

Ufo-kuumetta Kuusamossa:

Lumi jäätyni vihreäksi

Oulu (HS) Selittämätön valoilmio hämmästytti lukuisia ihmisiä Kuusamon Saapungissa sunnuntaiamuna. Valoilmio, jonka muotoa silminnäkiijät eivät ole voineet tarkoin kuvata, jätti jälkeensä mv. Mauno Talalan pihamaalle 2x3 metrin laajuisen alueen, jossa lumi oli kovettunut tummanvihreäksi jääksi.

Valoilmiota kuvasi Talala, jonka kahvinjuonnin se keskeytti, "yllinmääräisen kirkkaaksi ja häikäiseväksi". Talalan ikkunan alla hehkuneen ja häikäisevän valon havaitsevat myös naapurin

päässä Talalasta asuvat Kalle ja Anna Saapunki, jotka luulivat aluksi tuleen pääseen irti naapurinsa. Kilometrin päässä Talalasta asuva Mirja Saapunki havaitsi myös aamu-unestaan valon ilmoituksen.

Ufokien silminnäköiden ker-

Birger Wiik Apollo 12- konferenssiin

Houstonissa Texasissa alkaa viikonvaihteessa Apollo 12-konferenssi, jossa julkaistaan toisen kuukauden näytteen tutkimukset. Suomalainen kuukivien tutkija tohtori Birger Wiik matkustaa Yhdysvaltoihin lauantaina.

Tri Wiik kertoi, että omien tutkimustulostensa lisäksi hän tuo konferenssissa esille myös kanadalaisien tutkijoiden tulokset.

Wiik sai tutkittavakseen Apollo 12:n tuomista näytteistä kaksi kilonäkitystä ja yhden pölynäytteen, jotka kukin painoivat yhdeksän grammaa. Näytteitä jaettiin 139 amerikkalaiselle ja 51

January 6, 1971; the news breaks in Finland

SAAPUNKI UFO AND GREEN ICE

Elis W. Grahn

Our contributor is a representative and correspondent of *Flying Saucer Review* in Finland, and we are indebted to him for sending this and various other items relating to reports in his country. His activities in recent months have been hindered by illness, which has resulted in a spell in hospital, and we wish him a speedy recovery to full health.

HAVING noted that in your second number of *FSR CASE HISTORIES* you will include a selection of Finnish reports from the Pudasjärvi region, I hasten to send translations of newspaper items newly published in this country.

Pudasjärvi has experienced quite a "flap" during the last few years, and our Oulu "UFO-club" branch of the *Interplanetarians* has been very busy with investigations. The Pudasjärvi article by Matias Päätaalo in the *FSR Case Histories No. 2* is, in effect, a summary of some of their recent work.

The Finnish UFO wave has been concentrated in the part of Finland that stretches from Oulu on the coast of the Gulf of Bothnia eastwards to the border with the USSR. Kuusamo, where this most recent incident occurred, is quite close to the Russian border, between 200 and 300 km. from Oulu, and Pudasjärvi is about half way between these two places. The region consists mainly of hills and swamps, sparsely populated; a wilderness with only a few roads between widely-spread villages.

The two translations which follow are of items which appeared in the *Helsingin Sanomat* for January 6 and 8 of 1971. This newspaper is the biggest in the country, having 900,000 readers out of a total Finnish population of 4,600,000. Although it has an excellent reputation to guard, it does give good, and fair, accounts of the better UFO reports.

The headline for the January 6 report was:

UFO-FEVER IN KUUSAMO: SNOW FROZE TO GREEN ICE

"An inexplicable light phenomenon surprised several people in Kuusamo Saapunki, on Sunday morning. The light phenomenon, which observers were unable to describe accurately, left behind an area 2 x 3 metres wide where snow had hardened into dark green ice in the house yard of farmer Mauno Talala.

"Mr. Talala was drinking coffee when he was interrupted by the light phenomenon; he described it as 'unnaturally bright and blinding'. The glowing, flaming light beneath Mr. Talala's window was also noticed by Kalle and Anna Saapunki who live 300 metres away. At first they believed their neighbour's house was on fire. Mrs. Mirja Saapunki, who lives 1 km. away from Mr. Talala's house, was awakened by the brightness of the light.

"According to all the eye-witnesses, the phenomenon was seen for one minute before it rose into the sky. Later, Mauno Talala melted part of the 3-4 cm. thick ice, left behind by the phenomenon on the "landing site", and obtained some dark green water in a drinking glass.

"There have been several UFO sightings during the early winter in this area of North-Eastern Finland. Most of the sightings have been in the Isosyöte area of Pudasjärvi.

