



were a reflection of the kitchen light in the window glass. This idea was dispelled when the spot from whence the photograph was taken was examined. It would seem that the object giving off the light was very close to the ground, since the angular elevation was low (about 5°). Taking into consideration the surrounding houses, the object, presumably being close to, or just over a piece of waste land by the side of a garden, was both close (estimated about 700 ft. away, assuming a diameter of say 35 ft. for the object) and low down (at most only 50 ft. above the ground). In view of the *geography* of the area these

figures are likely to be *maximum* ones. If, as we suspect, it was closer, then its diameter was probably more like 15 ft.

There seems little in the realm of natural objects or artifacts that could be mistaken, giving rise to the sighting. There are cotton mills nearby, and Rochdale Football Club's ground is only a $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile to the NNE. There are houses in between, however. Could the lights have been caused by a car's headlights, or some form of searchlight? It would be impossible to trace the source if that were the case, and it is difficult to make value judgments on that source.

There rests a distinct possibility that some circular object or craft was there to be photographed (and the enlargements certainly present a more geometrical shape to the central light). The other extraneous lights could well have been caused by reflection on the leaves of trees through which the object was certainly high, and bright enough to do this.

This case must be classed as interesting, and at present unidentified, but the order of strangeness cannot be rated too highly. The possibility of some explanation at a later date must be borne in mind.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

UFO repair "technology"

Dear Sir,—These few notes are an adjunct to Gordon Creighton's translation of an article by Antonio Giudici concerning the Bruno Facchini case of 1950 (FSR Vol.20, No.6). The recent Italian book, *UFO in Italia*, gives a slightly different rendering of this incident which, while not differing in the essential facts, adds the following descriptive details which are perhaps worth recording.

The ball-like craft hung slightly above the ground between a high tension pylon and a mulberry tree, and from a rectangular lighted opening a small ladder, supported by two planks, reached the ground. The surface of the object was chequered in regularly spaced vertical and horizontal lines while encircling the outline of the sphere at intervals corresponding to the horizontal lines were groups of three tubes which

projected about 50 cm further in the same direction and resembled stove pipes. It was a group of these tubes higher up that an individual was welding from the platform of the extensible shaft of a lift. The UFO was about ten metres in height and Facchini watched it for a few minutes from a distance of four to five metres.

The headpiece of the seemingly dark grey diving-suits had a transparent mask across the centre of the face, including the eyes. It appeared to contain a liquid through which a very light skin was visible. The tube suspended from the level of the mouth and ending in a mouthpiece, was about 30 cm long, 4 to 5 cm broad, and was similar to that on an air pilot's oxygen mask.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Boyd

Pensione Crocini, Corso Italia 28, 50123 Firenze, Italy.

David Knutson photograph

Dear Sir,—I recently had the opportunity of reading FSR Vol.20, Number 4. The letter from Barry Greenwood, Stoneham, Massachusetts, was critical of your publication of the David Knutson UFO photograph; he apparently feels the snapshot was a hoax.

As I live only two air miles from this particular sighting area, I would like to offer a comment.

Having seen this boy interviewed on TV, and heard him interviewed on radio by people who are experts at demolishing weak stories, I must report that his story stood up well under scrutiny. Furthermore I possess a tape interview conducted by Mr. H. Clark, president of the Vancouver Area Saucer Club. This gentleman has had considerable experience in this field, and at no time has he made any suggestion that he doubts the truth of the story.