

HOW THE BRITISH MEDIA ARE INSTRUCTED TO TREAT CROP-CIRCLES. BY GORDON CREIGHTON.

As we all can see, the British newspapers and the Radio and TV media received their instructions long ago as to how they should treat the embarrassing phenomenon of the Crop-Circles. They were told to show them as exclusively the work of hoaxers, like the two old-age pensioners "Doug 'n Dave" - "*les pappys farceurs*" as our French colleagues term them so delightfully - who, with the aid of a few fellow-workers, are now credited with the production of the entire massive world-wide phenomenon, as we have seen it, not only here in Britain, but also in the USA, Canada, Australia, Russia, Japan, Germany, Spain, and some other countries. (By the way, has anyone yet heard of crop-circle reports from New Zealand, St. Helena, Mauritius, Easter Island, and other remoter spots?).

Every year of course we get a few fine dismissive pieces of writing in our British press and a few debunking programmes via the TV and the Radio, but these seem to pass rapidly and are soon forgotten. As for the public and the rest of us, we too are expected simply to toe the line and *forget* rapidly...

Of the finest and most ludicrous examples that I have seen recently in the British press I strongly recommend a superb piece of nonsense babble from the *Daily Telegraph's* Scientific Correspondent Matt Ridley:-

Daily Telegraph, May 24, 1999.

PRANKSTERS RUN RINGS AROUND THE GULLIBLE: MATT RIDLEY'S ACID TEST.

"Laurance Rockefeller, an American billionaire who is also a UFO nut, has been persuaded to part with some of his billions to 'carry out aerial research' into crop circles in south-west England. Is there no end to the gullibility of the wealthy?

"I made my first crop circles in 1991. My motive was to prove how easy they were to make, because I was convinced that crop circles were all man-made. It was the only explanation nobody seemed interested in testing.

"Late one August night, with one accomplice - my brother-in-law from Texas - I stepped into a field of nearly ripe wheat in northern England, anchored a rope into the ground with a spike, and began walking in a circle with the rope held near the ground. It did not work very well, the rope rode up over the wheat. But with a bit of help from our feet to hold down the rope, we soon had a respectable circle of flattened wheat.

"Two days later, there was an excited call from the farmer. I had fooled my first victim. I subsequently made two more crop circles using much superior techniques. A light garden-roller, designed to be filled with water, proved helpful. Eventually, I hit on the technique used by the original circle-makers - plank-walking, or pushing down the crop with a plank suspended from two ropes. To make the depression circular is a simple matter of keeping an anchored rope taut.

"Getting into the crop without leaving traces is a lot

easier than is usually claimed. In dry weather, and stepping carefully, you can leave no footprints or tracks at all. There are other ways of getting into the crop even more stealthily. One group of circle-makers use two tall bar stools and jump from one to another. I soon found I could make a sophisticated pattern with very neat edges and no tracks in less than an hour.

....."I soon met other crop-circle makers, though I was never lucky enough to encounter the two who started it, Doug Bower and Dave Chorley. People such as Robin Allen of Southampton University and Jim Schnabel, * author of *Round In Circles*, also found it all too easy to fool the self-appointed experts, but all too hard to dent the gullibility of reporters. When Bower and Chorley confessed, they were denounced on television as frauds. My own newspaper articles were dismissed as "government disinformation" and it was hinted that I was in M15, which was flattering (and untrue)."

NOTE BY EDITOR OF FSR.

* I am delighted to see this mention of Mr. Jim Schnabel, an American citizen who has long been known for his services on behalf of the US Government's debunking programme on UFOs. There are one or two exceedingly interesting things to be related about him, and we will see to it that this is done in a future article.

In German slang the word SCHNABEL ("*beak*") is often used to indicate "*SNOUT*" and when Mr. Schnabel came to Britain and set about studying (*as instructed*) *not so much the British crop-circles as the crop-circle investigators*, the snout was used effectively for turning up plenty of "dirt on people" and his ears were busily gathering up the sort of stuff required. (Those who are familiar with the farming life will know that, used efficiently, the snout of a hog can be as good as any plough).

AND WHAT ABOUT THE COMPENSATIONS?

After all these years, and after all these "faked crop circles" in so many countries of the world, and after the frightful messes and crop-losses perpetrated in so many fields, I am most disappointed to have to record that I have yet to hear of one single case anywhere in which any farmer or any owner of the terrain was reported to have claimed, or to have received, any monetary or other compensation from any source (Government or hoaxers).

Maybe FSR's readers can help me out by indicating such cases?

HAVE ANY OF YOU EVER HEARD OF ANY SUCH CASE IN ANY COUNTRY? IF SO, PLEASE LET US KNOW!

