

# UFO OVER THE MOORADUC ROAD

*Judith Magee*

Mrs. Magee is Secretary of the Victoria UFO Research Society of PO Box 43, Moorabbin, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

HERE is an account of the remarkable experiences of an eye witness who falls in the category labelled "repeaters" by some researchers.\* The witness is Mrs. Maureen Puddy of Rye, a holiday and residential town on the Mornington Peninsula in the Australian State of Victoria, close to both Port Phillip Bay and the Bass Strait.

It was after her second experience on Tuesday, July 25, 1972, that her story hit the news wires. Soon after her report was made public I was able to speak to her by telephone for an hour, and three weeks later she was guest speaker at a meeting of the Victorian UFO Research Society. For more than an hour she held spellbound an audience of 200, who plied her with questions until we had to rescue her with a cup of tea!

Here is an account of Mrs. Puddy's bizarre experiences, as told to the Society:

The witness, aged 27, is certainly no crank, and impressed everyone with her sincerity. She has an invalid husband and two children, a boy of seven and a girl of five. The little boy suffered a bad injury to his leg in an accident at the end of June, and was in hospital at Heidelberg, to the north of Melbourne.

## First encounter: pursuit

On the evening of July 5, 1972, Mrs. Puddy was driving home along the Mooraduc Road, between Frankston and Dromana, some 35 miles south-east of Melbourne. Her attention was drawn to a blue light which seemed to be coming from above and behind her car, a 1963 *Holden*. When her little boy had been injured he had been taken to hospital by the Angels of Mercy helicopter ambulance, and it occurred to her that this light might be from the helicopter, flying low. It did not occur to her at the time that had it been the helicopter flying at what was virtually zero feet she would certainly have been able to have heard it, and to have seen the effects of the air disturbance which it caused. She stopped the car and got out to take a look: she wasn't prepared for what she saw!

A huge object was hovering above, and completely overlapping the road at both sides, at an altitude of just over that of two telegraph poles—and there were telegraph poles at the side of the road to enable her to make this comparison. In fact, Mrs. Puddy said that if the UFO had come straight down to land, it would have struck the poles. This made possible an estimate of the size of the object, for the road surface itself is 24ft. wide, to which one must add the width of the nature strips on either side up to the poles. Mrs. Puddy feels that the UFO was at least 100ft. in diameter. (This is a revision

of an estimate of 50ft. quoted in earlier reports in the press.)

The UFO was shaped like two huge saucers, one inverted on top of the other, with a smooth surface, no joins, welds, seams or rivets, no windows, doors or port-holes, and no wheels. And this great object was radiating a brilliant blue light all around, not in beams, but in an intense glow. There was no sign of movement, no wobbling or rotating, but there was a faint humming noise. Her eyes must have registered all these details in the time it takes for idle curiosity to turn into terror: she tumbled back into the car and drove off as fast as she could. The experience became a nightmare when she realised that the object was staying in its position above and behind the car. No matter how fast she drove the object followed her, maintaining the same position. Then, suddenly, the nightmare passed. Aware that the blue glow was no longer with her, Mrs. Puddy barely had time to see a light streaking away in the opposite direction. The "chase" had lasted about 8 miles.

The witness reported the incident to the police, and then told members of her family about it, and a few friends. Some of them treated it as a joke, and she was subjected to the usual leg-pulling. She said nothing more about it for the best part of three weeks.

## Second encounter: "auto-stop" and "messages"

On Tuesday, July 25, 1972, Maureen Puddy was driving home to Rye after visiting her son in hospital at Heidelberg when, at near enough the same time, and at almost the same place on the Mooraduc Road, she says she became aware of a blue light all around her car. "Oh, hell! Not again!" she thought, and added that, as, after her first experience she desperately wanted to get away from the thing, she bent forward determinedly and put her foot down hard on the accelerator. To her intense alarm this had no effect, for the *Holden's* engine cut out, and she seemed to lose control of the steering so that the car swung to the verge of the road as it slowed to a halt.