"Dr. Birger Wiik from the Geological Research Institute in Otamiemi, Helsinki, was inclined to be a

little sceptical about the case. He believes that the observers have combined two separate things. In his opinion, the light phenomenon could have been caused by a meteorite, hundreds falling as they do on Finland alone each year. He thought the explanation for the green ice could be that water normally turns light green as it freezes. Furthermore, farm chemicals might have become mixed in it. The matter is still under investigation."

The account in the *Helsingin Sanomat* for January 9, 1971, carried the headline:

THE KUUSAMO UFO-SIGHTING "EXCEPTIONALLY INTERESTING"

It ran . . .

"'Exceptionally interesting,' say UFO investigators about the sighting made last Sunday in Kuusamo, Saapunki, when something tangible was left behind, perhaps making it possible to ascertain what the object was carrying.

"Particles contained in the ice have been sent for investigation to the Chemical Department of Oulu University, to the Geological Research Institute, and other places. The results of the analysis are expected in two weeks.

"The phenomenon is no less interesting knowing as we do that an object of exactly the same appearance was sighted in Eastern Karelia in the USSR last year. The particles left behind by that object were not investigated in time. Similar phenomena have also been observed in the Andes in South America, but mostly these are not published because the Defence Authorities generally keep them secret.

"The Saapunki UFO is believed to have been in the area earlier, as on the night before there had been inexplicable power cuts in the village. The light phenomenon on Sunday morning was spotted by about ten people. The object was seen arriving from ESE over the lake 'at tree-top level'. Those who had noticed the light from afar said it looked rather like an electric hand torch. The movement was rather slow, so there was no difficulty in observing it.

"After having descended near the footpath leading to Mauno Talala's house, at a point 15 metres from the wall of the house, the light became so intense that it illuminated the inside of a room, through curtains, in a house as much as 2 km. away. Seen from a distance the light seemed somewhat like a welding arc. People in Talala's house could only say the light was 'very bright', but those further away said it was pulsating. Each witness stated that the phenomenon remained stationary about one minute and then disappeared. Nobody knows exactly in which direction it disappeared except that it went upwards.

Triangular mark in the snow

"On Wednesday, the frozen area of the landing site was investigated and found to be triangular in form. The long sides measured 370 cm. and the base measured 230 cm. The apex was 'cut off', making a fourth side of approximate length 50 cm. The snow on the spot was about 40 cm. deep. On the surface of the snow was a layer of coloured, fragile ice, about 3 cm. thick and in

the form of vertical needles. Under that layer was clear, hard ice about 1.5 cm. thick.

"The investigators have calculated that whilst stationary, for one minute, the object melted enough snow to form about 300 litres of water, which then froze again to ice. According to this calculation, the heat radiation was not excessively strong, and in any case it was considerably weaker than the amount of light radiation indicated.

"The dark green material, which was later found to have turned a dark blue-grey colour, was more concentrated in the centre of the melted spot than at the edges. It was thought to be composed of some kind of exhaust. The drop-like, or needle, form of the ice, strengthens this theory according to engineer Ahti J. Karivieri from the Oulu UFO Society, who visited the site with an investigation team.

"Samples of the blue-grey ice have been taken to the Oulu University and to the Typpi Oy (Nitrogen Co.) laboratory. In addition, private investigators have taken samples, even to Sweden. However, these results will not be available for about another two weeks. This long waiting period is mainly due to there being no clue as to the nature of the material in the sample.

"The radiation measurements performed on Wednesday in the landing area showed no change from the normal. The melted ice is said to smell bad and stale. Some think it smells something like oil; others say it smells more of candy.

Unknown soot observed

"Engineer Karivieri states that he has never before seen soot of this kind: 'It does not originate from any form of fuel nor from a welding torch. When some metals burn, oxides are formed with similar small particles, and the colour could well be blue-grey or green, as in this case.'

"The UFO investigators know of cases where colour traces have been found, but which disappeared within a couple of weeks. Therefore samples have to be investigated quickly.

"Karivieri said that this north-eastern part of Finland is by far the most active UFO-sighting area in the country. Giving his personal explanation for this activity, he said that it is an area of many hills and valleys, and it is sparsely populated. Furthermore, the earth's crust has undergone considerable change in this region, and it is not impossible that there are still tensions in the surface. In this respect, the area is much like the Andes. In addition there is the Russian atomic test centre of Novaya Zemlya, only 800 km. away, where there is said to have been at least two tests in the last three weeks.

"In Pudasjärvi, the most active UFO area, a UFO investigation association was founded on Wednesday."

Since these accounts were published, a friend of mine, a biologist who is a member of the *Interplanetarians*, has obtained samples of the ice from the landing spot. Some samples are melted, and others are in their original condition. The frozen specimens are kept unopened in plastic containers at -20°C at the Biological Research Institute while discussions are in progress as to the best way to proceed with the analyses.

(continued on page 27)