

OBITUARY

Coral Lorenzen

By Dr. James A. Harder,
FSR Consultant. Long-time
APRO Collaborator

CORAL Lorenzen, founder and sustaining pillar of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) since 1952, died in Tucson, Arizona on April 12, 1988. She was 63. Although her most recent title was that of the APRO newsletter editor, everyone who was close to APRO knows that she was its moving spirit. She will be long remembered among friends for her devotion to the study of the UFO phenomena, together with a strict and no-nonsense attitude toward it. It should be noted, however, that Coral was one of the very first to recognize the importance of abduction reports, and was an early supporter of Betty Hill and the idea that extraterrestrials could indeed contact humans, an idea that is just now receiving widespread attention. She was a highly intelligent, devoted, and feisty lady, one who will be sadly missed by the UFO community. She is survived by her son Larry E. Lorenzen of Phoenix Arizona and his two children, Richard, 6 and Matthew 5, and by two other grandchildren: Jason Stryker, 9 and Blaire Stryker, 5.

This report follows shortly after the equally sad news of the passing of Mrs Lorenzen's husband Jim, co-founder with her of APRO, who had died in August 1986.

Reporting on Mrs Lorenzen's death, the local newspaper *The Citizen*, of Tucson, Arizona (April 16, 1988), quoted a notable statement by her to the effect that "man is toward the bottom of the evolutionary totem-pole when stacked up to other creatures of the Universe".

APRO's laboriously collected UFO files, sent in by the Organization's more than 500 investigators and reporters, were probably far and away the best and largest in the world, and there had been much speculation over the last two years as to what might finally become of them. We heard of at least three U.S. groups who were hoping to "inherit" them, but according to one recent report that reached us (we don't now recall from whom), Mrs Lorenzen left instructions that all her records were to be burned. If this is true, many will no doubt be unhappy about it. But maybe Coral was wise enough to recall her own words about the "totem-pole" and to perceive in the end that man's brain is designed only for the comprehension of things of *this world*, and that his much-vaunted Science, which has already given us so much nuclear waste and so much chemical pollution, etc., is unlikely to carry him very far when it comes to the ultimate questions. This is something that many other folk also need to learn. Already, only a couple of weeks before Mrs Lorenzen's departure, her helper Robert G. Marsland had informed FSR and other UFO investigation groups that there would be no more issues of the APRO BULLETIN, and that the activities of the Group were being terminated.

We at FSR salute Coral and Jim in their passing, and place on record this expression of the high regard in which we always have held them personally, as well as their work. They are — and will be — remembered. G.C.

BOOK REVIEWS

Dr Ivor Grattan-Guinness, FSR Consultant

J. Allen Hynek, Philip J. Imbrogno and Bob Pratt, *Night Siege. The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1987. xii + 210 pp. \$6.95.

This book is significant in that it records a massive series of sightings made mainly in certain months of 1983 and 1984 in New York State and Connecticut. Investigators collected a large amount of evidence, and the authors have distilled into their text a proportion of it, mainly in the form of quoted statements. (Presumably the material is available to other researchers for verification and for their own use.) Enough data were obtained for the authors to prepare statistical surveys of the impressions gained by large numbers of witnesses of particular sightings. There is considerable consistency in the reports: the object was very large, boomerang- or V-shaped, and moved slowly at low altitude and at a low velocity. Most of the sightings were CE-I or -II, but some uncertain evidence is given suggestive of -III and even -IV cases. Certain other familiar characteristics are also described: failure to obtain quality photographs or videos (those reproduced in the book are poor); and ridiculous official explanations offered, such as formations of planes. A fortunate aspect of the sightings was that they occurred above an area inhabited by many highly educated and even technologically informed people, who were not to be swayed by official wisdom in the way that happens so often on these occasions.

John C Baird, *The inner limits of outer space*. Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1988. xii + 226 pp. £12.75/\$22.75.

The author brings his professional experience as a psychologist to bear upon questions concerning the possibility of other intelligences in the universe and their interactions with us. Ufology is studied at greatest length in chapter 3, but it occurs on occasion in later chapters. Perhaps the most valuable thrust is to stress the 'Fundamental Attribution Error' of social psychology: 'People overrate psychological causes and underrate external pressures in explaining the behaviour of others' (p. 123). Unfortunately the error seems to be prevalent in his treatment of our subject, for he gives more attention to socio-psychological belief structures and orientations than to the data upon which the attitudes are founded. For example, he relies on P. J. Klass for information on the 'widespread flap' of the 1890s in the USA rather than on the detailed account given at the beginning of D.M. Jacobs' *The UFO controversy in America* (1975). Indeed, the productions of the Prometheus State Publishing House feature rather prominently in all his bibliographies of chapters relating to paranormal events.

The author is not polemical either against believers in such events; indeed, he targets his strictures more against careless formulations of interplanetary sciences. He is evidently most familiar in those areas, to which his volume makes a modest but useful contribution. Outside them, however, his work is somewhat underwhelming.