It had been a dark, clear night, yet now the car, the road and verges, and the surrounding trees and bushes, were bathed in a blue light. A terrified Mrs. Puddy sat motionless, bending forward and gripping the steering wheel. She states that she felt as if she was in a vacuum.

\* In his book *The UFO Experience*, Dr. J. Allen Hynek writes that the "repeater" aspect of some UFO reporters is sufficient cause, in his opinion, to exclude their reports from further consideration . . . (p. 30). There are those who will disagree with this view—EDITOR.



**Mrs. Puddy beside her car where it stopped on July 25. Our cover illustration is based on a view of the car from the trees in the background**

She peered upwards through the windscreen and saw part of the rim of a glowing object hanging in the air above her car.

At this point she suddenly became aware of a "voice"—not audible, but as if in her head, or mind—saying: "All your tests will be negative." Soon this was followed by: "Tell media, do not panic, we mean no harm." Then a short interval, followed by: "You now have control." At that the vacuum effect disappeared and the car engine started up.† Frightened to the verge of panic, Mrs. Puddy drove away as quickly as she could. On arrival at the police station she was still very agitated, but despite her shaky condition her description of the incident was sufficiently lucid to convince the police that something very alarming had occurred. The police informed the Royal Australian Air Force.

Discussing the "messages" she had received, Mrs. Puddy told us she couldn't imagine what was meant by "tests" for she herself had had no medical examinations or tests. As for the second message, the word "media" was not one that she would use, although she had been aware vaguely that it meant instruments of mass communication like broadcasting and newspapers. The implication of the final "message" was obvious enough to her, for from that moment she was able to take control once again of the car.

As for the delivery of the "messages" she supposed it

was a kind of telepathy, although she didn't know anything about that subject. She said it was as if the messages were coming to her in a foreign tongue that translated itself into English, but of a kind that she, and people like her, would not speak. She also voiced the opinion that the UFO was not occupied by beings, but was, possibly, remotely controlled. "Computerised", she also suggested. Those were the impressions she gained from the absence of windows, portholes or doors.

She estimated that she was stationary, in the vacuum-like condition, for about five minutes.

Mrs. Puddy told us that she telephoned the RAAF to see if they could offer an explanation as to what it was she saw. This they could not do, but she was told that there were no aircraft in the area at that time, and she was advised to remain quiet about the incident rather than chance causing panic. She declined to take this advice for, in view of the second of the messages, she decided it might be best to "tell the media." She had a strong feeling that if she didn't do this the UFO might come back, and she had no wish to see it again.

She thereupon telephoned Channel 0, where there was some interest as the film *Chariot of the Gods* was due to be

† I hope Mrs. Magee can clear up a point here: did the witness mean that the car re-started of its own accord, or did she operate the starter?—EDITOR.



shown. She was interviewed about her claims, and a segment of this was put out after the film. Her experience with Channels 7 and 9 was quite different, for they just laughed at her story. After that she did not even consider ringing any others.

Among the questions asked at our meeting were: did she think what she saw was a psychic phenomenon? and, did she suffer any burns or after-effects? To both of these the reply was, no.

### Article in a popular periodical

On August 24, 1972, the *Australasian Post* published Mrs. Puddy's story, and reported an interview with her. In the article it was pointed out that although the Mornington Peninsula is fairly well populated, stretches of the Mooraduc Road are quite desolate, and there are few people about. Furthermore, although traffic can be considerable, after dusk the intervals between passing cars can be as long as five or even ten minutes. As for Mrs. Puddy's estimate of five minutes in the "vacuum" readers are reminded that "five minutes" is a figure of speech often used to describe dragging time which could really be a period of much shorter duration.