As this age of alleged civilisation hurtles to its termination, the general miasm of greed and interest in *money, profit, gain, materiel wealth*, becomes ever more obsessive and more persuasive - so far as one can ascertain - than it has ever been in any known past period of human

history. It was from the USA, so often called the "Land of the Almighty Dollar", that one began to hear, a few years ago, awful tales. It was alleged that, if you were so unlucky as to get run over by a bus there, the folk at the nearest hospital might be inclined to want to take a peep inside your wallet before taking you in.

I am not suggesting that matters are any better here in Britain, because we are already seeing the rapid spread of it all here, along with the astounding new habit of suing each other and taking each other to court, at the drop of a hat. And all that certainly did start a good many years ago in America. It was there, in the years after WWII, that we began to hear of people banging on the whole time about "asserting oneself" and "claiming one's rights" (but never about their "obligations to society"). This disease has now spread to Britain, along with various other tendencies such as the appearance of more and more murderous children particularly in Scotland, well equipped with knives. At the same time, the arrival in Britain of the lottery habit and the proliferation of TV and radio "quiz" programmes with large prizes - all this has vastly inflamed the general climate of greed here.

Meanwhile, on the agricultural scene, our farmers are in an unparalleled state of collapse. Today the level of suicide among the British farmers is higher than it is in any other class of society in our country. Surely, then, these poor fellows would desperately clutch at any possible source of compensation if they found themselves so unlucky as to have crop-circles on their fields! Why then is it that we never hear of a case of such a claim by a farmer or of such a claim being met by compensation from any source?

If anybody knows of such a case, will they please report it to us! (See also our book review in FSR 45/1) -Ed.

ADDENDUM: MAGNETIC PARTICLES FOUND ON CROP-CIRCLES.

From the MUFON UFO JOURNAL for January 2000 we learn that two of their field investigators, Joanne Scarpellini and Gary P. Hart of Missouri, examined a small crop circle (9ft. diameter) on a large farm in Southern Missouri. Date of the circle July 1999.

As is known, crop circles are frequently found to yield magnetic particles, usually between micron size (about 50 microns) up to as much as 1 mm. However in the case of this Missouri farm, while some of the particles were only of micron sizes, most of them were very large - being of as much as 2 mm.

The particles recovered there were described as "irregularly shaped, rounded globules that appear rusty to the naked eye. Under magnification with a microscope they appear very much like slag, as would be found in the spray from a dirty cut made by an acetylene torch. Magnified, the particles are, as stated, rusty, somewhat glazed, with the glazed areas being dark brown to black. They are quite smooth and appear to have melted and then cooled as a heavy spray. The *surface* of the entire circle was estimated to carry 53.1 gm. (1.87 oz) of the magnetic particles while the *embedded* amount of the particles is estimated at 213.36 gm. (7.48 oz), with the total of the surface and the embedded material amounting to an astounding 265 gm (over 9 oz).

A control sample taken at a distance of 1,000 ft from the crop circle did not yield any magnetic particles at all."■

THE "MYSTERY WHINE" THAT ONLY WOMEN CAN HEAR! BY GORDON CREIGHTON.

Many, many times in the 45 years of FSR's existence, we have carried press reports, from various regions of England (I recall none from Scotland or Wales or Ulster) about baffling and curious "humming" or "buzzing" noises for which no reason can ever be found.

Quite frequently, it seems, that such a hum may plague the life out of the occupants of just one single terraced house and yet never be heard by anyone in any of the neighbouring houses on either side. We recounted in FSR that one poor man, an English author named Edward Hyams, was reported by the British newspapers to be at his wits' end plagued by the hum at his home in Kent (S.E. England) and was consequently planning to move to another part of the country. (Whether that helped, we never heard).

No explanation for any of these mysterious noises has ever been forthcoming and consequently many folk have concluded that the cause can only be either secret operations of our Government or the activities of aliens or alien UFOs.

It has been some years since we last noted press

accounts about such humming noises, but there was a particularly curious one reported in the *Daily Express* on December 31 1998.

This was described by the paper as "*the mystery whine that only women can hear*". It is a high-pitched sound, and the paper said a dozen separate cases of it had been logged by environmental health officers in Warrington, Cheshire (N.W. England) during the latter months of 1998.

In every case, women had complained about the mysterious droning which kept them awake, while the men living in the same houses said they never could hear a thing.

Officials from the local council's noise-abatement department had investigated, totally without success in locating the source of such a noise.

Anne Heeson, aged 55, told the newspaper that the noise had become so bad that she was now planning to move house. She described it as "a high-pitched, pulsating, humming sound, and it turns me into a nervous wreck".