thoughts on old mysteries.

Flashback to another Island Mystery

After he had prepared Mr. Smith's Whidby Island Contact story for publication, Charles Bowen drew our attention to the description of the unusual "digging" and sucking operations performed by the UFO. He reminded us of the story of the mystery hole discovered in a field at Puckwell Farm, Niton, Isle of Wight. (See *WORLD ROUND-UP* in the May-June 1964 issue).

In August, while on holiday at Niton, Mr. Bowen visited Puckwell Farm and discussed the

phenomenon with the farmer, who was sceptical of the official view that the hole had probably been caused by a bomb. True, German bombers had attacked buildings down on Niton Undercliff during the war, but this hole was found near the top of the inland cliff, and no unexploded bomb was discovered by the Bomb Disposal people.

The farmer shrugged off bomb theories with the words: "One night there was my field as it had always been, with no sign of a subsidence, and that despite regular ploughing: next morning there's this great hole, five feet or so straight down, then a bend, and downwards at a new angle for at least another ten feet, maybe more. Also, mark you, it was as clean as a whistle. No loose, crumbled earth falling away from the sides, like one would expect. Just as though it had been sucked out!" It seems, furthermore, that no trace was to be found of the large amount of earth and stones which must have been displaced!

When Leonard Cramp saw the Puckwell Farm hole, he said he did not rule out the possibility that it could have been caused by a space object. Others among us speculated after the report had appeared in the *Southern Evening Echo*, as to whether a space intruder could have landed to take a soil example.

The Soil Thieves

Now, so soon after the Isle of Wight mystery, we have this report of a UFO "excavating" at a relatively lonely place near the North West Coast of the United States. Did something similar to this happen, unobserved, at Puckwell Farm?

There are other features of the Whidby Island story which may be compared with the contact

story which appeared under the heading **DOWN ON THE FARM**, in the **WORLD ROUND-UP** columns of the September-October 1964 issue of the **REVIEW**. The clothing of the crewman at Whidby Island, and his method of getting out of, and back into his ship, are remarkably similar to those of the space visitors at Mr. Wilcox's farm near Newark Valley, New York State.

The object of the visit to Mr. Wilcox's farm?

None other than soil sampling, though the technique of stealing trays full of Mr. Wilcox's topsoil was crude by comparison with the methods of the Whidby Island visitors!

Which brings us to the question: was *soil sampling* the cause of those famous craters of the summer of 1963—particularly the ones at Charlton in Wiltshire, at Flamborough Head, on Dufton Fell in Westmorland, and in a Southampton Park?

MYSTERY ANIMALS

By Charles Bowen

THE increase in the appearance of large mystery animals of the cat family has been most marked in the past eighteen months. Reports of the sudden advent of feline predators in regions where they are normally unknown among the local fauna, have filtered through from far and wide. Not so far, either, in some cases, for there has been a veritable rash of reports from Southern England.

It may surprise the general public, but not, surely, readers of this **REVIEW**, to learn that the "lion" hunts that have been mounted are neither isolated incidents, nor are they peculiar to the 1960's. There have been several instances in England alone during the last hundred years.

For example, in March 1906, the good people of Windsor were greatly perturbed by the ravages of a strange animal which mauled sheep so severely that they had to be killed. Before the disturbance died down, fifty-one sheep had been killed outright.

Little purpose will be served by cataloguing numerous other incidents from the past. Suffice it to say that the works of Charles Fort abound with evidence of identical scares!

Not unnaturally, Ufologists have been interested in the recent developments, and more than a year ago, I heard the view expressed that it would be only a matter of time before there would be evidence of a tie-up between the animals and the flying saucers.

That remark was made after the fuss about a cheetah which was encountered in the Shooters' Hill area of Kent, had died down. There were several cheetah "sightings", and a serious and well-organised hunt was mounted in this populous district in the south-east corner of London. Police and tracker dogs joined in, but to no avail.

The Shooters Hill affair was in July 1963, a time when we were deeply interested in the happenings at Mr. Blanchard's farm in Charlton, Wilts., (see **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW** of September/October 1963).

On February 14, 1964, a new mystery animal was reported, this time in the Hawkhurst-Cranbrook area of Kent, some 50 miles from London. This animal was alleged to be "huge", with two-inch razor-sharp claws. A Mr. John Golding, of Park Cottages, Hawkhurst, found a set of giant paw marks on Duval's Farm. He and the owner, Mr. F. C. Brinsley, followed the trail across the farm. The marks were described by the local veterinary surgeon, Mr. Douglas Good, as probably having been made by a member of the "Big cat" family with front feet nearly twenty-four inches apart, and heavy enough for the feet and claws to sink nearly two inches into fairly firm ground.

Five days later, a *tiger* was reported at large in East Anglia. This creature was seen on a railway embankment at East Runton, near Cromer. Appeals were made on television for further information: some thirty police dogs were employed in a search, again to no avail, although there were persistent eye-witness reports describing the animal variously as a tiger, a puma and a cheetah.

The Vereeniging Story

It was at this time that we heard tell of an amazing story which had been published in "Die Brandwag", an Afrikaans language magazine from South Africa. A translation appeared in the May/June 1964 issue of the **FLYING SAUCER REVIEW**.

The two men, who were driving at night on the Potchefstroom/Vereeniging road, were surprised to see a strange, large animal. In a land which boasts a vast array of magnificent beasts, they were surprised enough to stop to investigate this creature, which they merely supposed could be a large dog. They weren't too sure on that point, and events which followed must have driven thoughts of the animal right out of their minds, for their car was "buzzed" by a UFO. Several spectacular passes were made at them, and they were petrified.

To us, in the comfort of our armchairs, it seemed that the UFO was trying to distract the attention