Another question posed in the *Post* was that if the bright UFO was hovering for a period of time as she said it was, why wasn't it seen from a distance? To which the answer was: "It might have been. It could have been seen by people who wondered what it was without considering it important enough to bother about. If it was there very briefly—and this is a distinct possibility, accepting the idea that Mrs. Puddy's 'five minutes' was a gross over-estimate, although an honest assessment of the situation as she experienced it—there could have been others in the surrounding country who glimpsed the light in the sky and promptly forgot it when it disappeared."

Reporter Ken Collie of the *Australasian Post* then remarked that there are some interesting footnotes to this answer, and this is how he presented them:

"At about 10 o'clock on the night of July 25, which puts it at roughly three-quarters of an hour after what Mrs Puddy says happened on the Mooraduc Rd., a young man came out into a street after a dental appointment at Mount Waverley, a south-eastern suburb of outer Melbourne.

"He was **Maris Ezergailis** (Australian-born of Latvian parents), 21, a junior engineering executive in a business established by his father.

"By training and outlook, Mr Ezergailis is a practical man. A realist. As such he is not in general terms susceptible to irrational happenings. To add to his feet-on-the-ground attitude to what he sees, is the fact that he is a qualified air pilot licensed to fly commercially.

"And what *did* he see on July 25? Something that didn't quite make sense to him. A flash of blue light from the sky, and when he looked up—a meteor trail, *but an unusually broad one, travelling horizontally!*

"Just a streak of light and it was gone, but it left him wondering. It was the horizontal path that bothered him. Told about what Mrs Puddy says she saw on the Mooraduc Rd. a short time before, he is interested, but non-committal. And still wondering.

"(Mrs Puddy reacted strongly when told about what Mr Ezergailis saw. 'That's the way it looked when it took off the first time I saw it,' she said. 'A wide streak of light and then nothing.')

"Then there was the experience of **Mr and Mrs Beel**, who live on Main Ridge, Rye. An unusual light in the sky, looking west from their home (*this would have placed it in the direction of the place described by Maureen Puddy*) caught Mr Beel's attention and intrigued him to the point of getting some binoculars and dousing the house lights.

"It was too far away to identify with certainty, but there was something going on in the sky—'Something unlike anything we'd seen before,' Mrs Beel told us. And this on the night of July 25 at some time after nine o'clock.

"But the one man Mrs Puddy has been hoping to catch up with hadn't come forward up to the time this magazine went to press.

"As she was approaching the railway crossing, where Mooraduc Rd. crosses the railway line to Mornington, on that Tuesday night, she saw a man with what she at first thought was a bicycle. It turned out that the man was walking, carrying a flashlight and leading a cow.

"She passed him, travelling in the opposite direction and started up the gentle slope to where the road dips before climbing again.

"'Why didn't he come back to see what it was?' she asks. 'He must have seen it!'

"Perhaps he did; but after all, he was walking away from it and would have been a mile or so from her when Mrs Puddy says the UFO came down over her car. Chances are he didn't see anything, or anything that caught his attention for long enough to register. Or if he reads this perhaps he'll remember and say so.

"Mrs Puddy says she won't drive along that road again at night unless she has company.

"One thing emerges clearly from the whole affair:

"Maureen Puddy once scoffed at the idea of flying saucers.

"Now she doesn't."

## SPACE AGE PUBLICATIONS

**Chariots of the Gods**, by Erich von Daniken. Unsolved mysteries of the past. Illust. 43p.

**We Are Not the First**, by Andrew Thomas. Startling hypothesis that science of the past was introduced by space people. 43p.

**Not of this World**, by Peter Kolosimo. More startling mysteries of UFOs visiting Earth in history. 43p.

**Flying Saucers, Hoax or Reality**, by J. Jerome Stanton. 43p.

**UFOs**, by Robert Chapman of the Sunday Express. A complete scientific study. 33p.

**The Mysterious Unknown**, by Robert Charroux. Data of Fortean type category. £2.90. Hardback.

**Bigfoot**, by Prof. John Napier. The Yeti and Sasquatch in Myth and Reality. Illust. £3.15. Hardback.

**UFOs: A Scientific Debate**, edited by Dr. Carl Sagan and Thornton Page. A textbook on the subject covering all aspects from science to psychology. Thick hardback. £6.86, to be published about February 1973.

**The UFO Experience**, by Dr. J. Allen Hynek. A scientific inquiry. Hardback. £2.70.

**UFOs over Kirby**, by J. Parkinson. Booklet. 25p.

**NICAP Journal**, edited by Derek Samsom. UFO news, etc. Back issues 25p each.

**UFOs and the Bible**, by M. K. Jessup. A special reprint of this popular classic. £2.40.

**Flying Saucers Project Bluebook Report No. 14**, by Dr. Leon Davidson. Stiff cover. £3.00.

Prices include postage inland. Overseas 10% extra. Lists 5p, free with orders.

Write to:

**Miss S. R. Stebbing, 87 Selsea Avenue, Herne Bay, Kent**

# A TURNING POINT IN UFO INVESTIGATION

*Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, M.A., Hon. Companion  
RAeS, FRSA*

A GREAT service has recently been rendered to science by the distinguished American astronomer, Professor J. Allen Hynek. Dr. Hynek is at present Director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Centre at Northwestern University and Chairman of the university's Astronomy Department. He has also served as Associate Director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory at Cambridge, Mass., as well as heading its NASA-sponsored Satellite Tracking Programme. Last but not least, for my readers, Dr. Hynek was for over 20 years the U.S. Air Force's scientific consultant on UFOs, and the signal service referred to above is the publication in the USA (and subsequently in the United Kingdom) of his new book, *The UFO Experience: a Scientific Inquiry*.\*

What he has done may be described in brief as at last taking the subject of Unidentified Flying Objects out of the hands of the neurotics—lay and scientific neurotics alike. Those of us professionally concerned with UFOs have for many years had to cope with the lay neurotics and the obviously lunatic fringe. But it is not generally realised that there are just as many neurotics among scientists as amongst ordinary citizens, and we have had to wait till now for a ranking scientist to cope with the latter. A neurotic, by the way, is a person suffering from "a condition of emotional maladjustment to reality, arising from unconscious inner conflicts, and manifested by a variety of mental, emotional, physical and behaviour symptoms." Such a state is perfectly compatible with scientific brilliance. Let us listen to Professor Eysenck:

"Scientists, especially when they leave the particular field in which they have specialised, are just as ordinary, pig-headed and unreasonable as anybody else, and their unusually high intelligence only makes their prejudices all the more dangerous . . ."

A saying attributed to Alexis Carrel runs: "It is the duty of science not to discard facts merely because they seem to be extraordinary, and because they remain inexplicable." And Dr. Hynek adds that "the history of science has shown that it is the things that *don't* fit, the apparent exceptions to the rule, that signal potential breakthroughs in our concept of the world about us."

And there is also the Canadian philosopher of science, Thomas Goudge, who writes: "a necessary condition of scientific advancement is that allowances must be made for (1) genuinely new empirical observations and (2) new explanation schemes, including new basic concepts and new laws." He goes on to say that when an explanation scheme has been accepted within the province of the scientific establishment, it becomes respectable, and



**Professor J. Allen Hynek**

tends to resist the incursions of any new empirical observations unless such observations have been generated within an already accepted establishment explanation scheme. Dr. Hynek remarks that for this reason there was initial opposition to the now accepted theories of meteorites, fossils, the circulation of the blood, bacteria, and—today—ball lightning.

The attitude of official science to meteorites in the 18th century is a perfect example of Goudge's thesis; for in 1772 even the famous chemist Lavoisier joined other members of the Paris Académie des Sciences—the French equivalent of the Royal Society—in issuing an official memorandum stating that "the falling of

\* The Henry Regnery Co. of 114 West Illinois Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610, U.S.A.  
Abelard-Schuman Ltd., 158 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1, England.